

MINUTES OF THE SENATE HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 P.M. on January 29, 2008 in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent: Senator David Haley- excused
Senator Mark Gilstrap- excused

Committee staff present: Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mrs. Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ms. Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes Office
Mrs. Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the Committee: Dr. Andrew Allison, Ph.D., Deputy Director,
Kansas Health Policy Authority
Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Ph.D, Executive Director,
Kansas Health Policy Authority

Other conferees in attendance: Please see attached guest list

Continued presentation re: Premium Assistance Plan

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle referred the Committee to page 6 of the Kansas Assistance Fact Sheet "Kansas Healthy Choices" asked Dr. Allison to expand on the chart at the top of the page. She then asked for questions from the rest of the Committee. Questions came from Senators Brungardt, Barnett, and Wagle ranging from:

- If you have children who qualify for HealthWave and the parents become eligible for this Plan are you thinking about combining the two or what are you planning on doing?
- Is it possible for children to lose some of their prescription drug coverage if they are 100% on HealthWave?
- Clarification of the 75% concept and how does it work?
- Re: the 10-15% reduction in cost, does that include administrative costs for the Premium Assistance Program?
- Will we save money with this plan or will it be the same cost as Medicaid and can you give us an estimate of what you will save, even with administrative costs?
- Do you oversee the HealthWave Program?
- compare this approach to vouchers. Also regarding the Florida program, how is it working, how does it contrast with us and why you didn't choose this for Kansas?
- On seeking federal waivers to implement this program, is there a timeliness issue involved in this situation?
- What happens to your process with the federal government if something happens and it does not get funded in its first year. Does it affect your application and does it do anything long term?

A copy of Dr. Allison's testimony and fact sheet are ([Attachment 1](#)) attached.

Presentation on Insurance Clearing House and the Connector

As there were no further questions, the chair thanked Dr. Allison and called upon Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Ph.D, Executive director, Kansas Health Policy, who offered visuals focusing on the health insurance Connector which was something the Senate Health Care Strategies Committee discussed at length last year. She stated

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they would like to provide an update and the kinds of analysis that the KHPA did in collaboration with The Kansas Health Foundation. She then went on to provide background information, the 2006 study on the Massachusetts Connector, the 2007 health insurance modeling of a Connector, and described three of the five coverage models considered by the Board. In summary, she stated, the Board ultimately recommended the “Updated Sequential Model” to promote a three-pronged approach to expanding access:

1. Targeted and aggressive outreach to Kansas children already eligible for Medicaid/HealthWave;
2. Expanded premium assistance for very low income Kansas childless adults; and
3. A Voluntary Connector/Clearinghouse, combined with small group market reforms.

A copy of her testimony and attachment is (Attachment 2) attached.

Chairperson Wagle then asked for questions from the Committee. Senator Barnett asked three questions of Dr. Nielsen:

1. Regarding Section 125 on the “Updated Sequential Option”, we had a lot of commentary about what Missouri did. Tell us about your involvement in Missouri’s plan with the Kansas plan and is this something that is doable?
2. Combining soul proprietors in small group markets, what holes do we step in when we try to do that?
3. Regarding reinsurance, where are we and how soon can we get there with the Insurance Department?

Adjournment

As it was going on to Senate session time, the Chair thanked Dr. Nielsen and the Committee. The meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2008.