

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE

The members of the Committee met at 1:00 p.m. on February 6, 2001 at the Rolling Hills Assisted Living Center, at 2401 Urish Road, in Topeka.

All members were present except: Representative Karen DiVita - excused
 Representative David Huff - excused
 Representative Carl Krehbiel - excused
 Representative Al Lane - excused
 Representative Laura McClure - excused
 Representative Gene O'Brien - excused
 Representative Mike O'Neal - excused
 Representative Gerry Ray - excused
 Representative Tom Sloan - excused

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
 Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department
 Amy Kramer, Legislative Research Department
 Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
 Diane Ellis, Director, Rolling Hills Assisted Living Center
 Tom Bechtel, President, Kansas Center for Assisted Living (KCAL)

Others attending: None

This tour was originally scheduled for February 5, but was re-scheduled for February 6, 2001.

Diane Ellis welcomed guests to the tour of the Center. She described it as a social model rather than a medical model, with 30 apartments, 20 1-bedroom units, 6 mid-sized studios, and 1 large studio. Services provided include: cleaning each apartment once a week, transportation to medical appointments, meals each day, laundry, and an activity program.

The average census for the past five years has been about 95%. She states there is a huge demand for government-subsidized housing for seniors. Rolling Hills accepts private pay residents. The per person median is around \$2,200-2,500 a month, with a \$1,000 fee to clean apartments when vacated. She stated that "the HCBS-provider reimbursement rate is terrible and that is why most assisted living facilities do not participate. It becomes difficult to become profitable, yet there are people in the community that need assisted living". She stated that Rolling Hills cannot subsidize any more HCBS residents at this time because the reimbursement rate of \$14.05 per unit of service is too low (residents average two units a day).

The average time for residents to remain at Rolling Hills is two-three years, then they move to skilled nursing. Ms. Ellis stated there are huge problems in long-term-care: staff morale, retention, and salary. Rolling Hills does not have the wage pass-through that applies to Medicaid.

Tom Bechtel stated KCAL has 55 assisted living facilities as members, and also works in conjunction with the nursing home industry for continuum of care. He presented the organization's position statement on three issues relating to assisted living in Kansas. (See testimony, [Attachment 1](#).)

The group then toured the general areas and one apartment.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2001.