

## MINUTES OF THE HOUSE KANSAS FUTURES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Carlos Mayans at 1:30 p.m. on February 19, 2001 in Room 526-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except:      Representative Mike O'Neal - excused  
   Representative Gerry Ray - excused

Committee staff present:      April Holman, Legislative Research Department  
   Lynne Holt, Legislative Research Department  
   Mary Best, Acting Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:      Debra Zehr, Vice President, Kansas Association  
   of Homes and Services for the Aging (KAHSA)

Others attending: See attached list

The minutes of February 6, 2001 were distributed and approved.

“Kansas Senior Caregiving Initiative”

Debra Zehr presented testimony on KAHSA'S Initiative, beginning with a brief history of the transition from almshouses to the current medical model nursing homes. She described today's transition as a model of clinical care in homelike, personal environments.

KAHSA's Initiative provides a long-term approach to the challenges and problems existing in nursing homes and offers recommendations, as follows:

- A program of competitively awarded grants to accelerate improvements in quality care and reduce worker turnover.
- Award grants to assure adequate training and career development for long-term-care workers.
- Have the Kansas Department of Human Resources evaluate the long-term-care training system and recommend changes to improve recruitment and retention.
- Amend rules to allow mid-year increases for wages/benefits of front line workers.
- Establish a state-sponsored quality improvement program with regulatory and best practices expertise and consultation.

These recommendations, based on the goals and recommendations of the Long-Term-Care Services Task Force, utilize federal and state funding estimates at a total of \$10,350,000 (the Kansas portion being less than half). Ms. Zehr acknowledged the challenges being given the Legislature to establish new policies and funding for the transformation, and to establish roles of the government, the industry, and consumers. (See written testimony, Attachment 1.)

Committee members posed several questions and comments for further debate: (1) Does Kansas have too many long-term-care beds? Also, money and working conditions pose problems to caregivers. (2) Representative McClure stated House Bill 2229, currently in the Appropriations Committee, is designed to improve quality of care and incorporates many of the Initiative's recommendations. She noted a full discussion of nursing homes is in order. (3) Evaluate the different models for care homes for efficiency, costs, staffing, family involvement, and financing (federal, state, and private).

The next meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2001.