

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on January 13, 2000 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present:

Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Hank Avila, Legislative Research Department
JoAnn Buntun, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Connie Hubbell, Secretary, Kansas Department on Aging
Clyde Graeber, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others attending: See attached list

Briefing on the Kansas Department on Aging

Connie Hubbell, Secretary, Department on Aging, briefed the Committee on Aging programs and policy direction within the Department on Aging as outlined in her written testimony. (Attachment 1) Topics covered in her presentation included: Nursing facilities, In-home services, Home and Community Based services, Senior Care Act and Income Eligible programs, Volunteerism, OASIS - Outcome and Assessment Information Set, Demographic issues, Impact of Baby Boomers, Health Insurance Counseling, Management Information Systems, PACE - Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, Nutrition Voucher Pilot Project, Caregiver Support Project, mental health and substance abuse among older Americans, and meeting the needs of rural Kansans. Secretary Hubbell also pointed out that the Department on Aging must seek to coordinate and collaborate with other state agencies that serve the elderly which would include the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Insurance Department, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman.

Three primary goals outlined for the Committee by Secretary Hubbell that would serve as the driving force for the Department on Aging for the future include: (1) Develop and support an integrated system of long-term care services that would maximize individual choice in care, ensure appropriate placement, and effectively leverage resources; (2) Develop proactive public information initiatives to inform and educate Kansans about aging issues, and to enhance KDOA's visibility and efforts to help provide for the needs of the elderly; and (3) Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the service delivery system through improved management and accountability at all levels.

Briefing on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Clyde Graeber, Secretary, KDHE, briefed the Committee on the agency and noted that some of the vast responsibilities that come under the umbrella of KDHE include: licensing and inspection of day care centers and nursing homes, background checks, licensing of foster care families, animal feed lots, and working with swine legislation. Secretary Graeber noted that he has reestablished the Local and Rural Health Department within the agency and adopted federal guidelines for nursing homes. Other projects within KDHE include: Food Safety Programs, automation of the WIC voucher system, Foster Care licensing, new regulations on lead poisoning in homes, disaster drill for Wolf Creek Power Plant, monitoring court decision regarding reformulated gas, environmental concerns relating to the "Land of Oz" project, and consolidation of agency labs.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2000.