

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 January 12, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

Committee members absent:

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, President and CEO of Sunflower Foundation
Jodi Mackey, Director of Child Nutrition and Wellness,
Kansas State Department of Educations

Recognitions

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Barnett welcomed Committee Members and introduced staff members, Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes; Emalene Correll and Terri Weber, both of the Kansas Legislative Research Department; Whitney Nordstrom, Committee Secretary; and Morgan Dreyer, Intern.

Presentation on “Kansas Update on Obesity and Childhood Nutrition”

The Chair then introduced guest speaker Billie Hall, President and CEO of Sunflower Foundation. Ms. Hall began by thanking the Committee, then stated she would be focusing her presentation on Childhood Obesity in Kansas. A copy of her presentation is ([Attachment 1](#)) and ([Attachment 2](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights of her presentation included:

- 1) The Sunflower Foundation: *Health Care for Kansans* was created in 2000 with a mission to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans.
- 2) Overview of Obesity.
- 3) Responding to Obesity-What’s Happening in Kansas.
- 4) The Sunflower Approach.
- 5) Opportunities for Action.
- 6) Taking a Public Policy Approach. As a policy approaches are evaluated in Kansas, there are opportunities in several sectors that may be worthy of consideration:
 - a) School-based
 - b) Worksite-based
 - c) Built Environment
 - d) Other
- 7) Concluding Remarks.

Chairperson Barnett thanked Ms. Hall for her presentation and asked Committee for questions and/or comments.

A range of questions and comments came from both Senators Barnett and Journey including what policies the Sunflower Foundation supports and what the breakdown of the \$657 million obesity-attributable medical expenditures in Kansas would be.

Chairperson Barnett then introduced guest speaker Jodi Mackey, Director of Child Nutrition and Wellness, Kansas State Department of Education. Ms. Mackey began by thanking the Committee, then stated she would

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee at 1:30 P.M. on January 12, 2005 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

be focusing her presentation on School Meals and Childhood Obesity in Kansas. A copy of her presentation is (Attachment 3) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced. Highlights of her presentation included:

- 1) An estimated 15% of American children and adolescents ages 6-19 are overweight. The childhood obesity crisis is the result of widespread changes in American culture including:
 - Less physical activity
 - Increased consumption of sweetened beverages
 - Confusion over portion sizes
 - Highly processed foods
- 2) School meals are part of the solution to the childhood obesity crisis because:
 - Calories and portion sizes are controlled
 - Fat in school meals is restricted
 - School meals include a variety of foods
- 3) Current Nutrition and Health Education Opportunities.
- 4) Local Wellness Policy.

Chairperson Barnett thanked Ms. Mackey for her presentation and asked Committee for questions and/or comments.

A range of questions and comments came from Senators Brungardt, Barnett, and Emalene Correll including what other states have done to develop policy, if smaller portions of food throughout the school day is being implemented, if there are standards on how subsidies are used, are foods with no/low nutritional value hard to define and regulate, and are we placing another responsibility on schools.

Adjournment

Chairperson Barnett reviewed next weeks agenda. As there were no bill introductions and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned. The time was 2:15.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2005.