

Approved: March 15, 2012

(Date)

**MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY
COMMITTEE**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mario Goico at 9:00 AM on Thursday, February 2, 2012 in 546-S of the Capitol.

All members were present, except:

Representative Mitch Holmes, Excused
Representative Steven Johnson, Excused

Committee staff present:

Dennis Hodgins, Legislative Research Department
Rich Mergen, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Ray Dalton, TriWest Healthcare Alliance

Others in attendance:

See attached list.

Chairman Goico opened the meeting; made a motion for a conceptual bill related to returning veterans – re-employment issues and employment opportunities. Steve Kearney (Kansas Trooper Magazine) recently prepared an article on this topic and is willing to work with the Committee on the bill preparation. The motion was seconded by Representative Montgomery and passed on a voice vote.

Chairman Goico recognized Ray Dalton who provided an overview of TRICARE, which is a health care program for military members – Active Duty, Activated Guard and Reserves, Retired

Unless specifically noted, the individual remarks recorded herein have not been transcribed verbatim. Individual remarks as reported herein have not been submitted to the individuals appearing before the committee for editing or corrections.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Minutes of the HOUSE VETERANS, MILITARY AND HOMELAND SECURITY
Committee at 9:00 AM on Thursday, February 2, 2012 in Room 546-S of the Capitol.

members of the uniformed services, their families, and survivors. TRICARE contracts with Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. (Attachments #1, #2, #3)

Committee members and Mr. Dalton interacted throughout the presentation and openly discussed a variety of general and specific scenarios for military personnel - active duty and reserve as it relates to TRICARE services. Clearly, there are many options that exist with the TRICARE program with different coverage's depending on the military personnel's situation or status.

Chairman Goico shared a situation in which an active duty military family member was required to travel out of state for treatment because there was no authorized facility (substance abuse) in Kansas. Mr. Dalton indicated that efforts are being made at this time to establish an authorized (TRICARE) substance abuse facility in Kansas. Mr. Dalton, at the request of Chairman Goico, agreed to provide a written progress report and timeline on this issue.

Chairman Goico permitted / recognized Michelle Sweeney, a member of the audience, who is the Advocate and Services Coordinator for the Kansas Association of Community Mental Health Centers to join in the open discussion. Ms. Sweeney presented several statewide issues to Mr. Dalton, and at the request of Chairman Goico, Ms. Sweeney agreed to provide a letter to the Committee detailing those concerns. Others in the audience were permitted to present pertinent information related to health care concerns for military personnel.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

The next House Veterans, Military & Homeland Security Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 7, 2012

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