

## MINUTES

### LEGISLATIVE BUDGET COMMITTEE

October 10-11, 2005  
Room 514-S—Statehouse

#### Members Present

Representative Melvin Neufeld, Chairman  
Senator Dwayne Umbarger, Vice Chairman  
Senator Jim Barone  
Senator Steve Morris  
Representative Bill Feuerborn  
Representative Brenda Landwehr  
Representative Ray Merrick

#### Staff Present

Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
J. G. Scott, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Leah Robinson, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Matt Spurgin, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Amy VanHouse, Kansas Legislative Research Department  
Bruce Kinzie, Office of the Revisor of Statutes  
Shirley Jepson, Committee Secretary

#### Conferees

Steve Stotts, Director of Taxation, Department of Revenue  
Jeff Scott, Compliance and Reports Division, Department of Revenue  
Carmen Alldritt, Director of Vehicles, Department of Revenue  
Randy Nelson, Vice President of Engineering, Cessna Aircraft  
John Tomblin, Executive Director, National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR)  
Joe Lawhon, Legislative Post Audit  
Dr. Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)  
Dr. David Blakely, President, Kansas Psychiatric Society  
David Wiebe, Executive Director, Johnson County Mental Health Center  
Walt Hill, Executive Director, High Plains Mental Health Center  
Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Department of Corrections (DOC)

Dr. Laurie Meyer, Mental Health Coordinator, Topeka Correctional Facility  
Ray Roberts, Warden, El Dorado Correctional Facility  
Linda Henderson, Executive Director, Pawnee County Economic Development Commission  
George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA)  
Jack Fowler, Chairman, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs  
Bill Ramsey, Superintendent, Kansas Soldiers' Home  
Jim Hays, Superintendent, Kansas Veterans' Home  
Mary Prewitt, General Counsel to the Kansas Board of Regents  
Col. William Vonderschmidt, Chief of Joint Staff, Adjutant General's Office  
David Cleveland, Director of Direct Services and Assessment & Labor Exchange Services,  
Department of Commerce  
Darrell Bencken, State Adjutant Quartermaster, Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)  
Charles Yunker, Department Adjutant, American Legion  
Jim Tull, Veterans' Service Representative, Veterans' Affairs and American Legion  
David Brader, Adjutant Treasurer, Disabled American Veterans  
Becky Blake, Director of Travel and Tourism, Department of Commerce  
Rebecca Crotty, Chairperson, Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)  
Trevor Wohlford, Executive Director, Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA)

### **Monday, October 10 Morning Session**

Chairman Neufeld called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

*Representative Landwehr moved to approve the minutes, as written, of July 19 and September 1-2, 2005. The motion was seconded by Representative Feuerborn. Motion carried.*

J. G. Scott, Legislative Research Department, presented a preliminary review of the Actual FY 2005 Resources, Demands, and Balances of the State General Fund (SGF) (Attachment 1). Mr. Scott stated that on the basis of final action taken by the 2005 Legislature, the SGF actual unencumbered cash balance on June 30, 2005, was \$480.9 million or approximately \$84.6 million above the previous estimate. This increase in the ending balance was a result of underspending totaling \$3.1 million, and shifting of \$31.6 million in expenditures from FY 2005 to FY 2006. The revised ending balance would exceed the statutorily required 7.5 percent ending balance. Responding to a question from the Committee concerning funding for the 27<sup>th</sup> pay period, Mr. Scott stated that, as per the 2005 Legislature's action, approximately \$5 million was moved from unspent funds to fund the 27<sup>th</sup> pay period plan approved by the 2005 Legislature.

