

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 4, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present.

Committee staff present:

Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research
Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Mrs. Diana Lee
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Dr. Lou Sadhi, PhD, Director, Office of Health Care Information Center for Health & Environmental Statistics (CHES), KDHE
Mr. Roderick Bremby, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health & Environment

Others attending:

Please See Attached List.

Overview of the Health Care Governing Board Annual Report

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle introduced Dr. Lou Sadhi, PhD, Director of the Office of Health Care Information Center for Health and Environmental Statistics, who stated this is the 10th year the Board has been working to improve the availability of health information for Kansas. A copy of her presentation is ([Attachment 1](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights for 2003 included work related to:

- 1) Legislative issues monitored by the Governing Board that required data or involved data collection (ex. Mental health parity and mandated coverage for contraceptives);
- 2) Data partnerships (ex. State trauma registry database development and the hospital discharge data collection);
- 3) Publications - full time equivalency (FTE) reports prepared for Primary Care Physicians and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners (ARNP), the Health System Inventory Report update and complete;
- 4) Data requests from the health care database (ex. Requests for purposes of addressing bioterrorism preparation needs and continuing education);
- 5) Technical assistance - protocol constructed in an effort to assure that analytic methodologies are standardized in preparing data output and reports;
- 6) Health information presentations hosted by the Governing Board (ex. Coverage of the uninsured and findings from the State Turning Point Minority Health Disparities and Data Report.)

In closing, Dr. Saudi asked the Committee to remember that the Health Care Data Governing Board establishes for them the forum through which health information issues can be discussed and recommendations made.

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Chairperson Wagle then introduced Mr. Roderick Bremby, Secretary of Kansas Department of Health & Environment who stated he would be describing the efforts under way at KDHE regarding health care data collection to support health policy development and its data vision. A copy of his presentation is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. A copy of the Health Care Data Governing Board 2003 Annual Report has been filed in Chairperson Susan Wagle's office. Highlights included:

- 1) a background of the governing board, stating the structure of the Board included members of the health care provider community that owned much of the data the state would need to assert its role in decision-making processes. He also included a current list of the Board's membership;
- 2) development of the Kansas Health Insurance Information System (KHIIS) to address the health care statistical plan established by the Kansas Insurance Commissioner;
- 3) in 2003, KDHE was able to obtain and make available health care professional and hospital discharge data; fulfilled over 213 specialized data requests, recorded over 106,000 successful website hits through the Information Network of Kansas (INK); and entered into Memoranda of Understanding;
- 4) proposed a reorganization scheme that includes changes to the board structure, appoint an executive committee to focus on necessary elements required to achieve a useful database used to formulate health policy, and will devote a dedicated staff to provide support for the board;
- 5) KDHE's vision is increased access to the many sources of data within state agencies and those outside to enhance the ability of policy makers to make informed health-care decisions.

The Chair then asked for questions or comments from the Committee. Senators Barnett, Steineger, Brownlee, Wagle and Salmans and Ms. Correll asked a range of questions from clarification of new members, what is the time frame KDHE is looking at regarding this restructuring, do you perceive patients being able to contact KDHE, (flooded with reports and data) is there a way to cast a broader net, Kansas specific, data not telling us about rural health-care, how much data is available in the database, could you aggregate, bill passed stating no paper annual reports, is data being gathered from speciality hospitals, aren't you authorized to collect all data, do you collect information from community hospitals to identify who is charity or uninsured, a forthcoming E.O., is extra funding needed after restructuring, to does the data collected have value to industry and do we see data?

Introduction of bills

The Chair then asked for bills to be introduced. Senator Barnett made a motion to introduce legislation concerning the regulation of child care facilities; relating to exemptions therefrom. It was seconded by Senator Brownlee and the motion passed. Next, Mr. Larry Williamson from the Kansas Dental Board asked the Committee to introduce legislation concerning improper use of certain names by dentists; exceptions; unlawful acts; suspension or revocation of license and adding "except in situations when the Board determines an exception is appropriate to facilitate the providing of dental services to a population or group of patients the Board has determined to be under-served." Senator Barnett made a motion to introduce this legislation and it was seconded by Senator Haley. The motion passed. Senator Wagle made a conceptual motion to introduce legislation concerning immunizations, prohibiting the administration of certain immunizations which contain certain substances. Senator Brownlee seconded the motion and the motion passed. Lastly, legislation was introduced from Behavioral Sciences concerning the regulation of psychologists; relating to unlicensed assistants in psychology. Senator Haley made a motion to introduce this legislation and Senator Salmans seconded. The motion passed.

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Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, February 9, 2004.