

MINUTES OF THE JOINT HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES/SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE.

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Susan Wagle at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2002 in Room 210 Memorial Hall

All members were present except: Representative Nancy Kirk, Excused
Representative Judy Showalter, Excused

Committee staff present: Dr. Bill Wolff, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statute's Office
Lisa Montgomery, Revisor of Statute's Office
June Evans, Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee: Senator James A. Barnett
Stephanie Sharp, American Cancer Society
Larrie Ann Lower, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Health Plans (KAHP)
Representative Jo Ann Pottorff
Ursula Hultgren

Others attending: See Attached Sheet

Chairperson Wagle asked for bill introductions:

Representative Joann Freeborn requested bill introduction regarding guide and service dogs, clarifying between pets and service animals.

Representative Wells moved and Representative Morrison seconded to accept the bill request. The motion carried.

Representative Swenson moved and Representative Wells seconded bill introduction concerning health care; relating to the cost of prescription drugs; enacting the Kansas prescription drug card program act. The motion carried.

Senator (Doctor) Barnett briefed the committee on colon cancer screening – early diagnosis. An average of 546 Kansans die every year from colon cancer representing the second leading cause of cancer death in the state. Current recommendations from the American Cancer Society include either a fecal occult blood card test and sigmoidoscopy every 5 years, colonoscopy every 10 years, or a barium enema examination every 5-10 years. Medicare and most insurance covers colon cancer screening (Attachment 1).

Stephanie Sharp, Government Relations Director for the American Cancer Society, stated colon cancer is the number two cancer killer in the nation, indeed in Kansas. In an average year, 1500 Kansans are diagnosed with colon cancer, and 550 lose their battle. Second, colon cancer is the most detectable, treatable, and survivable cancer, if it is caught early. Kansans are not being screened early enough. If colon cancer is caught early, the 5-year survival rate is greater than 90 percent. However, a late stage diagnosis drops that survival rate to less than 10% (Attachment 2).

Larrie Ann Lower, Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Health Plans (KAHP), stated KAHP, BCBS-KS and KC representing HIAA met and discussed a possible colon cancer screening insurance mandate. We all came to the conclusion that a legislative health insurance mandate would be unnecessary because all of the health plans in Kansas cover colon cancer screening. We all agreed that early detection of colon cancer through the use of colon cancer screening is of utmost importance and should be stressed (Attachment 3).

Ursula Hultgren, cancer survivor, revealed her story of having been diagnosed with cancer, having surgery, and survived. She said she could not stress enough the importance of early detection (Attachment 4).

CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, Room 210, Memorial Hall at 1:30 p.m. on January 24, 2002.

Representative Jo Ann Pottorff stated she was a cancer survivor because of early detection which was diagnosed 6 years ago.

Chris Collins, Director of Government Affairs, Kansas Medical Society, provided written testimony on colorectal cancer screening stressing the importance of early detection (Attachment 5).

The meeting adjourned at 2:35 p.m. and the next meeting will be January 28, 2002.