The Committee requested additional information on:

- Detailed information on the FY 2005 underspending by the Department on Aging and the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS).
- Information from the Board of Regents on the underspending of scholarship funds and whether or not the number of medical scholarships has decreased.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Steve Stotts, Director of Taxation, Department of Revenue, who introduced Jeff Scott of the Compliance and Reports Division. Mr. Scott presented an overview and update on the Department of Revenue's accounts receivables (AR) (Attachment 2). He stated that gross accounts receivables at the end of September, 2005, were \$503 million, with a net

realizable value (gross accounts receivables less bankruptcies and uncollectible) of approximately \$152 million. Responding to a question from the Committee with regard to collection of drug taxes, Mr. Scott stated that improvements have been made through closer review of the statute of limitations and increased cooperation with Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). Of the eighteen additional agents approved by the 2005 Legislature, fourteen have been hired with the intent of hiring the remaining four within the next several months. With reference to the collection goal set with the additional agents, Mr. Scott noted that collections for the first quarter of FY 2006 are at approximately 25 percent of the annual goal and he would expect this percent to increase as the agents become more familiar with the process. Placing the additional agents in various locations within the state has been beneficial in addressing the tax issues and recovery of tax receivables on a timely basis. It is anticipated that with the implementation of the sales tax program and new agents in place, the outstanding balance of the retailers' sales tax will be dramatically reduced. In response to a Committee question, Mr. Scott indicated that records are checked when a new business is established, to verify whether the responsible person for the new business has past tax debt from a previous business.

The Committee requested additional information on:

- How much of the drug sales tax accounts receivable is local tax dollars and how much is state tax dollars.
- A 15-year breakdown on past-due retail taxes - how much is collected and how much is written off.

The Chairman recognized Carmen Alldritt, Director of Vehicles, Department of Revenue, who presented an update on driver license renewals. Ms. Alldritt stated that in 1991 the Department of Revenue started partnering with county treasurer's offices to process driver licenses applications and renewals with an investment of approximately \$20,000 to set up each of these offices. Since that time, with budget costs, examination positions and 13 offices across the state have been eliminated. A lack of space in the county courthouses also has been a problem. Approximately 700,000 driver licenses are processed annually. The American Automobile Association (AAA) contacted the Department of Revenue concerning the possibility of offering driver license service in the AAA offices. In early May 2005, a pilot program was established in the AAA office in Lawrence. The program will offer driver license renewals only. All other services still must be conducted at a county treasurer's office or the Department of Revenue. An interest in the program also has been expressed by some insurance companies. Any locations participating in the program must be located in a part of the state that currently is underserved, be available for five-day service, serve all citizens, provide adequate parking, waiting areas, be ADA compliant, and not solicit business. If the pilot program is successful, the Department of Revenue will consider reduced services in county treasurer's offices. The Department of Revenue is continuing to look at ways to provide driver license services at a reasonable rate to all citizens. Responding to a question from the Committee, Ms. Alldritt stated that the reason for choosing the AAA location in Lawrence for the pilot program was because the Douglas County treasurer's office did not have enough space to continue the service. In addition, the AAA office is on the south side of Lawrence and more accessible by more of the population of Douglas County.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Randy Nelson, Vice President of Engineering, Cessna Aircraft, who presented an update on the Kansas Aviation Research Initiative and the current economic growth of the aircraft industry in Wichita ([Attachment 3](#)). Mr. Nelson noted that the refurbished crash test site at Wichita State University's National Institute for Aviation Research (NIAR) is one of the premier test sites in the United States. He also stated that it should prove to be a highly productive facility. The wind tunnel upgrades have been completed, making it competitive and comparable to

other test facilities. Additional funding also has made possible new prospects including contracts for other testing for other companies. Mr. Nelson noted that it is important for all members of the Wichita aircraft industry to work together to remain aggressive and competitive in the world market. Current products and development of new aircraft depend on the research being conducted at NIAR. State funding continues to be important in the development of new aircraft with a proposed request of \$2 million from the 2006 Legislature. At the present time, the industry is healthy, very competitive, and continuing to grow. Responding to a Committee question, Mr. Nelson indicated that the layoffs of 2001-02 were primarily a result of the September 11, 2001, disaster and that since 2003, employment has increased. It is anticipated that 300-500 additional positions will be filled in the near future with an upswing in high-paying jobs and technical jobs.

