

MINUTES OF THE SENATE HEALTH CARE STRATEGIES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Susan Wagle at 1:30 P.M. on January 20, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

Committee staff present: Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ms. Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mr. Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mrs. Sandy Praeger, Insurance Commissioner

Explanation of the Committees Charge and Recognitions

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle welcomed everyone and stated there is question about what the Committee's charge is and what the goal of this committee is going to be. The Senate President wants the Committee to: analyze health care costs, address concerns about the medicaid system, look at long term strategies for addressing health care costs, and seeing what the Committee can do to make sure affordable health care is available to all Kansans.

The Chair went on to state that this year the Committee will be focusing on reform issues that are being introduced citing that the chamber has some bills they are introducing, Senator Barnett has some ideas, and the Governor's ERO will be looked at.

The Chair recognized the staff for the 2005 legislative year: Mr. Jim Wilson, the Committee's Revisor, Ms. Emalene Correll and Ms. Terry Weber from Research, and Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary. Chairperson Wagle went on to mention that any of these people would be glad to help the Committee with any issues they have.

Overview of the Kansas Business Health Partnership and the Kansas Health Insurance Plan Act

The Chair then introduced Mrs. Sandy Praeger, Insurance Commissioner for Kansas, who gave an overview of the Kansas Business Health Partnership and the Kansas Health Insurance Plan Act. A copy of both, and a 2004 Fact Sheet, and the current list of the members of the Kansas Health Insurance Association Board of Directors are ([Attachment 1](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Highlights of the Health Insurance Plan Act included: eligibility, a schedule of benefits, covered services, pre-existing conditions, premium charges, funding, financial history, and federal grants.

Highlights of the Health Partnership included: its background, the procedures, the Business Health Policy Committee and its duties, recent changes (2004 **SB558** rolled into 2004 **HB2597**), the creation of the Office of Health Planning and Finance, **ERO 33**, and current happenings.

Commissioner Praeger then stood for questions which came from Senators Wagle, Barnett, Schmidt, and Palmer and Ms. Correll ranging including: did we start with a premium cap since this was organized, pre-existing conditions, the grant awarded to SRS, people not Medicaid eligible, is this a federal tax credit (regarding the Partnership), where do we need to go with tax credits to make them "attractive" to employees, statutory changes, how can we come up quickly with data to get up and going, and, is an income tax deduction available for small businesses?

As there was no further questions or discussion, the Chair thanked Commissioner Praeger for her presentation.

Introduction of bills

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Health Care Strategies Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 20, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Page 2

The Chair then called upon Ms. Marlee Carpenter with the Chamber of Commerce who requested the Committee introduce legislation that would change existing statutes regarding the Health Care Data Governing Board to suggested amendments. Ms. Carpenter stated that this change would strengthen the Health Care Governing Data Board and would require publication of the data. A copy of the legislation is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference. Senator Haley made a motion the Committee introduce the proposed legislation. It was seconded by Senator Jordan and the motion carried.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2005.