

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on January 31, 2002 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

Committee staff present: Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office  
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Connie L. Hubbell, Secretary, Department on Aging

Connie L. Hubbell, Secretary, Department on Aging, gave an overview of the agency. KDOA was established by statute in 1977. In 1997, the Legislature transferred the Nursing Home, the Home and Community-Based Services for the Frail Elderly (HCBS/FE) Medicaid Waiver, the Targeted Case Management, and the Income Eligible programs to KDOA from the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). With the transfers to KDOA, we went from a 40-employee agency with a \$28 million dollar budget to a 160 employee agency. In FY 2001 the budget was \$395 million dollars including Medicaid nursing home services. Along with these programs came increased federal regulatory responsibilities. The programs that were transferred required income eligibility determination and verification before customers could receive services. Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) went from being the advocates for and coordinators of services to being the single point of entry of all elder services in their geographical areas.

The goal of a single point of entry system is to simplify access and paperwork for seniors. KDOA is seeking ways to coordinate and collaborate with other state agencies that serve our customers, SRS, KDHE, the Kansas Insurance Department, the Kansas Department of Commerce and Housing, the Long-term Care Ombudsman, and others. KDOA will improve our communication with all our partners, and most importantly, with our customers.

In June, 2001 KDOA adopted and published a Strategic Plan that begins a practical approach toward strengthening a continuum of choices, increasing quality, and ensuring effectiveness. It offers a vision for what can and must be accomplished to meet the needs of an aging society. The Department is engaging in numerous strategies to implement the Policy Directions established in the Strategic Plan (Attachment 1).

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m. and the next meeting will be February 4, 2002.