Responding to another question, John Tomblin, Executive Director of NIAR, stated that the research facility is working to become profitable, but noted that some aspects of the research, such as the wind tunnel, might only reach the break-even point. Mr. Tomblin stated that the NIAR facility now belongs to NIAR; however, approximately \$10 million of equipment was donated by Raytheon. Due to the location of the facility, an agreement with Raytheon on utilities has been reached whereby NIAR pays Raytheon for utilities used at the facility. At the time NIAR was established, 18 Raytheon employees became state employees. Mr. Tomblin noted that the facility also currently is doing some testing on aging military aircraft.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Joe Lawhon, Legislative Post Audit, who presented an update on the April 2005 audit entitled, *Larned State Hospital: Reviewing the Growth in the Sexual Predator Program* (copy available from Legislative Research Department). Mr. Lawhon stated that there has been a steady growth in sexual predators committed to the program, partly because of more sexual offenders being classified as "high risk". The treatment program takes an average of seven years to complete with few offenders leaving the program at this time. It is anticipated that the program will continue to grow in number of participants. The Committee noted that it might be more important for sexual offenders to participate in the treatment program while they are serving their prison sentence as opposed to participating in the program upon release from prison. Mr. Lawhon noted that the audit was hindered by the amount of information that could be obtained from the 16 states who also have a civil commitment law, because of the limited time period to do the audit and the limited amount of information which could be provided by the other states. Mr. Lawhon stated that the program administered by the Department of Corrections is an optional program for sexual offenders and they may opt out of the program at any time. However, sexual offenders committed to the treatment program at Larned State Hospital must successfully complete the program.

The Chairman recognized Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, who appeared before the Committee to testify on the Sexual Predator Treatment Program ([Attachment 4](#)). Secretary Daniels stated that there is a need for supervision and accountability for management of the sexual predator treatment program which may result in a need for the authorization of additional positions. The Committee indicated that it might be important to combine the Larned State Hospital treatment program with the programs currently being used by the Department of Corrections (DOC). Secretary Daniels noted that it is important for the state to continue supervision of offenders who leave the treatment program.

- The Committee requested that Secretary Daniels work on proposed legislation for consideration by the 2006 Legislature for improvements to the sexual predator treatment program.

The meeting was recessed at 12:20 p.m.

## Afternoon Session

Chairman Neufeld reconvened the meeting at 1:35 p.m. and recognized Dr. David Blakely, President of the Kansas Psychiatric Society, who presented information on the mental health issues that impact state facilities ([Attachment 5](#)). Dr. Blakely stated that he has a concern that the number of inmates in state facilities who are in need of mental health treatment is increasing. Dr. Blakely also noted he has a concern because of his inability to access his patient's records upon their release from prison until the offender signs a release of records, resulting in the loss or delay of suggested follow-up treatment for the patient.

The Chairman again recognized Dr. Gary Daniels, Acting Secretary, Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, who presented information on mental health hospital admission increases ([Attachment 6](#)). Secretary Daniels stated that the number of Kansans turning to the public mental health service system for mental health support has increased by over 21 percent over the past five years with a rapid decline in the private sector utilization. Some of the factors attributing to this increase in the state's mental hospitals are:

- Decline in number of private psychiatric hospital beds available.
- Number of first-time patients who are unknown to the community public mental health system.
- More serious and persistent mental illnesses.

Secretary Daniels included a plan of action with his written testimony, noting that it is the state's obligation to meet the needs of patients with acute psychiatric inpatient treatment needs that cannot be met in their communities.

The Committee requested additional information on:

- Allocations for each Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) for admissions and number of placements.

The Chairman recognized David Wiebe, Executive Director of the Johnson County Mental Health Center, representing the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc., who presented an overview and statewide perspective on the mental health centers ([Attachment 7](#), pages 1-6). Mr. Wiebe noted that there is an increase in the number of inmates in the prisons or jails who are in need of mental health treatment. He stated that the state psychiatric hospitals play a critical role in the public mental health system and felt it is also critical to address the needs of the community mental health centers to be able to care for the increase in the number of patients needing treatment. Mr. Wiebe felt it will be necessary to provide additional funding for the state mental hospitals. In addition, Mr. Wiebe believed that KSA 59-3968 should be amended by removing the option of closing admissions to the state hospitals which leaves consumers and families without an option at a time of crisis.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Walt Hill, Executive Director, High Plains Mental Health Center at Hays, who continued testimony on the overview of mental health centers with emphasis on Larned State Hospital and resources in Western Kansas ([Attachment 7, pages 7-8](#)). Mr. Hill reiterated the critical need for additional beds to care for the increase in citizens seeking treatment for mental health problems. With regard to county jail inmates in the Hays area who may need psychiatric care,

