

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Senator Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on February 12, 2003 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

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

Conferees appearing before the committee: Mr. Rodrick L. Bremby,
Secretary of Health & Environment
Dr. James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., Director,
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and
Health Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention

Others attending: See attached guest list

Presentation on “The Obesity Epidemic - Can Public Policy Play a Role?”

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson recognized Mr. Rodrick L. Bremby, the new Secretary of Health and Environment and asked him to introduce the speaker for the above presentation.

Mr. Bremby introduced Dr. James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., Director, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, CDC by providing a background of Dr. Marks responsibilities as overseer of all activities for numerous divisions (ex. Div. Of Adult Community Health, Cancer Prevention and Control, Diabetes, etc.) and stating that since 1996, Dr. Marks has worked as the Assistant Surgeon General of the United States. Mr. Bremby explained that Dr. Marks would be presenting an overview of obesity.

Dr. Marks provided information on the following:

- 1.) Chronic diseases and related risk factors showing the leading vs. the actual causes of death in the U.S.;
- 2.) Graphs showing statistics of life expectancy, actual and expected death rates;
- 3.) Statistics on cardiovascular disease deaths, cancer diagnoses, smokers, mortality and risk factors, death rates and annual percentage changes for both men, women, children and races;
- 4.) The Michigan Cancer Consortium;
- 5.) States that have shown dramatic declines in the above as a result of awareness;
- 6.) Obesity trends, diabetes, and promotions to reduce obesity; and
- 7.) Graphs showing the aging population, national health expenditures, and worker-to-retiree ratio dropping.

And lastly, Dr. Marks provided a booklet (Guide to Community Preventive Services) for an update on evidence-based strategies to improve health and maximize prevention investments. A copy of his presentation is ([Attachment 1](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes by reference. A copy of the booklet and the Kansas Health Institute handouts can be found filed in Chairperson Wagle's office.

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The Chair thanked the conferees for their presentation then asked the Committee for questions or comments. Senators Brungardt, Wagle, Barnett, Steineger, Haley asked questions ranging from what studies have been done on compulsive eaters, why are Americans prone to eat in excess, what public policy makers can do - what are our targets, tax on junk food, encouraging industry to join in, has surgery for obesity been included in this study, to the “pouring” contract.

Adjournment

As it was going on 2:30 p.m., Senate session time, the Chair again thanked Dr. Marks for traveling to Kansas and sharing his information with the Committee. The meeting was adjourned

The next meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2003.