

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Brenda Landwehr at 1:30 P.M. on January 9, 2007 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:  
Clark Shultz-Excused

Committee staff present:  
Norman Furse, Revisor's Office  
Renaë Jefferies, Revisor's Office  
Melissa Calderwood, Legislative Research  
Mary Galligan, Legislative Research  
Patti Magathan, Committee Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:  
Roderick L Bremby, Secretary Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Dr. Howard Rodenberg, Director of the Division of Health for Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Others Attending:  
See Attached List.

Chairman Landwehr welcomed everyone and asked the committee and staff to introduce themselves.

Following introductions, Chairman Landwehr announced that this committee had been an electronic committee last year and would retain some but not all of the electronic characteristics. Technological aspects of the committee are still being negotiated. She also advised that the committee and conferee rules are being formulated and would be presented soon.

Chairman Landwehr then introduced **Roderick L. Bremby**, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (K.D.H.E.). Secretary Bremby introduced agency employees who were in attendance followed by an overview of his agency. (**Attachment 1**) K.D.H.E. has four divisions, Health, Environment, Laboratory, and Budget. He encouraged everyone to visit the website at (<http://www.kdheks.gov/>) to learn more about the Health and Environment divisions.

The agency has a very wide portfolio of responsibilities but not a large budget. The 2008 requested budget is slightly more than \$212 million, which is slightly less than the 2007 estimated budget. The budget is split between the Health and Environment functions. The Health budget is about \$146.5 million and includes the division of health and central operations. Almost 70% of the agency's resources come from federal sources, the largest funding the WIC program.

Notable achievements of the agency include being recognized as one of the states with high overall health improvement based on criteria of low adult smoking rates, low percentage of uninsured, low rate of infectious disease, and ready access to prenatal care and childhood immunizations.

Secretary Bremby explained that the agency has many initiatives one of which, "Healthy Kansas," is largely aimed at prevention. Another initiative is a partnership with a Lenexa, KS software company to develop a "Check-Up" package which will be available to Kansans, and will ultimately interface with health providers. Also an Environmental Health Program has been created which will link with environment and health statistics.

Legislative initiatives include an expanded newborn screening bill, child care licensing, expanding data in the Kansas cancer registry. This year K.D.H.E. will seek resources to stockpile antiviral medications to be used in the event of a pandemic flu epidemic and will launch a series of proposals to decrease motor vehicle deaths.

**Dr. Howard Rodenberg**, Director of Health for Kansas Department of Health and Environment, explained that the mission of the Division of Health is to promote and protect health and prevent disease and injury among the people of Kansas. The mission is being accomplished by being accessive, thru policy

## CONTINUATION SHEET

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development, and thru assurance that goals are being met.

Dr. Rodenberg stated that the department has many programs. Today he will use the Healthy Kansas 2010 project as a guideline for how the department approaches healthcare problems and solutions. A major accomplishment in the past year has been the culmination of the planning and goal-setting process for this project. The first step was to collect data and data sources to establish a baseline of where we are today. Secondly goals have been established, and lastly the parameters are being addressed. Dr. Rodenberg reviewed focus areas of the Health Kansas 2010 project and pointed out that two of the areas, tobacco and obesity related illnesses, are the two leading causes of death in Kansas.

Chairman Landwehr opened the floor for questions. There were questions related to pandemic flu vaccine, child care background checks, insurance portability, and newborn screening,

Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M. Next meeting is January 10, 2007.