

## MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Barnett at 1:30 p.m. on January 13, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol. Senator Barnett welcomed all staff and public attending the first 2009 meeting of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee.

All members were present.

## Committee staff present:

Jan Lunn, Administrative Assistant  
Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

## Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joe Tilghman, Board Chairman, Kansas Health Policy Authority  
Marcia Nielson, PhD, MPH, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority  
Andy Allison, PhD, Deputy Director and Medicaid Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority

## Others attending:

Approximately 25 members of the public.

Senator Wysong moved introduction of a bill that would prohibit smoking in indoor areas statewide. Senator Colyer seconded the motion; the motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Barnett recognized Joe Tilghman, Board Chairman, Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), who spoke regarding the Kansas Health Policy Authority's 2008 accomplishments; the state employee health benefit plan; and the 2009 statewide initiatives (Attachment 1).

Dr. Marcia Nielson, Executive Director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority, provided a brief history of the Kansas Health Policy Authority and its programs. She reported that during 2008, the KHPA was able to progress in advancing the KHPA mission, to progress in developing a statewide health policy agenda, and to recommend 2009 health policy initiatives. During 2009, the KHPA intends to build on 2008 progress, to reform the state's Medicaid program that will improve overall cost initiatives, to provide increasing amounts of data and information to consumers/policyholders, and to advance health policies that will increase the affordability of health care in Kansas while improving the overall health of Kansans (Attachment 2).

Several questions were raised relative to KHPA's statistics on its stress management program for state employees, what changes were made in the employer contribution rate for dependent coverage resulting in a cost increase from 45 percent to 55 percent, whether information is available regarding high tobacco taxes and no smoking bans and whether health costs have been reduced in states that have these programs, and what is included in the governor's budget related to KHPA. Dr. Neilson indicated statistics and answers to the questions posed would be forwarded to committee members.

Dr. Andy Allison provided two handouts: "Summary of 2008 Medicaid Transformation," and "Medicaid Transformation Process: Executive Summary" (Attachments 3 and 4). Dr. Allison updated committee members attending on Kansas' Medicaid background; reducing cost growth; Medicaid spending by service and population; improving program integrity, improving payments to hospitals, saving administrative dollars, improving provider reimbursement, and expanding web-based services. He discussed challenges in the short- and long-term, and presented information regarding the Medicaid Transformation Process. This process contains objectives to improve cost-effectiveness, to achieve savings, to develop and apply policy goals, and to increase the program's integrity. He stressed the importance of transparency in policy-making, involvement of stakeholders, data-driven decision making, and policy discussion continuity. KHPA "next steps" for transforming Medicaid in 2009 was outlined.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.