

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The joint meeting of the Senate Public Health and Welfare and the Health and Human Services Committees was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2002 in the Memorial Hall Auditorium, Room 210.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Ms. Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Ms. Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jocilyn Oyler, Senator Wagle's Intern

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator Jim Barnett, Vice Chairperson, PH&W Committee
Ms Stephanie Sharp, Government Relations Director,
American Cancer Society
Ms. Ursula Holtering, colon cancer survivor
Ms. Laurie Ann Lauer, Executive Director of the Kansas
Association of Health Plans (KAHP)
Representative Jo Ann Pottorff colon cancer survivor
Ms. Chris Collins, director of Government Affairs for
Kansas Medical Society

Others attending: See attached guest list.

Overview on early diagnosis of colon cancer

Upon calling the joint meeting of the Senate Public Health and Welfare and the House Health and Human Services Committee to order, Chairperson Susan Wagle introduced Senator Jim Barnett, Vice Chairperson, Public Health & Welfare Committee, who was the first person to speak regarding early detection of colon cancer.

Senator Barnett began his presentation by stating an average of 546 Kansas die every year from this diagnosis representing the second leading cause of cancer death in Kansas. And that even though much progress has been made regarding early detection, only 39% of colon cancer cases are detected at an early stage in Kansas. He then went on to describe and demonstrate some of the equipment involved in the screening. A copy of his attachment (Attachment 1) is attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Senator Barnett then introduced Ms. Stephanie Sharp, Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society who presented a packet highlighting three sections she particularly wanted to share with the Committee. The first page was individualized statistics with regard to cancer incidence, data for counties in the Senate and House districts. Second, was an article to promote colon cancer awareness with "Polyp Man". Senator Barnett stated that colon cancer is the most detectable, treatable, and survivable cancer if caught early. The third was a post card for each to fill out to receive an at-home Fecal Occult Blood Test. A copy of her testimony and packet is (Attachment 2) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Next to speak was Ms. Ursula Holtering, a colon cancer survivor, who spoke about the importance of early screening for colon cancer. A copy of her testimony (Attachment 3) is attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

The last to speak was Representative Jo Ann Pottorff, also a colon cancer survivor, who also gave an overview of her ordeal. No written testimony was provided.

Because of time constraints, Ms. Chris Collins, Director of Government Affairs for the Kansas Medical Society, provided written testimony stating one of the key components to early detection is physician awareness of the issue. She stated that the KMS will dedicate a section in their monthly newsletter and the website to physician education on colorectal cancer screening. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

Chairperson Wagle asked if there were questions or comments from the two Committees. A healthy question and answer discussion covering issues from the occult blood kit, cost of the test, insurance coverage, preventions to anesthesia and sedation, and the dangers of perforation causing infection and bleeding.

Adjournment

As there was no further business the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:20 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 29, 2002.

CONTINUATION SHEET