Mr. Hill stated that the inmate is screened and then either treated at Larned State Hospital or in the jail, if it can be done safely, with very few inmates sent out of the area. Potential Medicaid cuts have also caused a concern.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Roger Werholtz, Secretary, Department of Corrections, who presented testimony on mental illness among the inmate population ([Attachment 8](#)) and facility capacities ([Attachment 9](#)). Secretary Werholtz stated that more inmates on psychotropic medication are now entering the correctional system. Responding to a question from the Committee with regard to the number of inmates not being served by specialized housing, Secretary Werholtz stated that a specific number is not available; however, it is estimated that between 30 and 40 developmentally disabled or mentally ill inmates are in the system who could benefit from some specialized sex offender treatment. In addition, he estimated that between 10 and 15 inmates are suffering from severe disability from dementatia or stroke. He also estimated 20 males and 15 female inmates in the general population have mental health symptoms and are not currently housed in treatment or mental health facilities because of lack of space. Secretary Werholtz also noted that approximately 25 inmates at Lansing, 25-40 inmates at Hutchinson, and 58 El Dorado inmates, either in segregation or the general population, could benefit from and function safely in another type of housing.

The Committee requested additional information, with reference to the charts in the audit report presented earlier in the day on Larned State Hospital, pages 28 and 29, on:

- How many offenders are incarcerated at the present time on each sexually motivated offense.
- How many participants in the Larned sexual treatment program were transferred from the correctional system.

Dr. Laurie Meyer, Mental Health Coordinator, Topeka Correctional Facility, stated that crisis cases at the prison have doubled over the past six months. Larned State Hospital has been utilized. Responding to a question from the Committee, Dr. Meyer noted that many of the inmates have previously been in Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) custody or in the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services foster care system. She indicated that it is difficult to get prior records on the inmates unless they self-report. Responding to a question from the Committee, Dr. Meyer noted that approximately 50 percent of the women inmates do not have a high school diploma. She indicated that a large percentage of the behavior disorders are driven by drug and other substance abuse problems.

Secretary Werholtz stated that data systems, within JJA, SRS and the correctional system, do not share information. He further explained that these agencies are working together to find ways to be able to access information and develop an integration of data about people across state agencies without invading the privacy of the individual.

Ray Roberts, Warden, El Dorado Correctional Facility, presented his observations of the mental health problems at the El Dorado Correctional Facility ([Attachment 10](#)). Mr. Roberts stated that approximately 38 percent of the inmates coming into the El Dorado facility have a known mental health history. Mr. Roberts indicated that approximately 74 inmates are in the segregation unit at the present time, with approximately 32 inmates from the general population in single cells. These inmates could be identified for transfer to the Isaac Ray Building at Larned. Mr. Roberts noted that these beds would not remain empty as there is always a need for segregated beds.

The Chairman recognized Linda Henderson, Executive Director, Pawnee County Economic Development Commission, who testified on behalf of the citizens of Pawnee County concerning the mental health facilities in Pawnee County (Attachment 11).

The meeting was recessed at 3:50 p.m. and will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. on October 11, 2005.

### **Tuesday, October 11 Morning Session**

Chairman Neufeld reconvened the meeting at 9:10 a.m. and recognized Amy Deckard, Legislative Research Department, who presented an update from the 2006 Kansas Legislator Briefing Book pertaining to benefits provided by the State of Kansas to military personnel and veterans (Attachment 12). Ms. Deckard noted that a more detailed version of the benefits information is available from the Legislative Research Department.

