

MINUTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON MEDICAID REFORM.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Stan Clark at 3:30 p.m. on March 13, 2003 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Barnett, Excused  
Rep. Bethell, excused  
Rep. Hill, excused

Committee staff present: Emalene Correll, Legislative Research  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Ann McMorris, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Jim Cleland, WaKeeney

Others attending: See enclosed list

SRS provided the federal list of allowable drug exclusions and the extent to which Kansas Medicaid pays for any of the items on the list, as requested by Senator Huelskamp. (Attachment 1)

Jim Cleland, pharmacist from WaKeeney, recalled some of the history of Medicaid and noted pharmacists were paid acquisition cost for all drugs. There has never been an increase in this fee but it has dropped from \$7.05 to \$3.40. The pharmacist is the health care provider who sees the patient face to face. New pharmacists don't want to buy into a small shop and move into a small community. Medicaid is the big buyer for drugs and this runs up the cost. Pharmacists are simply trying to survive and especially small shops.

He provided several listings of prescriptions he filled over a period of time, drugs purchased and the costs thereto and discussed the alternatives he could use in both areas. (Attachment 2)

He felt the challenges are to find a different way of purchasing drugs to negotiate the best price and to give pharmacists more reimbursement.

Round table discussion with those in attendance covered rebates, wholesalers, manufacturers and the pharmacists, possible abuse and fraud.

The next meeting of this committee will be on March 14, 2003.

Adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE PRESIDENT'S TASK FORCE ON MEDICAID REFORM at on March 13, 2003 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

Ann McMorris, Secretary

Attachments - 2