



## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE BUSINESS, COMMERCE AND LABOR COMMITTEE, Room 521-S Statehouse, at 9:10 a.m. on January 13, 2000.

employment and the multiple processes to get services, the client almost made it a career to go to the several agencies to get the benefits they needed. The Workforce Investment Act has encouraged us to develop a way to centralize services - a one-stop method of finding and utilizing all the services needed to find employment. Many states are now in the process of changing their systems to a seamless service thus eliminating most of the barriers.

The Workforce Investment Act of 1998 requires three things of state legislatures; 1) That the legislatures form a workforce board and assign legislators to serve as part on the board, 2) all federal training dollars go through the appropriation process, and 3) the inclusion of vocational education programs into their plan.

Tracy Schmidt talked about the state's role in developing a system. She gave many examples to the committee about the many structural changes that other states have made to reform their programs. She said that the most effective system should be client driven, outcome focused, adaptable, coordinated, and locally controlled. The federal guidelines leave room for the state to be creative in plans to customize their program to the needs of workers in their individual state. Suggestions were made to move Kansas programs from five agencies to one agency with common intake and common assessment on one computer system. She suggested that the legislature could strengthen Secretary Beyer's position by mandating agencies to harmonize the boundaries between different agencies.

Kansas is scheduled to implement the opening of seven "One Stop" centers by July 1, 2000. Ms. Johnson told the committee that if any help is needed in Kansas that the NCSL has technical assistance available.

After the NCSL people answered several questions from the committee members, the meeting was adjourned at 10:08 a.m.

The next scheduled meeting will be January 19, 2000.