

MINUTES OF THE SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 27, 2004 in Room 231-N of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Nick Jordan- excused

Committee staff present:
Ms. Emalene Correll, Legislative Research
Mr. Norm Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Mrs. Diana Lee, Revisor of Statutes
Ms. Margaret Cianciarulo, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:
Mr. Richard Morrissey, Interim Director for the Division of Health & Executive Director of the Bioterrorism Program

Others attending:
Please See Attached List.

Handouts

Upon calling the meeting to order, Chairperson Wagle referred the Committee to a response letter from the Legislative Division of Post Audit to Senator Salmans, who had asked Ms. Clarke during the January 22, 2004 meeting, if she could provide a breakdown on the costs of Medicaid low birthweight babies who died during their first year of life versus costs for Medicaid low birthweight babies who survived their first year of life. A copy of this letter is ([Attachment 1](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Approval of Minutes

The Chair then announced that the minutes of January 15, 20, 21, and 22 had been distributed to each Committee member. She asked that they notify Ms. Cianciarulo with their comments and if none are received by the end of the day Friday, January 30, 2004, the above minutes would stand approved.

Overview - "Status of Emergency Preparedness Relating to Health"

The Chair then introduced Mr. Richard Morrissey, Interim Director for the Division of Health and Executive Director of Bioterrorism Program who provided an update of the Kansas Bioterrorism Program. A copy of his overview is ([Attachment 2](#)) attached hereto and incorporated into the Minutes as referenced.

Highlights included:

- 1) Information on how the program is funded (ex. two grants from the federal Department of Health and Human Services);
- 2) An update on the Kansas Public Health Bioterrorism Program (ex. completed its second comprehensive CDC site visit. a listing of accomplishments from the review such as the Public Health Information Exchange (PHIX) and the toll-free hotline for disease reporting);
- 3) An update on the Kansas Hospital Bioterrorism Program (ex. dollars provided to improve surge capacity statewide, and how the dollars were spent such as airborne isolation equipment);

CONTINUATION SHEET

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4) A response to the Trust for America's Health Report (a national non-profit public health advisory group that rated Kansas with a score of 3 out of a possible 10) Mr. Morrissey listed the ten criteria and explained why our ratings were so low; and

5) An update on emerging new diseases referring to a landmark report, "Emerging Infections: Microbial Threats to Health in the United States, offering the consensus of a wide-ranging group of specialists that America needed a wake up call. (A short summary of the report describing 13 factors that account for new or enhanced microbial threats and the key recommendations of the committee is attached to his testimony.)

The Chair thanked Mr. Morrissey for his presentation then asked the Committee for questions or comments. Senators Salmans, Wagle, Haley, and Barnett and Ms. Correll asked a range of questions from are we current in the analysis of the bird disease and concerning the SARS disease, are we standardizing across the board; regarding the public health advocacy group: do you have ongoing communication with them, did you know you were being evaluated, did they ask you for information, and are they in any way federally funded; regarding vaccinations: is the smallpox vaccination available, with the mention of the window of exposure and immunization is there a central location to move the vaccination, and the national objective is 10 days; does our low ranking help us get more funding, as legislatures what can we do with communications to the public, transferring testing from KDHE to Ag, to why did the regional map not designate a lead county for the grouping of Wyandotte, Leavenworth, Johnson, Douglas, Franklin, and Miami .

Adjournment

As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned. The time was 2:30 p.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28, 2004.