

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:30 P.M. on January 23, 2008 in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Sara Zafar, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Nobuko Folmsbee, Revisor of Statutes
Rena Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Jan Lunn, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Cathy Harding, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
Barbara Gibson, Director, State Primary Care Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending:

In addition to the attached list there were approximately sixteen (16) other attending.

Chairman Barnett called the meeting to order.

Chairman Barnett directed the committee members' attention to follow-up information provided by staff from Legislative Research Services related to current Kansas Health Insurance Mandates and a copy of the Kansas Legislator Briefing Book 2008 "M-2 Kansas Health Insurance Mandates." The attachments (Attachment 1 and Attachment 2) are included and therefore, incorporated into these minutes.

Chairman Barnett indicated approval of the minutes would occur at the end of the meeting.

Information Briefing and Overview of Safety Net Clinics

Chairman Barnett introduced Cathy Harding, Executive Director, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMC), who provided very detailed testimony regarding primary safety net clinics in Kansas. Ms. Harding explained these are statewide clinics comprising 33 organizational and 4 associate members who provide health services to low income individuals regardless of ability to pay. She described not only the role these clinics play in the health care system today, but she explained the potential for these clinics in overall health care reform. Ms. Harding discussed the proposed four-component infrastructure development plan and the funding required for it. In addition, discussion was heard related to the importance of enrolling eligible individuals so that these Kansans can find a "medical home" thereby enabling uninsured citizens to improve access to health services and to reduce health care costs. Ms. Harding distributed an attachment of her testimony which is considered to be incorporated into these minutes as a matter of record. (Attachment 3)

Ms. Barbara Gibson, Director, State Primary Care Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, was introduced by Chairman Barnett. Ms. Gibson provided information about the state's primary health care safety net and reported on performance of the state-supported clinics and health centers. She indicated that census estimates the current uninsured rate at 302,304 Kansans. Ms. Gibson discussed the struggles to recruit health professionals to provide additional medical and dental services; reported on KDHE's involvement in application for state or federal loan repayment assistance for National Health Service Corps scholars; referenced the Primary Care Clinic Grant Application guidelines and the state application process; and the Conrad/State 30 Program which is another recruitment resource. Ms. Gibson discussed the current funding request for \$150,000 for the loan repayment assistance program. (Attachment 4)

Chairman Barnett questioned whether KDHE, KHPA and KAMU are working collaboratively within systems to ensure maximum effectiveness among all agencies. Ms. Gibson responded that relationships are being built and fostered, however, the major issue appears to be work force data sharing with KHPA. Ms. Harding also responded relative to KAMU's work with KHPA regarding participation of outstation eligibility workers

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 23, 2008 in Room 136-N of the Capitol.

to identify and to enroll eligible Kansans in available programs under KAMU oversight. Chairman Barnett encouraged continued conversation among involved agencies to ensure this critical component is achieved.

Senator Haley moved to accept the minutes of January 16, 2008 and January 17, 2008; Senator Schmidt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008.