

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Morrison at 3:36 P.M. on January 23, 2008, in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Johnson, Siegfried, Sloan, Wilk, Frownfelter, and Ruiz, all of whom were excused.

Committee staff present:

Mary Galligan, Kansas Legislative Research
Jennifer Thierer, Kansas Legislative Research
Rena Jefferies, Office of Revisor of Statutes
Gary Deeter, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Robin Kempf, Office of the Inspector General, Kansas Health Policy Authority

Others attending:

See attached list.

The Chairman, passing around a sign-up sheet, announced that the taxpayer transparency bill would be re-introduced to allow individual sponsors to be included in the bill.

Robin Kempf, Office of the Inspector General (OIG), Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA), briefed the Committee on the new position of the OIG created by **SB 11** passed last session (Attachment 1). Noting her previous experience with Legislative Post Audit and as legal counsel for the Kansas Board of Regents, she said she was appointed to her present position in September 2007 and confirmed by the Kansas Senate in October 2007. She explained that the OIG was created to provide an independent office to review and investigate KHPA's delivery of health care services. She stated that her goal for the OIG is to create a high-quality investigative office to provide relevant information that will improve Kansas government and provide a significant step in reforming public health care.

Referencing the OIG's 2008 annual report, Ms. Kempf said she is presently recruiting staff, building an infrastructure for the Office, building bridges with relevant agencies (Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Attorney General, U.S. Attorney's Office) and networking with counties and other states' OIGs (Attachment 2). She commented that she is developing measurements to validate the effect of her work and is preparing to launch an agency-wide risk assessment which will identify high-risk areas in order to target OIG resources.

Ms. Kempf noted various statistics regarding Medicaid-supported health care in Kansas. She recommended an adjustment in the OIG statute to clarify the OIG's organizational independence, a change which would direct the Inspector General to report to the KHPA Board rather than to the KHPA Executive Director..

Ms. Kempf responded to questions from Committee members:

CONTINUATION SHEET

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- Members can assist her work by connecting the OIG with constituents who encounter problems in dealing with Medicaid programs.
- The objectives of the OIG include increasing accountability, improving programs, and identifying and deterring fraud, waste, and abuse.
- The state health insurance plans are under the purview of the OIG, as are the HBCS (Home and Community-Based Services) waivers; but foster care is not.
- The OIG presents its findings to the KHPA Board and to the Kansas Legislature. The Board decides what actions to take regarding reports from the OIG.
- The state-wide agency risk assessment will generate most audits; however, the OIG will also accept requests from individuals.
- The OIG is considered an independent entity with a separate line-item budget and periodic confirmation by the Senate.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 24, 2008.