

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 9:30 a.m. on January 16, 2001 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
JoAnn Buntun, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary for Health Care Policy, SRS
Bob Day, Director of Medical Policy /Medicaid, Div. of Health Care Policy, SRS

Others attending: See attached list.

Work Incentives Improvement Act and Medicaid Buy-In Program

Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary for Health Care Policy, SRS, provided information to the Committee on the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act passed by Congress in 1999 which made it easier for states to assist people with disabilities to maintain employment without losing necessary health benefits. The Act directed the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Medicaid Infrastructure Grant program for the design, establishment and operation of state infrastructures to support working individuals with disabilities. SRS received a grant in October 2000 in the amount of \$2,049,583 for a four-year period. Kansas plans to use the grant funds to accomplish the following initiatives: (1) Design, plan and implement a Medicaid Buy-In program for two new eligibility groups; (2) conduct outreach campaigns to educate beneficiaries; and (3) develop personal assistance services for persons who need support to successfully function in the workplace. The Medicaid-Buy-In Program for working people with disabilities offers health coverage under the Medicaid program to certain workers with disabilities, either by permitting them to purchase Medicaid coverage or by extending Medicaid eligibility to them without charge. (Attachment 1)

During Committee discussion about the Medicaid Buy-In Program, Ms. Howard pointed out that SRS will hire two staff people to oversee the grant funds and develop an extensive outreach program.

Blending Titles XXI and XIX

Bob Day, Director of Medical Policy /Medicaid, Division. of Health Care Policy, SRS, briefed the Committee on the creation of a single health plan for children blending Titles XXI and XIX called HealthWave that would provide families with a single health plan regardless of funding source, improve access to providers through the use of management entities, assure the delinking of health coverage from other welfare benefits and improve the health status of beneficiaries through value based purchasing as outlined in his written testimony. The new HealthWave would be effective July 1, 2001. (Attachment 2)

Approval of Minutes

Senator Teichman made a motion to approve the Committee minutes of January 10, 11, seconded by Senator Corbin. The motion carried.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 17, 2001.