

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, 2002 in Room 526-S of the State Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Al Lane - excused
Representative Gene O'Brien - excused

Committee staff present: April Holman, Legislative Research Department
Sherman Parks, Jr., Revisor of Statutes' Office
Lois Hedrick, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Jerry Slaughter, Kansas Medical Society

Others attending: See attached list

The minutes of the meeting held on February 14, 2002 were approved.

Vice-Chairman Bob Bethell opened the hearing on **HB 2905**, which would establish the Kansas Health Commission. His statements are attached as Attachment 1. He indicated that the ultimate goal of the Commission is to better the delivery of health services, reduce health care disparities within the population, and promote wellness. The intent of the legislation is for the Commission to make inroads into these issues, and then address other outstanding issues--such as cost of health care.

Jerry Slaughter, Kansas Medical Society, spoke as a proponent of **HB 2905**. He stated the bill represents a very important concept for Kansas: it consolidates stakeholders' interests in the health of Kansans (not just financing health care, but its delivery, motion, etc.) and, most importantly, identifies the plan for health care of Kansans. It provides a wider venue for the discussion about health care. Through the process of a Health Commission, Kansas can begin to develop a strategic plan for the health of all Kansans, take steps to consolidate health services, and insure their availability to all Kansans. (See written testimony, Attachment 2.)

Various committee members offered suggestions to strengthen provisions that define the mission and responsibilities of the Commission. April Holman presented a staff briefing on the bill, and Representative Karen DiVita suggested deletion of the word "All" on page 2, line 21. Rep. Laura McClure offered to prepare a balloon amendment for consideration at the next meeting.

Chairman Mayans noted that **HB 2965** (establishing an affordable housing project under the department of corrections) will be heard by the New Economy Committee on Thursday, February 21. Representative Bonnie Sharp will be a conferee on the bill. Other committee members were encouraged to appear in support of the bill.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 21, 2002.