

MINUTES OF THE JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND
SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 16, 2002 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

All members were present except: Representative Nancy Kirk, Excused

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Sharon Patnode, KDHE Assistant Secretary

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Sharon Patnode, KDHE Assistant Secretary reviewed the state of health in Kansas. Kansas ranks 47th in total public health expenditures per capita. Kansas ranks 44th in public health expenditures per capita that come from SGF. Kansas spends 3.3% of its total health care expenditure on public health, ranking 45th. Approximately 67% of the Division of Health's expenditures are from federal funding. \$58.3 million of the Division of Health's expenditures are in the form of aid to local governments or grants to agencies and individuals.

Since 1900, the life expectancy of Americans has increased from 45 to 75 years. The leading causes of death in the 21st century are heart disease and cancer. While Kansans are fairly healthy, compared to residents of other states, many of us still engage in a number of unhealthy behaviors. Prevention of disease and disability is the central focus of public health.

No cases of anthrax have occurred in Kansas. The last case reported was in 1972. KDHE began preparing for bio-terrorism in 1999. The Kansas Health Alert Network, combined with enhanced capacity at the State Health and Environment Laboratory, and trained epidemiology staff were some of the results of that preparation that allowed KDHE to deal adequately with the information and laboratory needs that emerged from the anthrax problems. KDHE staff are continuing to improve public health preparedness for bio-terrorism. Since October 1, 2002, almost 400 samples tested in Kansas were negative for anthrax (Attachments #1 & 2).

Chairperson Wagle asked if there were any questions.

Representative Wells asked, while Kansans are fairly healthy, how does Kansas compare to other states?

Dick Morrissey, KDHE, replied that he would provide that information to both health committees.

Ms. Patnode requested eight bill introductions (Attachment #3).

Representative Morrison moved and Representative Swenson seconded the introduction of the bills requested by KDHE. The motion carried.

Chairperson Wagle stated that she and Chairperson Boston would determine where the bills should go.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m. and the next meeting will be January 22, 2002.