

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on March 4, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research - excused

Committee staff present:

Ms. Terry Munchmore, Legislative Research

Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes

Mrs. Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes

Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Ms. Kim Kimminau, Senior Vice President for Research and Analysis, Kansas Health Institute

Dr. Robert Hetrick, Psychologist, Wichita

Others attending:

Please See Attached List.

Continue hearing on SB530 - an act concerning public water supply; requiring fluoridation in certain public water supply systems

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Chair announced the Committee would be hearing a presentation regarding "alternatives to Standard Community Water Fluoridation: A Study Conducted for the Wichita/Sedgwick County Board of Health" and she called upon Ms. Kim Kimminau, Senior Vice President for Research and Analysis, Kansas Health Institute who offered the purposed of the study, literature findings, alternatives to water-delivered fluoride, cost comparisons, the KHI Dental Field Study and its results and final remarks stating that conservative estimated savings from cavities that could be prevented by public water fluoridation is approximately \$3 million for Wichita/Sedgwick County following five years of water fluoridation. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. A copy of the Research brief entitled "Findings from the Alternatives to Standard Community Water Fluoridation Study" and a binder entitled "Wichita/Sedgwick County, Kansas Alternatives to Standard Community Water Fluoridation" have been filed in Chairperson Wagle's office.

The next to testify was Dr. Bob Hetrick, a psychologist at Wichita, who offered a detailed commentary on the Kansas Health Institute report statements, the Natick Study conclusions, a curriculum vitae of Natick investigators, a recent study (Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology August, 2000 Aug; 28:281-8, and with a suggestion that an independent analysis of the KHI report is strongly recommended. A copy of his handout, "A Critical Analysis of the Wichita/Sedgwick County, Kansas Alternatives to Standard Community Water Fluoridation" is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then directed the Committee to the remaining handouts, including:

1) a response letter from Mr. Meryl Dye, Special Assistant to the City Manager at Hutchinson Kansas, to Senator Phil Journey, concerning the cost of fluoridation. Included with the response is:

- A) a cover memo prepared by their Utilities Director, Mr. Reg Jones, that was presented when the fluoridation issue was considered by their City Council in 1999;
- B) an excerpt from the March 30, 1999, City Council minutes on this agenda item; and
- c) email correspondence between Mr. Jones and David Waldo of KDHE regarding clarification of the cost figures used in 1999.

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- 2) a letter from Stanley Elementary School, stating they were in their fourth year of demonstrating the positive benefits of using xylitol, twice a day, every day through their Xylitol Dental Health Project. The letter went on to say that xylitol is a natural sweetener and approved by the FDA in 1963 and it discourages both tooth decay and ear infections;
- 3) an email from Dr. Burgstahler to Chairperson Wagle's secretary, who offered a response to questions asked of him in the opponent portion of the hearing yesterday including:
 - A) erroneous endorsements of fluoridation;
 - B) a detailed review of the circumstances prompting the June 1950 USPHS endorsement;
 - C) a response to the question regarding H. Trendley Dean, his work on fluoride & dental caries;
 - D) the manufacturing source of silicofluorides used for water fluoridation; and
 - E) in connection with the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's position on "fluoride" supplements.
- 4) information distributed to the Ways and Means Committee Meeting including:
 - A) dental information requested in yesterday's hearing entitled "Revised Fluoride Schedule as Accepted by the American Dental Association Council on Scientific Affairs;
 - B) two papers, one on economic factors associated with fluoridation entitled "The Economics of Water Fluoridation" and the other entitled "Alternatives to Water Fluoridation" both prepared by the Fluoride Awareness Team of Kansas;
 - C) a report entitled "Fluoridation: the Rest of the Story" which includes: physicians comments on fluoridation, the law and fluoridation, is it a medicine, responses from a dentist advocate, professionally written books, and brief responses to fluoridation proponents information provided to the Ways & Means Subcommittee, submitted by Dr. Robert Hetrick, PhD.

A copy of the handouts one through four is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

The Chair then asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Senators Barnett, Salmans, Wagle, Haley, and Journey offered a range of questions for both Ms. Kimminau and Dr. Hetrick including: what is the ongoing cost for Wichita, the difference between topical and systemic, is topical fluoridation toothpaste adequate, materials used, how does xylitol compare to fluoride, how compelling is this issue regarding local control, if cumulative, what happens if you drink large amounts (for example during the summer) and small amounts (as in winter), why not put in salt or milk as opposed to water, do commercial bottlers offer with or without fluoride, compare the Louisiana study to the California study, are there other comparisons used and available to us, any additional information regarding the social and economic conditions, parish-to-parish community, and community specific studies.

Adjournment

As there was no further discussion, the Chair closed the hearing. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2004