

COMMITTEE MINUTES for GOVERNMENT OVERSIGHT

Date: February 26, 2009

Place: Legislative Dining Room

Convened: 2/26/2009
10:25 AM

Recessed:

Reconvened:

Adjourned: 2/26/2009
12:10 PM

Present: Senators Olive-CH, Courtney-VC, Ward-RM, Soddors, Wieck
Representatives Lensing-CH, Ford-VC, Watts-RM, Baudler, Berry, Olson, S., Sorenson,
Swaim, Whitead

Absent: None

Excused: None

Representative Lensing called the meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

The roll was taken and minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

The purpose of today's meeting was to discuss Medicaid provider rates related to nurses salaries.

Representative Lensing introduced the first speaker, Robert Downer, Board of Regents Member and Chair of the Board's Hospital Committee at the University of Iowa Hospital.

Mr. Downer spoke about the University of Iowa Hospital's process used in determining the best way for them to disperse the 1% salary bonuses that the Legislature mandated be given to hospital nurses during the 2008 session.

Mr. Downer answered questions and discussion followed.

Representative Lensing then introduced Joseph LeValley, Senior Vice President for Planning and Advocacy, Mercy Hospital Administration.

Mr. LeValley gave an overview of Mercy Hospital's nursing staff salaries. He provided the committee with the method of dispersement of salary bonuses that complied with the spirit of the law.

Mr. LeValley opened the floor to questions and discussion followed.

Representative Lensing introduced Larry Pope and Julie Smith, contract lobbyists for Iowa Health System.

Mr. Pope and Ms. Smith gave background about Iowa Health System and how the dispersion of the mandated funds were made to the nursing staff in their system.

Finally, Representative Lensing introduced Greg Boattenhamer, Senior Vice President, Government Relations, Iowa Hospital Association.

Mr. Boattenhamer stated that the Iowa Hospital Association has a voluntary membership and the Association provides data and information to it's members. He gave an overview as to how the hospitals in his Association had chosen to provide their nursing staff with the additional funds.

Mr. Boattenhamer asked for questions and discussion followed. Due to the time limitation, Representative Lensing asked Mr. Boattenhamer to return the following Tuesday to continue the discussion. Mr. Boattenhamer agreed.

Representative Watts asked that the Atalissa situation be watched closely and DHS officials be asked to return as soon as possible.

Representative Ford moved to arise and the meeting was adjourned at 12:05.

Representative Vicki S. Lensing

Patricia Van Cleave, Committee Secretary