

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 P.M. on January 25, 2007 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Sue Storm- excused  
Tom Holland- excused

Committee staff present:

Norman Furse, Revisor's Office  
Melissa Calderwood, Legislative Research  
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research  
Patti Magathan, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ron Gaches on behalf of Kansas Occupational Therapists Association  
Federal Department of Health and Human Services representatives:

Fred Schuster  
John Babb  
Jackie Glaze  
Robert Epps  
Robert Florance  
Gary Allen  
Nancy Thoma Groetken

Others Attending:

See Attached List.

Chair Landwehr opened the floor for bill introductions.

**Mr. Ron Gaches**, representing the Kansas Occupational Therapists Association, requested a bill regarding direct access to occupational therapists. The current law provides direct access in an educational setting. They would like to modify current law to allow direct access for all non-medical settings. Motion to introduce the bill made by Representative Rhoades and seconded by Representative Hill. Motion carried.

Representative Patton motioned that three bills be introduced. The first concerns health insurance related to the assignment of insurance payments for covered services. The second requests health care price transparency. The third describes disclosure and availability of quality and performance indicators by certain health care providers. Motion seconded by Representative Kiegerl. Motion passed.

Chair Landwehr then opened the floor to **Fred Schuster** from Federal Health and Human Services.

Mr. Schuster stated that the priorities of his department are value-driven health care, and health care transparency. (Attachment 1) He discussed the four cornerstones defined by the federal government for health care providers. They are quality standards, price standards, interoperable health system, and properly placed incentives. The Federal Government is in the process of getting state governments and private businesses to sign-on to the four cornerstones. He then asked that the State of Kansas consider adopting these cornerstones with businesses providing health care in our state.

Next presenter was **Robert Epps** from the Center for Medicare/Medicaid Services who discussed the types of Medicare payments and changes to Medicare part B premiums beginning in 2007. (Attachment 2) Projections call for the entire federal budget to be consumed by health care costs by the year 2050. It is clear that the path we are on is not sustainable. Transparency and preventive services are important steps to turn around the growth of health care costs.

**Jackie Glaze** Program Services Branch Manager in Division of Medicaid and Children's Health discussed Medicaid issues. She provided an update on grants which Kansas is receiving from medicaid services. Kansas is the first state to receive benefits under the SBA program, which deals with working disabled. We also are one of ten states awarded a grant dealing with home and community based alternatives for children

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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and mental health residential treatment facilities. Kansas also received a grant, announced today, to improve economy, efficiency and care within the Medicaid program.

**John Babb**, Region 7 Health Administrator and an Officer in the United States Public Health Service Commission Corps, discussed several health programs administered by his office, including Title 10 funding for family planning clinics.

Mr. Babb also provided some miscellaneous statistics. Studies have pointed out that up to 40% of people do not understand the directions on their prescriptions, or have poor health literacy. He also pointed out that of the medically under-served population, many are minorities. He said that the methamphetamine crisis is particularly acute among Native Americans. Also, 58% of Americans are overweight, 7% have diabetes, and another 3% don't even know they have diabetes. This is the first time that it is likely that this generation has a lower life expectancy than their parents.

**Nancy Toma Groetken**, Child Support Program Specialist with Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement-Administration of Children and Family. (Attachments 3 and 4) This program serves more children and than other federal program. Ninety percent of the money received is passed on to the families. Next to mother salaries, child support is the second largest source of income for poor families. Changes currently going on in the program are due to the Deficit Reduction Act. One change is that they will no longer match federal money with federal money.

**Robert Florence**, Program Specialist with Administration on Aging discussed data from a 2004 study. (Attachment 5) He also laid out a strategic plan of five priorities: the plan is for older Americans, goal to help elders stay active and healthy, support families to provide care in the home, ensure rights and prevent abuse, and to promote effective responsible training. Strategies to achieve the mission include advocacy, consumer and public education, grants, technical assistance, demonstrations and model programs, and partnerships. Meeting was adjourned at 2:45. Next meeting will be January 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 P.M.