

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Steve Morris at 10:35 a.m. on January 17, 2001 in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: All present

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Deb Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amory Lovin, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Kathie Sparks, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Michael Corrigan, Assistant Revisor, Revisor of Statutes
Julie Weber, Administrative Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Connie Hubbell, Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging

Others attending: See attached guest list

Chairman Morris welcomed Connie Hubbell, Secretary, Department on Aging, who gave an overview of the Department (Attachment 1). Secretary Hubbell introduced Doug Farmer, Commissioner of Budget and Finance, who oversees all of their budget programs and Shelley Sweeney, Legislative Liaison, who were present with her. Secretary Hubbell mentioned that she has traveled to all areas of the state to better understand the services and activities available in Kansas communities for seniors. The Secretary noted that the Department provides a wide array of services to seniors across the state on a continuum of care. Secretary Hubbell mentioned that Janis DeBoer is her Commissioner of Program and Policy. Secretary Hubbell's testimony focused on the following information:

- Nursing Facilities
- Home and Community Based Services for the Frail Elderly
- Targeted Case Management
- Senior Care Act
- Income Eligible
- Nutrition
- Kansas Intergovernmental Transfer Program

Committee questions and discussion followed. Senator Salmans asked Secretary Hubbell if there was any information regarding the average length of stay in a nursing home and if she could research data regarding that information covering the past 5 or 10 years. Secretary Hubbell mentioned that she would try to research data in their records regarding length of stay in nursing homes and thought it might be possible to track the data on one of the waivers.

Senator Feleciano asked Secretary Hubbell if there is any reporting mechanism regarding the Wage Pass Through Program and whether it is working to reduce the turnover rate. Secretary Hubbell mentioned that she will provide information concerning the number of nursing facilities that took advantage of the pass through.

In a question to Secretary Hubbell, Senator Barone inquired if there were any programs targeted for utility assistance for seniors in the Department on Aging. Secretary Hubbell responded that there were none specifically in their budget. Secretary Hubbell did call attention to the federal LIEAP program administered by SRS. The Department on Aging staff has been working directly with the Kansas Corporation Commission to put out press releases on their website to try to help seniors identify ways of meeting their utility bills. Secretary Hubbell will follow up with information.

Chairman Morris thanked Secretary Hubbell for her good presentation before the Committee.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Additional information was distributed by Staff:

- Senate Subcommittee Assignments, First Half – 2001, Revised January 17, 2001 (Attachment 2) and the corresponding calendar for February and March 2001 (Attachment 3).

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2001.