

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman James Barnett at 1:30 P.M. on February 7, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Susan Wagle- excused

Committee staff present:

Emalene Correll, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norm Furse, Office of Revisor of Statutes

Whitney Nordstrom, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Billie Hall, Sunflower Foundation

Ronald Hein, Kansas Beverage Association

Donna Whiteman, Kansas Association of School Boards

Others attending:

See attached list.

Presentation on Primary Care Clinics-Challenges and Opportunities to expand safety net in the state

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Barnett called for any bill introductions. As there were none the Chair introduced the first guest speaker Richard Morrissey, Interim Director of Health of KDHE, who began by thanking the Committee for allowing him to speak to the Committee. A copy of his presentation is (Attachment 1, Attachment 2, Attachment 3, and Attachment 4) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights of his presentation included:

1) **Access to Primary Health Care.** The Primary Care Section of the KDHE Office of Local and Rural Health administrators programs and conducts activities to assure that vulnerable, low-income and medically underserved Kansas residents receive adequate access to primary care services, including personal medical, dental and mental health care.

2) **Shortage Area Designation.** The Office assesses licensure data and health professional surveys to identify and federally designate HPSAs, MUAs, and MUPs.

3) **Community Health Care Center Expansion.** In 2004, federal funding was obtained for the establishment of another Community Health Center in Salina to serve north central Kansas.

4) **State-Funded Community-Based Primary Care Clinic Program.** For over a decade, state funds have provided support to a number of locally organized primary care clinics to make primary and preventative health care services available, accessible, and affordable.

5) **Rural Health Clinics.** Kansas now has 173 RHCs.

6) **Health Professional Recruitment and Retention Programs.** The Primary Care Section promotes underserved Kansas communities as practice opportunities and publicizes the availability of recruitment assistance and incentive programs such as loan repayment assistance and scholarships.

7) **State Loan Repayment Program.** The Primary Care Section not only coordinates the publicity and application for NHSC programs, but also administers a federal grant similar to, but slightly more restrictive than HHSC.

8) **J-1 Visa Waiver Review Programs for International Medical Graduates (IMG).** Both rural and urban underserved communities are aided by this program which now allow applications from both primary and non-primary care specialists.

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9) **Oral Health.** In 2004, KDHE added an Office of Oral Health and is currently recruiting a Dental Director for the office.

10) **Charitable Health Care Provider Program.** Over 1,600 physicians, 700 nursing professionals, 500 dental professionals and 200 other eligible health professionals currently have participation agreements with KDHE Secretary to provide care under this program.

11) **Statewide Farmworker Health Program.** Over 3,100 migrant and seasonal farmworkers and their families have received care from over 300 health care providers in nearly 80 counties using this program.

Chairperson Barnett thanked Mr. Morrissey for his presentation and asked the Committee for any questions and/or comments.

Senator Jordan asked if Community Health Care Clinics are duplicates of federally funded clinics and also how much attention is given to Community Health Care Clinics.

The Chair then introduced the second guest speaker Karla Finnell, Executive Director of the Kansas Association the Medically Underserved, who began by stating she would be discussing Primary Care Safety Net Clinics. A copy of her presentation is ([Attachment 5](#) and [Attachment 6](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights of her presentation included:

- 1) Role of the Safety Net Primary Care Clinics
- 2) Highlights of 2004
- 3) The Task Team on Growing and Strengthening the Safety Net
- 4) Areas of Greatest Unmet Need for Primary Health Care Services
- 5) Strengths and Weaknesses of the Safety Net
- 6) Resources
- 7) Human Resources and Technology
- 8) Opportunities
- 9) Threats

The Chair thanked Ms. Finnell for her presentation and asked the Committee for any questions and/or comments.

Senator Haley wanted to personally thank Ms. Finnell and her organization for all the great things they have done regarding Swope and Wyondotte Health Clinics.

Hearing on SCR 1604

SCR 1604--School food programs.

The next order of business was a hearing on **SCR 1604**, a concurrent resolution concerning healthy eating and physical activity in public elementary and secondary schools. Chairperson Barnett asked Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes, to give an overview of the bill. Mr. Furse began by stating the **SCR 1604** was introduced by the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. His overview included:

- 1) **SCR 1604** deals with healthy activity and eating
- 2) Resolving clauses
- 3) Line 12
- 4) Line 18
- 5) Line 38
- 6) Lines 29-39, purposes of **SCR 1604**
- 7) Line 42, Kansas Dept. of Education take lead
- 8) Submitted to Commissioner of Education

The Chair thanked Mr. Furse for his overview and asked the Committee if there were any questions and/or

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comments for Mr. Furse. As there were none Chairperson Barnett called upon the first proponent, Ms. Billie Hall, President and CEO of Sunflower Foundation. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 7) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Ms. Hall stated key reasons why the Sunflower Foundation supports this resolution :

- 1) We recognize that obesity is a growing public health concern in Kansas, especially among children
- 2) We are interested in supporting healthy environments in schools, which are significant points of influence for children and youth
- 3) We are aware of the benefits of physical activity and healthy food choices as part of the school day
- 4) We believe it is important to evaluate existing data about school policies on nutrition and physical activity
- 5) We are interested in supporting projects that increase the amount of current and credible information that is available to inform decisions.

As there were no questions for Ms. Hall, Chairperson Barnett called upon the second proponent Ronald Hein, Kansas Beverage Association. A copy of his testimony is (Attachment 8) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. He stated in his testimony that the resolution will fit well with the steps they have already taken to deal with the very complex issue of obesity in our society in general, and childhood obesity in particular.

Chairperson Barnett thanked Mr. Hein for his testimony and asked the Committee for any questions and/or concerns.

Senator Haley requested that the Mr. Hein provide the Committee with the percentage of total consumption of carbonated or sugar based beverages in schools.

As there were no further questions for Mr. Hein, the Chair called upon the final proponent Donna Whiteman, Kansas Association of School Boards. A copy of her testimony is (Attachment 9) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Ms. Whiteman stated that many Kansas school districts have been proactive in increasing efforts to address physical activity, healthy life styles and providing nutritious foods. **SCR 1604** also provides an opportunity to work with the State Department of Education to implement the Child Nutrition Act which became effective on June 30, 2004.

As there were no questions for Ms. Whiteman, Chairperson Barnett asked Norm Furse if language could be massaged to meet all requirements. Norm recommended making the last preamble last whereas part of resolving clause. With no further discussion the Chair asked the Committee if they would like to take action on **SCR 1604**.

Senator V. Schmidt motioned to approve recommended amendments and pass legislation favorably. Senator Brungardt seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2005.