The Chairman recognized George Webb, Executive Director, Kansas Commission on Veterans' Affairs (KCVA), who provided a review of Veterans' Benefits and Services within the State of Kansas and services available to their dependents (Attachment 13, pages 1-14). Mr. Webb included information on the mission of KCVA, benefits available for veterans and their dependents, demographics, the joint employment agreement, and the future of benefits for veterans. Benefits available for Kansas veterans include veterans' cemeteries, nursing homes, educational assistance, war bonus for World War I veterans (one still living in Kansas), distinctive license plates, military retirement not taxed for state income tax purposes, and hunting and fishing licenses available for National Guardsmen. Mr. Webb stated that upgrades and construction at the veterans' cemeteries at Fort Dodge, WaKeeney, and Winfield have been completed with anticipation that the Fort Riley cemetery will open in 2007, all at a total cost of \$20 million, fully funded by a federal grant. Mr. Webb indicated that there is a need for a veterans' home in northeast Kansas; however, no plans are being pursued at this time. Responding to a question from the Committee with regard to service-connected pensions, Mr. Webb noted that these payments continue to be counted in total income for Medicaid purposes. Mr. Webb indicated that the difference between the projected 347 spaces and the actual filled 147 spaces at Winfield Veterans' Home is due to a significant funding shortfall and staffing limitations. Mr. Webb noted that he anticipates the open veterans service representative's (VSR) position in Independence to be filled in the very near future.

Jack Fowler, Chairman, KCVA, provided information on the joint employment agreement (JEA) between KCVA and veterans service organizations, mainly the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) (Attachment 13, pages 15-19). This agreement, which has been in existence since 1998 with some partnerships in effect for the past 60 years, allowed KCVA to provide VSRs and office assistants (OA) to the veterans service organizations. In addition to salaries received from the State General Fund, these employees also are receiving stipends and bonuses from the veterans service organizations. In addition, office space and equipment were sometimes provided by the veterans' service organizations. Because of anticipated problems with the agreement and a September 29, 2005, ruling by the Ethics Commission, a committee was formed with the major stakeholders to review and recommend changes to the JEA. At this time, no changes or recommendations have been forthcoming from the committee. It was noted that it is important to find a solution in order to have veterans service representatives available to assist veterans with their needs and access to benefits.

The Committee noted that it should be the intent of the Legislature to get the best service available for the state's veterans and that the veterans' service organizations are important to accomplish this end.

The Committee requested information from KCVVA on:

- Models used by other states in the handling of veterans benefits and claims.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Bill Ramsey, Superintendent, Kansas Soldiers' Home, who provided an update on the services and benefits for veterans at the Kansas Soldiers' Home at Fort Dodge ([Attachment 14](#)). The Kansas Soldiers' Home provides long-term care and domiciliary care (assisted living) to Kansas veterans and their eligible dependents. Mr. Ramsey indicated that a supplemental budget request will be submitted to the 2006 Legislature as a result of the proposed increase in natural gas costs.

The Chairman recognized Jim Hays, Superintendent, Kansas Veterans' Home, who provided an update on the services and benefits for veterans at the Kansas Veterans' Home in Winfield ([Attachment 15](#)). The Kansas Veterans' Home provides long-term care, domiciliary care, and special care for Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia for Kansas veterans and eligible dependents. Mr. Hays stated that the Kansas Veterans' Home is in need of additional funding to maintain the quality of care.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Mary Prewitt, General Counsel to the Kansas Board of Regents, who presented an overview of postsecondary education benefits available to veterans, members of the military, and their spouses, and dependents ([Attachment 16](#)). The two major programs administered by the Board of Regents are the Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program and the Kansas National Guard Educational Assistance program.

The Committee requested additional information on:

- Whether the state provides additional scholarship funds for ROTC students over that provided by the United States Air Force.

The Chairman recognized Colonel William Vonderschmidt, Chief of Joint Staff, Adjutant General's Office, who presented information on service member's group life insurance (SGLI) reimbursement provided by the State of Kansas ([Attachment 17](#)). Col. Vonderschmidt stated that death benefits have been paid, as authorized by the Legislature, to the families of the three Kansas soldiers killed in combat.

Chairman Neufeld recognized David Cleveland, Director of Direct Services and Assessment and Labor Exchange Services, Department of Commerce, who presented a briefing on workforce development programs for veterans ([Attachment 18](#)).

