

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 P.M. on January 23, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Representative Kiegerl

Committee staff present:
Cindy Lash, Legislative Research
Melissa Calderwood, Legislative Research
Dianne Rosell, Revisor of Statutes
Chris Haug, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Rachel Smit, MPA Kansas Health Institute
Gina Maree, Director of Health Care Finance and Organization, Kansas Health Institute

Others Attending:
See attached list

The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Vice Chairperson Mast made a motion to approve the minutes, Representative Neighbor seconded. The motion carried.

Tom Bruno introduced a bill on the Athletic Trainer Licensing Act. Vice Chairperson Mast made a motion to accept. Ranking Minority Member Flaharty seconded. The motion carried.

Chairperson Landwehr introduced a bill on Hospital Liens. Vice Chairperson Mast made the motion to accept. Ranking Minority Member Flaharty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Rachel Smit, MPA of Kansas Health Institute made a presentation on Health Insurance. See (Attachment 1). Ranking Minority Member Flaharty asked why there was a decline in insurance coverage for children in the employment based insured. Ms. Smit indicated the enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP increased during this same time period, but she would try to find out the reason for the decline in employment based insured.

Representative Neighbor asked if it was the cost of insurance premiums that caused the decline. Ms. Smit stated she would try to get the background of the results.

Chairperson Landwehr asked if a breakdown, of the employed and unemployed, could be given for slide 22, which is the "Uninsured Kansans within poverty categories". Ms. Smit said she could provide this. Chairperson Landwehr also asked if she could get the number of uninsured eligible for SCHIP or Medicaid that did not apply. Ms. Smit stated they don't ask why they don't have a particular type of insurance.

Representative Holland wondered if you would expect to see the same trend in uninsured rates during the next 10 or 20 years. Rachel said she has not looked into this, but she would. Rep. Holland asked if there was a changing dynamic, or is this the way it's always been. He was surprised the employers with over 500 employees had such high uninsured rates. Ms. Smit stated these were national numbers and most of the employers were probably retail. She wasn't sure about the Kansas rates.

Vice Chairperson Mast asked a question in relation to Kansas families. She asked what the average size of a family would be. Ms. Smit explained that she would have to research this.

Representative Garcia asked if there were any factors as to why they were not insured. Ms. Smit stated they don't ask why on the survey but there are ways to match up with the other surveys taken in the past year. This is a Federal Survey. The sample in Kansas was only 3000 individuals.

Representative Patton had a question about slide number 5: Sources of health insurance: All Kansans. He wondered if you did a pie without the uninsured how the results would come out. Rachel said she could provide this. She didn't feel it would look dramatically different.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE House Health and Human Services Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 23, 2008 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

Representative Colyer remarked there had been expanded enrollments in Medicaid and SCHIP. He wondered why the number of children with private health insurance had declined in employment based insurance. Rachel stated the decline occurred nationally from 2005 to 2006 in the private employment based insurance her guess was this was due to higher premiums. Representative Colyer stated that those on Medicaid for years who started to earn more money were now off. He asked about those on Medicaid, "can they find private insurance out on the market?" Ms. Smit said she would have to look into that.

Representative Storm asked what adults are eligible for Medicaid or what are the requirements to qualify for Medicaid? Ms. Smit said you have to be under 37% of the poverty level and have children or be disabled or pregnant. Adults without children must be between 37% and 100% of the poverty level. Rep. Storm wondered what was being done to take care of their health needs and what kind of options they had.

Gina Maree, Director of Health Care Finance and Organization with the Kansas Health Institute made a presentation on the Missouri House Bill 818 and Senate Bill 577. See ([Attachment 2](#)). The report was based on the 2007 legislative session in Missouri.

Representative Rhoades asked about the tax credit. He wondered if it was just adopted and what the cost of it was to the Missouri tax payers. Ms. Maree did not know, but said she would try to find out.

Candace Ayars, Ph.D. Interim Director of Public Health Studies with the Kansas Health Institute made a presentation on Obesity Prevalence and Risk Factors among Kansas Minorities. See ([Attachment 3](#)).

Representative Garcia wondered if produce was causing the most problems with unsafe foods. Dr. Ayars did not have any figures on this. Rep. Garcia also wondered if Dr. Ayars had any figures for the number of programs existing for community gardens. The only community garden that Dr. Ayars was aware of was in Kansas City.

Representative Colyer asked that in looking at national data for HP2010, is there any evidence that any states have changed their trend lines and if so, what did they do? Dr. Ayars said Colorado is the only state where the trends are getting better. Arkansas enacted a school program to educate students on weight control, but now Arkansas is leading the nation in eating disorders. They are currently trying to determine if there is some correlation to the two.

Chairperson Landwehr said we would allow Gina Maree to reschedule next week, due to her health concerns today.

Chairperson Landwehr adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m. The next meeting will be January 28, 2008.