

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 January 29, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

- Senator Steineger - excused
- Senator Brownlee - excused
- Senator Brungardt - excused
- Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research - excused
- Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes - absent

Committee staff present:

- Mrs. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
- Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

- Dr. Robert St. Peter, MD, President, Kansas Health Institute
- Ms. Barbara J. LaClair, MHA, Research Analyst, Kansas Health Institute

Others attending:

Please see Attached List.

**Presentation on "Summary of Poll of Kansans of Health Issues"**

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle introduced Dr. Robert St. Peter, MD, and President of the Kansas Health Institute who would be presenting information on a summary of a poll of Kansans on health issues. A copy of his PowerPoint handout is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights are as follows:

- 1) This was a Harvard study with the methodology being a telephone survey of 1,006 randomly selected Kansas state residents, 18 and older during September, with the data weighted to accurately reflect the demographics of the state population, as described by the US Census.
- 2) The subject of the survey included:
  - a) what are the most important health care issues for Kansas state government to address?
  - b) what is the most important health care issue at the present time?
  - c) satisfaction level with the Kansas health care system
  - d) problems getting or paying for medical care in the last 12 months
  - e) worries about getting and paying for care in the future
  - f) who is doing a bad job serving the needs of health care consumers in Kansas?
  - g) Kansas residents' views of Health Wage and Medicaid
  - h) what are the priorities for the state's health care agenda
- 3) Budget tradeoffs - how do Kansas think health care should be paid for
- 4) Percent of Kansas residents supporting increased taxes to help low income workers pay for health insurance
- 5) Most important public health issues for Kansas state government to address and priorities for the state's public health agenda.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dr. St. Peter then called upon Ms. Barbara J. LaClair, MHA, Research Analyst from the Kansas Health Institute, to present data from the food security supplement, surveys, and the current population (interviewing approximately 500-600 Kansas households each year.) A copy of her presentation and pamphlet are (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the minutes as referenced. Highlights included:

1) the definitions of hunger and food insecurity and their impact on health;

2) some statistics of:

a) food security and hunger being present in Kansas (ex. One in 10 households, or 105,000 people) experienced food insecurity during the previous year and the rates are approximately equal in urban and rural areas. Ms. LaClair did mention that these were similar to national statistics, but the data is limited by graphics being available by counties, and the range of the data available is from 1995 to 2000;

b) food insecure families working, some households that are at increased risk, Kansas versus United States households headed by single females at high risk for food insecurity;

c) families not receiving assistance (even though many forms are available) (ex. Barely half or 54% of low income, food insecure households had participated in one or more of the major federal nutrition support programs such as WIC and food stamps); and lastly,

3) options: the Kansas Health Institute has looked at for reducing hunger and food insecurity (ex. Expand program availability, such as the summer meal program for kids.)

The Chair then asked for comments and/or questions from the Committee. Senators Barnett, Haley, Salmans, and Journey asked a range of questions from outdated data (a delay from federal level polling to release information), BFRSS, what can we as legislatures do to help, how have some of the programs worked and not worked, why are we not seeing an increase in programs, clarification of lack of food somehow leading to obesity, restrictions on better selection of foods, access question, the choices have not allowed for the distribution, does the survey touch on social responsibilities (ex. Abuse of chemical dependencies), and lastly, regarding the Harvard study: did you oversee, what factors were used, was this a random digital dial, was this automated or a live person using various times, and weighting and measurement tools to evaluate data. Senator Barnett did comment that the figures are probably worse now with the economy and Senator Journey made the suggesting of using public service announcements.

### **Adjournment**

The Senator thanked Dr. St. Peter and Ms. LaClair and since there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:35 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2004.