Chairman Neufeld recognized Darrell Bencken, State Adjutant Quartermaster, Veterans of Foreign War (VFW), who presented testimony on the JEA between the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs, the American Legion, and the VFW organizations ([Attachment 19](#)). Mr. Bencken indicated that the VFW felt the partnership with KCVVA pertaining to the JEA is important to serving the veterans of Kansas and is hopeful that the integrity of the agreement can be maintained.

The meeting was recessed at 12:20 p.m.



## Afternoon Session

Chairman Neufeld reconvened the meeting at 1:30 p.m. and recognized Charles Yunker, Department Adjutant for the American Legion, who spoke to the Committee with regard to veterans' benefits and services and in support of the JEA ([Attachment 20](#)). Mr. Yunker indicated he felt the JEA was important to assisting veterans with filing for veterans benefits.

The Committee requested additional information from Mr. Yunker:

- Draft of proposed revisions to KSA 73-211.

The Chairman recognized Jim Tull, Veterans' Service Representative, Veterans' Affairs and American Legion, who presented testimony addressing current issues within the Veterans' Services Division of the Kansas Commission on Veterans Affairs ([Attachment 21](#)). Responding to a question from the Committee, Mr. Tull stated that when he was hired by the State of Kansas, it was clearly known that he would receive an extra stipend from the veteran service organizations in addition to his state salary. Mr. Tull stated that he felt it is important to find a way to legally continue the JEA between the KCVVA, AL, and VFW.

Chairman Neufeld recognized David Brader, Adjutant Treasurer for the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), who testified concerning the assistance given to veterans by the DAV ([Attachment 22](#)). Mr. Brader noted that he had proposed a grant program to pay the salaries of the veteran service representatives whereby the State of Kansas would provide half the funding through a grant with the other half being provided by the veterans service organizations. Mr. Brader indicated that he had no response to his proposal before the committee reviewing the JEA.

Chairman Neufeld recognized Becky Blake, Director of Travel and Tourism, Department of Commerce, who presented an update on the travel information centers in Kansas ([Attachment 23](#)). The Committee voiced some concern about the closing of the visitor's center at the Kansas Speedway, noting that the state may be missing an opportunity to advertise other state attractions. The Committee also felt it may be worthwhile to again investigate a proposed visitor's center for the area near the state line in the Liberal area. With regard to the state's inability to put a gift shop in the Visitor Center on I-70 near the Colorado border because it is located on federally-owned land, Ms. Blake stated that the agency is looking for other ways to put Kansas products before travelers as they travel across the state. In addition, research is being done on possibly offering Kansas products at the visitor's center by placing orders through the Internet. As a result of a recent study, the Department of Commerce is now assessing a fee for brochure distribution in some travel centers. Several members of the Committee felt that small industries do not have the funds for this type of advertising and this action will result in a disconnect between the visitors' centers and small businesses. Committee members also noted that it is important for the Department of Commerce to work with the state's industry sector to find ways to put Kansas products before travelers and place more emphasis on adding new visitors' centers.

The Chairman recognized Trevor Wohlford, Executive Director of the Kansas Board of Tax Appeals (BOTA), who in conjunction with Rebecca Crotty, Chairperson of BOTA, presented an executive summary on the operation of the Board of Tax Appeals ([Attachment 24](#)). Ms. Crotty stated that it was the general consensus of the Board that the Board's membership not be increased to five positions. She indicated that the Board is working to improve the computerized case management system to use new technology to reduce time needed to resolve cases. The agency is exploring options for a new case management system that will interface with the Department of Revenue's

information technologies. The agency will request a one-time capital outlay enhancement package of \$225,000 to fund these upgrades from the 2006 Legislature. Ms. Crotty noted that some modifications to the statutes could allow for an earlier resolution in cases. The Committee indicated its concern that it is critical to Kansas citizens for a timely closure of cases before BOTA.

Representative Feuerborn requested that Bob Corkins, newly appointed Commissioner for the Kansas Board of Education, be invited to speak before the Committee in the near future concerning his philosophy and ideas for the future of education in Kansas.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Committee will be held on November 14-15, 2005.

Prepared by Shirley Jepson  
Edited by Leah Robinson

Approved by the Committee on:

November 17, 2005

(date)