

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairperson Melvin Neufeld at 9:00 a.m. on January 25, 2000 in Room 514-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Representative Pottorff - excused

Committee staff present: Alan Conroy, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Stuart Little, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Jim Wilson, Revisor of Statutes Office
Mike Corrigan, Revisor of Statutes Office
David Stallings, Assistant to the Chairman
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Janet Schalansky, Secretary, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Others attending: See attached list.

Vice Chairman Neufeld welcomed Secretary Schalansky, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. Secretary Schalansky distributed the Finger-tip facts 2000 (copies available in the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services). She mentioned that they added information on page 61 of the booklet a table regarding the federal poverty level.

Secretary Schalansky briefed the Committee regarding the department's recent reorganization, medical caseload, waiting lists, the pay center, and child welfare (Attachment 1). The Secretary noted that organizational changes have been designed to focus the agency from funding streams to supporting processes and functions. Their leadership structure within the agency is aligned on what they believe are their three major functions: service delivery, policy development and operations support.

The Secretary explained that their four major divisions are:

1. Administration
2. Health Care Policy
3. Children and Family Policy
4. Integrated Service Delivery

Secretary Schalansky, in explaining medical caseload, referred to Page 2 regarding significant increases in regular medical expenditures (see chart). She noted key factors such as pharmacy expenditures have increased at an average rate of 16.5 percent since 1996, with the introduction of HealthWave in January 1999, an additional 17,092 children have been determined eligible for the Medicaid program through HeathWave application process, rate increases authorized by the 1998 and 1999 Legislatures have contributed to the increase in costs from prior years and changes as a result of Welfare Reform and de-linking of cash assistance and Medicaid which increased the number of Medicaid consumers. Representative Adkins thanked Secretary Schalansky for the information provided to the Committee.

Committee questions and discussion followed.

Bill Introductions

A motion was made Representative Adkins, and seconded by Representative Neufeld, to introduce a committee bill concerning retirement, relating to defined contribution plan for employees who are members of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System or who become employed after the effective date of the act and would otherwise become eligible for such membership. Motion carried.

CONTINUATION SHEET

Chairman Adkins mentioned that the 2000 House Budget Committees calendar containing sub-committee action dates, prepared by the Kansas Legislative Research Department, were distributed (Attachment 2). The Chairman mentioned that if there are any concerns, please let him or Dave Stallings know.

Chairman Adkins mentioned that the Committee will be traveling to Kansas City on Tuesday, February 1, for briefings at Wyandotte High School on the topics of Programs and Challenges Facing Urban Schools and going to the University of Kansas Medical Center for a briefing on Applications of Biomedical Research. He hoped that the full committee would be able to attend and there will be excused absences for those that are unable to attend. The Chairman had spoken with the Speaker's office and they may accommodate the Committee. Plans are to depart the Medical Center by 3:00 p.m. A detailed agenda will be prepared by Staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 26, 2000.