

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 March 11, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Senator Haley who was absent.

Committee staff present:

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

Senator Barnett introduced his pages for the day, Talia Smith and Jacob Wright from Emporia.

Conferees attending:

Corrie Edwards, executive director, Kansas Consumer Health Coalition

Others attending:

See attached list:

**Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH)**

Senator Barnett distributed a draft of a Resolution relative to HITECH (Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health) legislation (Attachment 1). Doug Taylor, office of the revisor of statutes office, reviewed the proposed Resolution with committee members attending.

Upon a motion by Senator Kelsey to favorably pass out the Resolution as presented and a second by Senator Schmidt; the motion carried.

Senator Barnett distributed a letter to Kathleen Sebelius, the nominee to the position of Federal Secretary of Health and Human Services, encouraging review, development, and timely adoption of standards/criteria related to the adoption and use of health information technology systems and a health information exchange. Senator Barnett circulated the letter accompanied by an approval sheet, which all committee members signed and thereby indicated his/her approval for sending the communication (Attachment 2).

**Informational Hearing on Medical Debt**

Senator Barnett announced discussion on the informational hearing from March 3, 2009, will continue, and he re-introduced Corrie Edwards to the committee. Ms. Edwards indicated that the plan is to engage Kansas Health Institute as a partner to study the issue of medical debt. It is hoped results from the study will be available by October 2009. The comprehensive study will include what other states have done, what Kansas can do to standardize processes, and examination of a cap on medical debt interest rates.

Senator Barnett called attention to written testimony from Suzanne Cleveland, Kansas Health Institute, which focused on problem definition and examination of potential solutions. (Attachment 3)

Senator Barnett indicated he would like the opportunity to meet with Dr. Eberhart-Phillips, and other people in the field of public health to consider a vision for exploring public health issues during the next several years. Committee members agreed and requested Senator Barnett proceed with the meetings.

**SB 248 - Electronic logging system for sale of methamphetamine precursor**

Senator Barnett requested that Ms. Folmsbee brief those attending on the balloon amendment that was crafted through collaboration and compromise by both opponents and proponents. The amendment included clarification on various sections of the legislation, creates a new subsection relative to waivers that the Board of Pharmacy can grant, funding for implementation and maintenance of an electronic logging system, and capabilities of state or private vendors selected for providing the technology. A new section was added related to promulgation of rules and regulations. Various technical amendments were also discussed.

Upon a motion by Senator Schmidt to move SB 248 out favorably as amended with a second by Senator Kelsey, the motion passed.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 p.m. on March 11, 2009, in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

**SB 220 - Emergency medical services; authority of the board of emergency medical services.**

Ms. Folmsbee discussed the amendments proposed that added certain definitions, replaced terms “mobile intensive care technician, “emergency medical technician-defibrillator,” emergency medical technician-intermediate,” and “first responder” with “attendant.” In addition the term “medical adviser” was replaced with “medical director.” Rules and regulations relative to quality assurance/improvement programs, and staffing levels for attendants were also added. Responsibilities and authorities delegated to the Board of Emergency Medical Services were included. In addition, the disposition of charges and fees for ordinary civil actions in district court were included. The legislation applies to ground ambulance services only.

Committee members discussed the legislation. Senator Barnett recognized Robert Waller, executive director of the Kansas Board of Medical Services; K. C. Jones, Kansas Chapter of the Association of Air Medical Services; and Mick McCallum, vice president of Kansas Air, who were in the audience and individually offered comments related to various sections of **SB 220** (there was no written testimony).

Senator Barnett closed the hearing on **SB 220** indicating that final action would occur at a subsequent meeting.

Chairman Barnett announced that an electronic document containing follow-up to Dr. Andy Allison’s presentation, “Implementing Data-driven Policy through Medicaid Transformation had been sent to committee members. This document is attached as a matter for the permanent record (Attachment 4).

The meeting was adjourned at 2:22pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2009.