

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 6, 2003 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except: Senator Nancey Harrington
Senator David Haley

Committee staff present: Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. Don Wilson, President , Kansas Hospital Association
Dr. John Tilton, D.D.S., Wichita
Dr. Jeff Stasch, D.D.S., Garden City

Others attending: See attached guest list

Presentation on “The Perfect Storm”

Upon calling the meeting to order, the Chair announced the Committee would be hearing a presentation from Mr. Don Wilson, President, Kansas Hospital Association regarding the high cost of health care. Mr. Wilson opened by saying we need to address public policy issues surrounding health care and one of the obvious immediate issue is the conflict with Iraq. Highlights of his presentation included:

- 1.) Trends in the overall health care marketplaces, ex. Growth charts, annual percentage changes in health insurance premiums, rate of growth for selected health services (supplies, labor shortage, outpatient care, uninsured);
- 2.) Contributing factors for demand for health care services, ex. due to population growth, restrictive health plans, aging in America, etc.; and
- 3.) The “emerging storms, ex. Payment shortfalls in Medicare and Medicaid, market trends in private insurance, fragmentation, etc.

A copy of his presentation is (Attachment 1) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference.

The Chair thanked Mr. Wilson for his presentation and asked the Committee for questions or comments. Senators Barnett, Steineger, and Brownlee asked a range of questions of Mr. Wilson from what is your viewpoint of what your solutions might be, health wave, medical savings accounts (patients prepay and what is the savings), offering cash discounts, to referring to the chart on page 4 of his presentation and asking, what would that have looked liked in the nineties when the economy was good.

Presentation on “Denial Access Project Update - Kansas Mission of Mercy”

As there was no further discussion, the Chair announced there were two dentists representing the Kansas Dental Association, Dr. John Tilton, a dentist from Wichita, and Dr. Jeff Stasch, a dentist from Garden City who were here to give a presentation and a film called “A Mission of Mercy.”

CONTINUATION SHEET

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Dr. Tilton introduced himself and Dr. Stasch and thanked the Committee for their support of **SB34**, a charitable health care provider under the tort claims act. He announced that the purpose of the video was to take the Committee on the site to this original project in Virginia and announced that they themselves would be duplicating this 45-50 chair dental Mash-style clinic in a building at the fairgrounds in Garden City, Kansas. Highlights of the film included:

- 1.) The project takes 1 ½ days to set up and they run the project for 2 ½ days;
- 2.) It is a collaborative effort of donated equipment, 80-90 dentists, and more than 100 volunteers (dental staff) serving more than 3,000 people;
- 3.) The clinic offers exams, cleanings, fillings, surgery and education to needy people;
- 4.) The Virginia clinic is the largest of its type in the United States; and
- 5.) The strides Dr. Tilton and Dr. Stasch have made in working on their project, ex. Texas and Virginia lending them equipment.

No written testimony was provided.

The Chair thanked them for their presentation and asked the Committee for questions or comments. Questions from Senators Haley, Brungardt, Barnett ranged from how do you augment the cost (ex. Notifying Head Start and putting out bulletins), do you provide the names of providers that might be in the area for follow-up for children and geriatric patients (ex. An emergency postoperative treatment), qualifying for services under Medicaid and Medicare, how do you decide who is eligible (ex. either financial or dental needs or self-selected), to can you work with a local branch of ADA (any networks set up?).

Adjournment

As it was going on 2:30 p.m., the start of the Senate session, the Chair concluded the meeting by again thanking Dr. Tilton and Dr. Stasch for sharing their film with the Committee. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2003.