

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Garry Boston at 1:30 p.m. on March 2, 2000 in Room 423-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Brenda Landwehr, Excused

Committee staff present: June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mary Beth Gentry, Assistant Dean for External Affairs, KU Medical Center
Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, M.D., M.P.H., M.S.
Amy O'Brien-Ladner, M.D.

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

The Chairperson called the meeting to order and stated the minutes of February 21, 22, and 23 would be approved at the end of the meeting. A presentation on Mini Medical School was presented.

The Chairperson introduced Robert Hemenway, Chancellor, Kansas University, who stated he was a cheerleader for the School of Medicine and the Mini Medical School and introduced Mary Beth Gentry, Dr. Ahluwalia and Dr. Amy O'Brien-Ladner.

Mary Beth Gentry stated the first mini medical school for the public was held this fall in Kansas City. This was a 8 week session course taught by some of the center's top faculty that gave working knowledge of the human body and its ailments without ever having to make an incision or give an injection. The fee was \$75.00. The space was limited to 250 participants and it filled up fast after an article was run in the newspaper. The mini medical school for 2000 will be held in a larger facility that holds 500. It is hoped this program can be expanded throughout Kansas (See Attachment #1).

Jasjit S. Ahluwalia, M.D., M.P.H., M.S., gave a presentation on Tobacco Use: A 21st Century Pandemic. Despite a long history of tobacco use in the world, the first half of the 20th century will be notable for a tremendous increase in the consumption of tobacco along with tragic increase in the number of people suffering from diseases associated with tobacco. As early as 1954 published reports of health effects of smoking began. Nicotine is a powerful and toxic drug. Lung cancer was considered an extremely rare condition in the beginning of the 20th century and was not listed as a cause of death in the vital statistics until 1930. More than 400,000 people die from tobacco related diseases each year and 25% of those deaths are from heart disease. Smoking has many effects on the cardiovascular system. Nicotine causes increased blood pressure and heart rate, resulting in the need for increased oxygen for the heart muscles.

Cessation of smoking decreases the risk of many diseases. Carbon monoxide levels begin to drop almost immediately and within a few weeks cough and sputum production begin to subside. Risk for heart disease decreases sharply in the first year of cessation and after 10 years is the same for non-smokers. The risk of cancers gradually decreases and deterioration due to long disease slows. Smoking remains the number one cause of death in this country (See Attachment #2).

Amy O'Brien-Ladner, M.D., Associate Professor of Medicine, Department of Medicine, Division of Pulmonary/Critical Care, University of Kansas School of Medicine, gave a presentation on Iron Lung: Consequences of Polluted Air. Iron is one of the transition metals located in the periodic table. It is the most abundant transition metal in the body. It is absolutely required for all human cell function but is potentially lethal in excess.

Iron accumulates in lungs with the normal aging process. Cigarette smoking increases the accumulation of iron in the lung by a variety of mechanisms, including the delivery of iron particles and ROS in the

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smoke that is inhaled. Emphysema is the destruction of lung air spaces that are involved in oxygen exchange in emphysema. Studies demonstrate that societies with populations with increase body iron stores are associated with an increased risk of cancer and an increased overall death rate (See Attachment #3)

Representative Geringer moved and Representative Lightner seconded approval of the minutes of February 21, 22 and 23. The motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m. and the next meeting will be March 6.