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Date

## 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 24 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

All members were present except: Rep. Peggy Palmer, Excused

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office  
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Connie L. Hubbell, Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging  
Lorne A. Phillips, Ph.D., Chair, Health Care Data Governing Board

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

The Chairperson asked for bill introductions.

Representative Showalter requested introduction of a bill for medical care facilities; distribution and control of prescription medications; adult care homes, maintenance and use of emergency medication kit; health departments; an indigent health care clinic as defined by the rules and regulations of the Secretary of Health and Environment; a federally qualified health center, rules and regulations.

Tuck Duncan requested bill introduction for licensing occupational therapists.

The Chairman stated the bills would be introduced without objection.

Connie L. Hubbell, Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging, gave an overview of the Agency ([Attachment 1](#)).

Representative Morrison asked if care givers could be family members?

Ms. Hubbell replied, yes.

Representative Morrison asked about income-eligibility?

Ms. Hubbell stated she would provide a list of reportable income.

Representative Flaharty stated she knew a family in Wichita that had assistance and the caretaker did not receive near \$40.00 an hour so if that is what the state is paying there is a big gap.

Ms. Hubbell said the \$40.00 per hour was for case management who held degrees. There is a 3% increase in the budget this year for home care providers.

Representative Landwehr asked if income eligible included income plus assets?

Ms. Hubbell responded, just income, but will look at that.

Representative Landwehr stated the state needs to encourage responsibility.

Ms. Hubbell said, yes, family, volunteers and community support is needed.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210, Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on January 24.

Representative Long stated there has been a very good job of keeping people in their homes, a project that has been very effective but the downside of that is there are two nursing homes in my district that are really struggling because of the older population and how do we address the fact that nursing homes are crucial in that community and it looks hopeless right now for them to be able to hold on.

Ms. Hubbell stated that would take a very long answer, but the Long Term Care Task Force which is ongoing for 5 years is looking into long-term care. There are a variety of programs we are working on with nursing homes, the rate they are being reimbursed, the rate capacity and the federal law has changed recently and there has been a variety of changes. We are working with nursing home administrators to see if we can do things differently and rethink how services are provided so we are able to keep those nursing homes open.

Representative Long stated liability insurance is a concern, is that being addressed?

Ms. Hubbell stated that is true, we hear about it a great deal and we are looking at that.

The Chairman stated Ms Hubbell was instrumental in finding the transfer loophole monies. The Governor mentioned recently that we should hold off, could you elaborate on that?

Ms. Hubbell stated 11 quarters are available and Kansas receives \$15 - \$20M per quarter. HCFA has changed the regulations and they will stop the transfer and the states most recently joining this federal program will have 2 years additional services from the time the regulations took place. So it is anticipated that Kansas will have 11 quarters before that transfer program goes away. The concern of the Governor in his address on the pharmacy program was that we need to take a long look at programs to make sure it meet the needs of seniors and the needs of our state. Department on Aging and the Governor's staff is following what the federal government is doing. Once the federal government covers the prescriptions, the legislation will go away.

Lorne Phillips, Ph.D., Chair, Health Care Data Governing Board and Director, Center for Health and Environmental Statistics, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, briefed the committee on the annual report (Attachments 2 & 3).

The committee adjourned at 3:00 and the next meeting will be January 25.