

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chairman James Barnett and Co-Chairman Dwayne Umbarger at 12:00 P.M. on March 15, 2007 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present from the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee except:

David Haley
Nick Jordan
Peggy Palmer
Pete Brungardt
Susan Wagle

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Nobuko Folmsbee, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Morgan Dreyer, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Andy Allison, Deputy Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority
Billie Hall, President and CEO, The Sunflower Foundation
Krista Postai, The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
Pat Cameron, Co-Director, The Benefit Bank

Others attending:

See attached list.

Upon calling the meeting to order, Co-Chairman Umbarger and Co-Chairman Barnett welcomed the conferees and thanked the Senators attending for participating in the joint discussion concerning HealthWave Enrollment.

Dicussion/Presentations on HealthWave Enrollment

Co-Chairman Umbarger called upon conferee, Dr. Andy Allison, Deputy Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority and Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director, Kansas Health Policy Authority who presented to the Committee a folder of information regarding HealthWave and Medicaid Programs. Highlights from the presentation included:

Testimony on:

- Enrollment in Kansas HealthWave and Medicaid Programs
- Health Insurance for Low-Income Kansans
 - Background
 - Federal Funding
 - State Programs
 - Background on Stairstep Income Thresholds Distinguish Medicaid and SCHIP Eligibility
- Long-run and short-run trends in enrollment
- HealthWave Outreach
 - Outreach challenges
- Graph - HealthWave Income Eligibility
- Graph - Federal Poverty Level for Household of Three

Slides/Charts on:

- Medicaid and SCHIP Eligibility Historical Trends
- All Kansas Medicaid Beneficiaries
- Kansas Medicaid Populations Groups
- Kansas Regular Medical Medicaid Expenditures by Population Groups Excluding LTC
- Regular Medical Medicaid Expenditures Per Person Per Month Per Population Group
- Enrollment in Medicaid and SCHIP: FY 2004-2007
- Health Insurance Status of Kansas Children

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Fact Sheet on:

- Deficit Reduction Act requirements for citizenship and identity
- Impact on Beneficiaries
 - How beneficiaries have been affected
 - How has caseload been affected
 - How have other states been affected by these new requirements
- Caused by new documentation requirements and overworked enrollment process
 - What are the new documentation requirements
 - How have the new federal requirements impacted the enrollment process in Kansas
 - Who is being affected by these new rules
- Steps being taken to mitigate the problem
 - What are the budgetary costs of the new requirements for the state of Kansas
 - What measures are being taken to reduce the impact on beneficiaries

State Medicaid Fact Sheet: Charts, Sources and Notes

A copy of the presentation from the Kansas Health Policy Authority is ([Attachment 1](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Questions came from Senators Teichman, Kelly, Barone and V. Schmidt regarding losing children on enrollment, problems with DRA regulations and provisions, length and date what children started to drop off, backlog, Federal Government's part in the issue, Emergency Room use and safety net clinics.

Co-Chairman Umbarger called upon conferee, Billie Hall, Director, The Sunflower Foundation who presented the Committee with information regarding enrolling eligible Kansas children in both HealthWave and Medicaid programs. Highlights from the presentation included:

Testimony on:

- Health Coverage for Children
- Partnered Health Foundations
- Roundtable Discussions
- Kansas Barriers to Enrollment
- School-Based approach to Enrolling Children

A copy of the presentation from the Sunflower Foundation is ([Attachment 2](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

No questions came from the Committee.

Co-Chairman Umbarger called upon conferee, Krista Postai, CEO, Community Health center of Southeast Kansas who presented the Committee with information regarding HealthWave enrollment. Highlights from the presentation included:

- Financial Support
- Uninsured Children
- Space and Money limits
- Backlog
- Success in enrolling children

A copy of the presentation from The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas is ([Attachment 3](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Questions came from Senators Barnett, Teichman, and Schmidt regarding creating a list of barriers for enrolling children, system for enrollment and clinic expansion.

Finally, Co-Chairman Umbarger called upon conferee, Pat Cameron, Co-Director, The Benefit Bank who presented the Committee with information regarding who and what the Kansas Benefit Bank works. Highlights from the presentation included:

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- what is The Kansas Benefit Bank
- Why is The Kansas Benefit Bank needed
- Who will The Kansas Benefit Bank make a difference
- When will these benefit applications be available
- How can my organization become a benefit bank site

Information facts on The Kansas Benefit Bank Inter-Faith Ministries

A copy of the presentation from The Kansas Benefit Bank is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Questions came from Senators Kelly, Schmidt and Barnett regarding web-based enrollment, dealing with paper documentation, funding, collecting information electronically, locations in Kansas, advertising The Kansas Benefit Bank and barriers.

With no more time left, Co-Chairman Barnett and Co-Chairman Umbarger thanked the Committee members for attending the discussion and thanked the conferees for spending time to discuss and present this information.

Adjournment

As there were no more items on the agenda and no more time left, the meeting adjourned at 1:20 p.m.