

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Jim Morrison at 1:31 p.m. on February 4 , 2003, in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except Representatives Landwehr, Neighbor, Long, and Showalter

Committee staff present:

Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Department
Renae Jefferies, Revisor of Statutes' Office
Gary Deeter, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Joy Wheeler, Executive Director, FirstGuard Health Plan
Susan Linn, Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Pharmacy
Bud Burke, Kansas Physical Therapy Association

Others attending: See Attached Guest List

The Chair welcomed Joy Wheeler, President, FirstGuard Health Plan, a managed care organization that contracts to provide health care services to eligible children under HealthWave." (Attachment 1) She said that FirstGuard provides a seamless network of health-care providers for members, whose numbers presently total 90,000.

She noted that FirstGuard also migrated to one PBM (Pharmacy Benefits Manager), Express Scripts, on July 1, 2002, which has participating retail pharmacies in 100 Kansas counties. Dental and mental health services are provided through Doral Dental and Mental Health Consortium as "carve-out vendors.

Ms. Wheeler itemized FirstGuard's personalized care: 24/7 consumer care assistance, health education newsletters, Guardian Angel pregnancy care, well-child assistance, and special-needs referrals.

Susan Linn, Executive Director, Kansas State Board of Pharmacy, requested the committee sponsor legislation to register pharmacy technicians. (Attachment 2) She said exponential increases in the filling of prescriptions has elevated the chances for errors; requiring pharmacy technicians to pass a competency exam and be registered with the Pharmacy Board will better serve the health and welfare of Kansas citizens. Noting the fiscal impact, she said a \$20 registration fee would produce \$48,000 for the Board, with expenses for implementing registration costing \$19,700. By proper motion and second, the Committee unanimously agreed to sponsor such legislation.

Bud Burke, representing the Physical Therapists Association, requested introduction of a bill to license physical therapists. (Attachment 3) He said the proposed draft will protect the term *physical therapist* and will clean up language associated with existing statutes. After a motion and second, the Committee voted unanimously to sponsor the proposed legislation.

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE at on January 16, 2003 in Room 243-N of the Capitol.

Representative Sharp, noting that K.S.A. 65-1,214, which authorizes the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to protect Kansas children from lead poisoning, will sunset this year and deprive Kansas of federal funds; she requested a bill to renew the legislation without a sunset provision.

(Attachment 4) A motion was made, seconded and passed to sponsor such legislation.

The Chair noted sub-committee assignments (Attachment 5), with one change: moving Representative DeCastro to Sub-Committee B and making Representative Bethell Chair and Representative Morrison an *ex-officio* member of the sub-committee.

The Chair reminded members that Wednesday, February 5, was the final day to introduce committee bills. He listed bill assignments (Attachment 6), explaining that each team would become expert in all facets of their assigned legislation and would lead the hearing on that particular bill. He re-emphasized that sharing the leadership would more thoroughly address various issues presented by legislative bills, saying that briefing on a bill would occur at least a day before any hearing.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed to approve the minutes for the January 30, 2003 meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:14 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 5, 2003.