

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 7, 2001 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ms. Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Ms. Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary
SRS Health Care Policy
Senator Jim Barnett, District 17

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

Follow-up information from February 5, 2001 Committee meeting

Chairperson Wagle opened the meeting by introducing Ms. Laura Howard, Assistant Secretary, SRS Health Care Policy, who was here to provide information in response to several questions raised during the February 5, 2001 Committee meeting regarding NFMH residents and alternative services in the community. A copy of her response is (Attachment #1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Presentation on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome

With this business aside, the Chair recognized Dr. Jim Barnett (Senator Barnett) who gave an educational presentation on fetal alcohol syndrome. Highlights of Dr. Barnett's overview included: statistics regarding alcohol and other drug use within the last year; a comparison of the effects of drugs on prenatal development and their effects during pregnancy (additional research); facial formation of FAS compared to normal formation, and possible solutions emphasizing research by Abel. Dr. Barnett also touched on the effects of social drinking on the IQ of a population, secondary disabilities, learning problems by age, repeat offenders of the law, and how to diagnose FAS. In summary, he presented a comparison of House and Senate Budgets, showing how all departments were affected by FAS; stating that to correct a child they must be diagnosed by age six; FAS facts; and his proposal. A copy of his presentation is (Attachment #2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Committee discussion related to comments and questions from Senators Salmans, Harrington, Steineger, Haley, Praeger, and Wagle ranging from Kansas ranking 34th in giving funds, excise tax introduced in Massachusetts, more awareness about alcohol abuse, to the media needing to become more responsible.

Senator Steineger did voice concern that if Dr. Barnett's "Network" was based out of Emporia, how will the rest of Kansas be made aware. Senator Barnett said there would be five sites available in the State. Senator Haley voiced an interest in how the sites would be located. Senator Barnett said the start up would begin in Emporia since the dollars are already in place.

Adjournment

As it was 2:30 p.m., Chairperson thanked Dr. Barnett for his presentation noting that the Committee would continue hearing tomorrow. The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 8, 2001