

Approved: January 20, 2000
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS & MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dave Kerr at 11:00 a.m. on January 13, 2000 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Michael Corrigan, Asst. Revisor of Statutes
Rae Anne Davis, KS Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, KS Legislative Research Department
Judy Bromich, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Ronda Miller, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Secretary Connie Hubbell, Dept. on Aging

Others attending: See Attached List

The Chairman introduced Connie Hubbell, Secretary of the Department on Aging, who appeared to review her written testimony. (Attachment 1) She introduced her staff: Catherine Walberg, Assistant Secretary; Doug Farmer, Commissioner of Finance; and Michelle Sweeney, Legislative Liaison.

It was noted that the first sentence under "Nursing Facilities" should have read, "The average monthly number of Medicaid unduplicated nursing facility residents in FY 1999 was 11,340..." (Attachment 1-2) The Secretary told Committee members that the department's total FY 2000 all funds budget for nursing facilities is \$265 million. Responding to an inquiry regarding wage pass-through, Secretary Hubbell stated that because participation in the program was greater than anticipated the \$4 per person reimbursement was reduced to \$1.90 per person. She told members that she would provide a summary of wage pass-through and its effect on turnover rate.

In discussing in-home services, Secretary Hubbell stated that the Department spent \$59 million on in-home services funded with state and federal dollars.

Secretary Hubbell reviewed the status of the waiver application to HCFA regarding the cap on in-home services and stated that the average monthly cost per resident in a nursing home is \$1900. She added that as of January 13, 2000 there are 15 eligible seniors on the waiting list for HCBS services.

The Secretary commented that she would provide additional information regarding the increase in average monthly costs per person in both nursing facilities and home and community based services, though the data would be more meaningful at the end of the fiscal year.

It was noted by Secretary Hubbell that the waiver renewal for HCBS services is at HCFA and includes an amendment to raise the minimum level of acuity for entrance into the HCBS program from 15 to 26 as it is for nursing homes. She added that those persons who score between 15 and 25 are currently receiving services on the waiver will be grandfathered in. The Committee asked the Secretary to provide information on the following three questions:

- Can DOA change the minimum score for entrance into a nursing home without HCFA approval?
- What is the number of persons who would be affected on an annual basis by changing the minimum threshold score for nursing home entrance from 26 to 30 or 35?
- What services are needed at the various levels?

The Chairman noted that many legislators believe that the current growth rate in the program is unsustainable and the data would provide a basis for an informed debate about what adjustments can be made.

There was some confusion regarding the statement that KDOA had stopped adding persons to the waiting list for HCBS/FE services. (Attachment 1-3) Secretary Hubbell explained that the state is serving all

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seniors in the state who have met the eligibility requirements of the waiver and, simultaneously, continues to reduce the number on the waiting list.

In answer to a question, Secretary Hubbell stated that OASIS is on hold now, but if it passes, the agency will be required to do it. (Attachment 1-5)

Members expressed their desire to have the Secretary return to further review issues affecting the senior population.

It was moved by Senator Salisbury and seconded by Senator Petty that the minutes of January 7, 2000 as amended by approved. The motion carried on a voice vote.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 12:00 noon. The next meeting will be January 18, 2000.