

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Ruth Teichman at 9:30 a.m. on January 20, 2004 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research
Terri Muchmore, Legislative Research
Ken Wilke, Office of the Revisor of Statutes
Nancy Shaughnessy, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Senator Teichman introduced Dr. Bill Wolff of Legislative Research who reported on the Health Insurance working group which met during the off session. Senator Barnett chaired the group and related that the group had enjoyed excellent bipartisan support and support from the Governor's office.

Doctor Wolff reviewed for the Committee the report(Attachment 1) from the working group. The working group was to do a comprehensive study of health insurance affordability and availability issues for the state of Kansas. Doctor Wolff indicated it was a sizeable agenda but that the Chair(Senator Barnett) had defined what topics the group would review for a focused study. Those issues referenced included:

- Health Reimbursement Accounts (HRAs)
- Association Health Plans
- Business Health Partnerships
- Medicaid
- Long-term Care Insurance
- Community Health Centers
- Consumer Education
- Value Based Leveraging

The Committee makes the following conclusions and recommendations:

- The working group encourages the Business Health Partnership to continue to explore creative solutions to make healthcare coverage available to their employees
- No Further actions are taken on Association Health Plan Legislation
- Continued Consumer Education on the issues of smoking and obesity thru collaborative efforts on the development of statewide programs
- Community Health Care Centers have an opportunity to make health care both available and affordable. The Working Group recommends that the centers work with the Kansas Association of the Medically Underserved, the Sunflower Foundation, the United Methodist Ministries, and the Kansas Health Institute, in becoming eligible for federal funding for additional centers.
- Long term care Insurance has some potential for reducing the State's medicaid expenditures for nursing home care, over an extended period of time. The working group recommends that the Insurance Commissioner modify existing rules and regulations to require potential purchasers be provided a shopper's guide
- Further,that SRS and the Legislature review existing laws to assure that the laws serve to encourage purchase of long-term care insurance rather than be dependent on the State. Additional recommendations be that the Legislature explore tax incentives.
- The Working Group recommends that the Kansas Data Governing Board review its role in order to be more current and proactive in assisting policymakers in the health arena.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND INSURANCE COMMITTEE at 9:30 a.m. on January 20, 2004 in Room 234-N of the Capitol.

- The Working Group recommends that the Dept. of Health & Environment and local health departments where immunizations are provided and how those can be included in the count of Kansas Children who have received immunization.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m.

The next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 21, 2004