

**COMMITTEE MINUTES for
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE**

Date: January 23, 2008

Place: Room 116

Convended: 1/23/2008
10:05 AM

Recessed:

Reconvended:

Adjourned: 1/23/2008
11:30 AM

Present: Senators Hatch-CH, Kreiman-VC, Johnson-RM, Ragan, Seymour
Representatives Foege-CH, Gayman-VC, Heaton-RM, Abdul-Samad, Granzow, Miller, L.,
Palmer, Smith, Tomenga

Absent: None

Excused: None

Rep. Foege called the meeting to order at 10:05AM. Roll call was taken and attendance recorded.

Rep. Foege asked members to comment on issues and priorities important to each of them; each member was given an opportunity to speak. Rep. Gayman expressed interest in mental health issues. Rep. Tomenga hopes to make progress on mental health funding. Rep. Palmer discussed his concern about mental health. Sen. Seymour expressed concern about budget constraints. Rep. Heaton discussed his interest in continuing to support existing programs. He would like to hear about Iowa's foster care system and expressed his concern about families who are on waiting lists for waivers. Rep. Miller discussed her interest in chronic disease management as a way to cut costs. Rep. Granzow said that she continues to be interested in prevention. Rep. Smith expressed his confidence that we have the knowledge about disease management, but need to focus on treatment and getting that knowledge out to providers of services. Sen. Kreiman discussed his continuing focus on child welfare. Sen. Bolckcom, who is not a member, but was sitting in on the meeting, expressed his hopes for universal health coverage for all Iowans. Rep. Foege expressed the need to sustain programs that are already started and to focus on prevention. He went on to mention many of the programs that will be considered by the committee. Sen. Hatch concluded with his remarks about the Affordable Health Care Commission. He indicated that the report from the Commission will be distributed to all members. He also indicated that during the next week he and Rep. Foege will be presenting pieces of legislation to reflect some of the findings of the Commission, and he outlined some of the issues that will be addressed in that legislation. He also outlined the process for moving that legislation forward.

Rep. Foege distributed the schedule of future meetings of the Committee and discussed it with the members. Sen. Seymour asked that the Committee have an opportunity to hear from nurses regarding workforce shortage issues. Sen. Hatch responded that the Commission did significant work on workforce shortage, which will be included in some of the legislation. Sen. Johnson asked for a review of shortage of psychiatrists in the state and services for people with disabilities. Rep. Foege indicated that these suggestions will be included in the schedule as possible.

LSA staff presented an overview of the Governor's budget recommendations for Health and Human Services and responded to questions from the members of the Committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30AM after a motion by Rep. Palmer.

Representative Ro Foege

Susan Salter, Committee Secretary