

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE AGING AND LONG TERM CARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Bob Bethell at 3:30 p.m. on January 20, 2009, in Room 711 of the Docking State Office Building.

All members were present except:

Representative Connie O'Brien- excused

Committee staff present:

Kelly Navinsky-Wenzl, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Terri Weber, Kansas Legislative Research Department

Norm Furse, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Doug Taylor, Office of the Revisor of Statutes

Judith Holliday, Administrative Assistant

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jim Beckwith, Northeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging

Others attending:

See attached list.

Chairman Bethell opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the new committee. He called the members' attention to the Statement of Purpose for the Aging and Long Term Care Committee in their packet and asked them to read it at their leisure. He stated that the scope of the committee is broad and summarized by saying that aging used to involve nursing homes and long term care facilities for the aged. The concept of this committee deals with all of those in need of care, from prenatal to the grave, with the focus on performance and policy rather than on budgetary issues.

Chairman Bethell introduced each Committee member and asked for a brief summary of their background. Staff was introduced.

For informational purposes, the Chairman explained some committee rules and asked conferees to give an executive summary of testimony rather than reading it, in the interest of time. He asked guests to sign the guest sheet before leaving.

Doug Taylor, Revisor's Office, told the Chairman he finished the bill drafts planned for introduction at this meeting and expected them to be on his desk at the end of the day. Chairman Bethell gave a brief overview of the bills, which will be assigned numbers, and asked if the Committee wanted to deal with them individually or all at once. The consensus of the Committee was to deal with them all at once.

The bills all deal with various aspects of the healthcare for seniors fund. The first bill was an act enacting the geriatric mental health act and establishing a geriatric mental health program administered by the department on aging. Next was a bill concerning the department on aging relating to the senior services fund, creating the health care for seniors fund and disposition of certain additional lottery proceeds. The third bill related to the senior services fund and disposition of additional tobacco litigation settlement proceeds. Last was a bill creating the healthcare for seniors fund and concerning the disposition of a sales tax and use tax proceeds.

Chairman Bethell asked for a motion to introduce the bills conceptually. **Representative Carlin made a motion to introduce the bills, seconded by Representative Horst. The motion carried.**

Jim Beckwith, Northeast Kansas Area Agency on Aging (Attachment 1) gave a presentation on the philosophy of aging and long term care. He explained that long term care is more than nursing homes, and it involves all types of people, all ages, and with different needs. He used various toys to represent various ideas about long term care and the biases that complicate the issue. There were no questions of this conferee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2009.