

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE VISION 2020 COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Tom Sloan at 3:30 p.m. on February 21, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Representative Gail Finney- excused
Representative Brett Hildabrand- excused
Representative Don Hineman- excused
Representative Mike Peterson- excused

Committee staff present:

Corey Carnahan, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jay Hall, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Mary Koles, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the Committee:

Sunee Mickle, Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Bruce Witt, Via Christie Health System
Janell Moerer, Via Christi Health System
Mark Gagnon, Via Christi Health System
Debra Billingsly, State Board of Pharmacy

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Sloan greeted the committee and welcomed the conferees.

Sunee Mickle, Director of Government Relations, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, addressed her company's coverage for telemedicine services. Since 1993, BC-BS has reimbursed specialists (oncologists, psychologists, etc) for telemedicine consultations. In May 2008, BC-BS began reimbursing for telemedicine facility fees/originating site fee. Few insurers in Kansas cover the originating site fee. The demand for telemedicine services is low; most of BC-BS's major medical health insurance population is under the age of 65 and does not require the same types of services as Kansans who are covered by Medicare. In 2010, the majority of the telemedicine diagnosis codes were related to psychiatric consultations. Ms Mickle provided a map of BC-BS's service area showing the facilities that billed for telemedicine services in 2010. ([Attachment 1](#))

Following Ms Mickle's remarks, questions were asked by Representatives Don Hill, Vern Swanson, and Ron Worley.

Bruce Witt, Corporate Compliance Officer, Preferred Health System, introduced Janell Moerer and Mark Gagnon, both from Via Christie Health System.

Janell Moerer, Vice President, Business Development, Via Christi Health, discussed Tele-health and virtual care. Via Christi believes that healthcare delivery and reimbursement is not sustainable in its current form and has designed services and care models using enabling technology that address these factors. Via Christi On Call, a test program (June 2010 – Dec 2011), allows patients to select a video visit, chat visit, or telephone visit with a primary care provider twelve hours per day/seven days per week. To date, providers and patients like the convenience of online care; adoption is slow; people are willing to pay for online care; and other online care models will be tested such as surgeons for pre and post op patient visits.

Via Christi InMy Home, provides services, support and Smart Home technology to enable older adults to remain in the home. The home is monitored 24/7. Via Christi believes that more care will be provided in the home due to advances in enabling technology and innovation in care models. Also, older adults want to remain in their homes and are willing to pay for services and programs that will help them remain safely at home. They are comfortable with technology that allows them to do so and Personal Care Coordination effectively supports people as they age. ([Attachment 2](#))

CONTINUATION SHEET

The minutes of the Vision 2020 Committee at 3:30 p.m. on February 21, 2011, in Room 144-S of the Capitol.

Ms Morer mentioned the Via Christi ePharmacy initiative and introduced Mark Gagnon, Director of ePharmacy Via Christi Health. Mr Gagnon discussed the projected national shortage of pharmacists by 2020 and the current shortage of pharmacists in Kansas. He also mentioned the number and cost of adverse drug events annually. The goal of Via Christi's ePharmacy is to increase access to a hospital pharmacist in order to improve patient safety using enabling technology. He described the two components transforming pharmacy service: remote order entry (how it works) and telepharmacy/video verification (how it works). Currently, Via Christi provides services to eight rural Kansas hospitals. He noted that Kansas is one of four states that has telepharmacy language. Included with his written testimony is a case study which both Gagon and Moerer helped author: James C. Garrelts, et.al., "Impact of telepharmacy in a multihospital health system," American Journal of Health – Syst Pharm, vol 67, Sept 2, 2010, pages 1456-1462. ([Attachment 3](#))

Following Moerer and Gagnon's presentations, questions were asked, comments made and discussions occurred. Those participating included, Chairman Sloan and Representatives Joseph Scapa, Barbara Bollier, Don Hineman, and Vern Swanson.

Debra Billingsly, Executive Director, State Board of Pharmacy, reported on two (2) telepharmacy regulations:

1. KAR 6822-5, electronic supervision of medical care facilities, pharmacy personnel, applies to hospitals when a pharmacist is not present. It was approved by the Rules and Regulations Committee, however, at the public hearing, it became apparent that it needed additional language. The language was added and the regulation should be approved soon.
2. KAR 6817-10, concerns retail branch pharmacies. Each licensed pharmacy is allowed one branch pharmacy that is within twenty to one hundred miles of the parent/licensed pharmacy. Ms Billingsly expects this regulation will be in place by April 1, 2011.

Questions and comments followed her report. Participants included Chairman Sloan and Representative Don Hill.

Chairman Sloan thanked the conferees for their presentations.

Chairman Sloan noted several additional items included in the information distributed today: two draft letters, one to Dr. Andy Tompkins, Board of Regents, and another to Dave Larson and Don Heiman, Computer Services and IT respectively. ([Attachment 4](#)) He asked committee members to read the letters and suggest changes and additions by Friday, February 25. He also noted an article regarding higher education and suggested committee members read it: Daniel deVise, "Eight ways to get higher education in shape," The Washington Post, February 20, 2011. ([Attachment 5](#))

The next meeting is on call of the chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Committee Assistant's note: Testimony for Debra Billingsley for today was delayed. She provided testimony, a letter reporting the status of the telepharmacy regulations she discussed during the committee meeting, and a report of a meeting on March 1, 2011, of the joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations regarding the proposed telepharmacy regulations – all are included with today's minutes and were sent to Committee members shortly after they arrived, March 23, 2011. ([Attachment 6](#))