

MINUTES

JOINT COMMITTEE ON HEALTH POLICY OVERSIGHT

September 9, 2005
Room 514-S—Statehouse

Members Present

Representative Melvin Neufeld, Chairman
Senator David Haley
Senator Laura Kelly
Senator Roger Reitz
Senator Vicki Schmidt
Senator Susan Wagle
Representative Bob Bethell
Representative Bill Feuerborn
Representative Brenda Landwehr
Representative Peggy Mast
Representative Louis Ruiz

Members Absent

Senator James Barnett, Vice Chairman

Staff Present

Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Audrey Dunkel, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Melissa Calderwood, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Nikki Feuerborn, Administrative Assistant
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

Conferees Appearing Before the Committee

Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Chairperson, Kansas Health Policy Authority
Duane Goossen, Secretary, Kansas Department of Administration
Scott Brunner, Medicaid Director, Division of Health Policy and Finance, Department of Administration

Others Attending

See attached list.

Morning Session

Chairman Neufeld stated that the Committee will be reviewing changes in health policy and the intent of the legislation is to promote better health for Kansas citizens.

Terri Weber, Legislative Research Department, provided a copy of 2005 House Substitute for SB 272, the legislation establishing the Kansas Health Policy Authority ([Attachment 1](#)), as well as a summary of the statutory requirements within the legislation establishing the Joint Oversight Committee; addressing how the Committee members and Chairpersons are appointed; the terms of the Committee membership; Committee meetings; and the duties of the Committee ([Attachment 2](#)).

Audrey Dunkel, Legislative Research Department, provided an overview of the sections of the legislation establishing the Kansas Health Policy Authority and the time frame associated with implementation of the legislation ([Attachment 3](#)).

Chairman Neufeld recognized Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen, nominated Chairperson of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board, who presented information on the appointments and activities of the Kansas Health Policy Authority ([Attachment 4](#)) to date. The Committee noted that, as of this date, the Senate has not met to confirm the members appointed to the Health Policy Authority Board. It is important that confirmation take place as soon as possible in order for the Authority to meet formally to comply with statutory requirements, or before any official action is taken. The Committee suggested that a letter be sent to the Senate leadership asking that the confirmation be expedited.

Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Office, stated that the Authority could meet informally to discuss plans before the confirmation; however, the meeting cannot be called an official meeting and no official action may be taken or any moneys expended.

Dr. Nielsen stated that the Health Care Data Governing Board, of which she is a member, has met and discussed ways the Governing Board has been successful and challenges it has been unable to meet. This information will be provided to the Health Policy Authority. Dr. Nielsen indicated it will be necessary to take an extensive look at available data and ways to pull it all together in order to put the data in usable form. The Committee felt usability of the data is important to the success of the Authority.

The Committee noted that good data on the state Medicaid population is available from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). Dr. Nielsen stated the Authority will look at what is being done in other states, but felt that Kansas is on the cutting edge of creating improvements to the system. Responding to a question from the Committee concerning staff, Dr. Nielsen noted that the Authority has positions available for three support staff and is in the process of receiving resumes. The Committee asked to be informed when the Authority staff is in place.

The Chairman thanked Dr. Nielsen for her presentation.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Duane Goossen, Secretary of the Department of Administration, who provided a general overview and status report on the transfer of health care purchasing activities (Attachment 5). Secretary Goossen stated that approximately 120 employees have been transferred from SRS to the Department of Administration and an additional 80 employees will be transferred in December, consolidating the state employee health insurance purchasing activities in the Landon Building. The Committee noted that it was important to maintain some vacant FTE positions in order to allow for additional employees, if needed, by the Health Policy Authority Board. Responding to a Committee question, Secretary Goossen noted that no staff in local SRS offices will be affected by the movement of state employees to the Health Policy Authority.

The Chairman recognized Scott Brunner, Medicaid Director, Division of Health Policy and Finance (DHPF), who presented a status report on the transition of the Medicaid program from SRS to DHPF (Attachment 6).

With reference to the transfer of the estate recovery attorneys to DHPF, the Committee requested a report on their activities and collection efforts. Mr. Brunner noted that the estate recovery attorneys currently are doing their own collection and receipt of funds, a duty which he would like to move to centralized accounting, thereby, allowing the attorneys to focus on estate recovery.

Mr. Brunner stated that his goal is to unify the support staff between the State Employee Health Plan and Medicaid for cost savings and better efficiencies within the Authority.

With regard to the closing of some SRS facilities, the Committee requested information on the cost savings and efficiencies as a result of these closings. Mr. Brunner indicated he would forward the Committee's request for information on the closings to SRS.

Chairman Neufeld thanked Mr. Brunner for his testimony.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be announced at a later date.

Prepared by Shirley Jepson
Edited by Terri Weber

Approved by Committee on:

October 25, 2005

(date)