

# COMMITTEE MINUTES for HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

**Date:** February 26, 2009

**Place:** Room 116

**Convened:** 2/26/2009  
10:10 AM

**Recessed:**

**Reconvened:**

**Adjourned:** 2/26/2009  
10:55 AM

**Present:** Senators Ragan-VC, Hartsuch, Schmitz  
Representatives Heddens-CH, Thede-VC, Heaton-RM, Miller, L., Rayhons, Schulte,  
Shomshor, Smith, Wessel-Kroeschell

**Absent:** None

**Excused:** Senators Hatch-CH, Johnson-RM

Representative Lisa Heddens called the subcommittee meeting to order at 10:10 am. Roll call was taken and attendance recorded.

The minutes of the February 24th meeting were approved.

Representative Wessel-Kroeschell and Senator Ragan provided an update on the Mental Health Subcommittee. They reported people from across the state have attended the 7:30 am Wednesday morning meetings. They have discussed how counties are currently regionalizing and reorganizing services and delivery. Discussions are encouraging even though it is a problem without a good solution, especially in tough budget times. Last year, SF 69 capped the levy resources at a dollar amount. Last year's subcommittee discussions led to the idea or regionalization. This led to the creation of two new initiatives that encourage, but don't mandate, regionalization. With providers and DHS at the table, they continue to build on solutions and still have questions.

Other members asked questions about how many counties are grouping together on their own, cultural differences between rural and metropolitan geographical areas, acute care, legal settlements, correlation between CPC's and regional efforts, risk pool and end of budget year for counties. Rep. Wessel Kroeschell said the subcommittee is looking at the broader picture and an overall solution.

Rep. Heddens provided an update on the Resource Center Subcommittee. Their focus has been on the safety of the individual in the residential centers because of the recent deaths at Glenwood. The Dept. of Human Services and the Superintendents at Glenwood and Woodward have provided an historical overview of services and provided information on training/retraining of staff. The Dept. of Justice has also provided information on how they work together with the Dept. of Inspections and Appeals. The subcommittee also received information about how the dollars follow the person. Future meetings will include P & A, families receiving services and others receiving services in the community.

Rep. Heddens and Senator Hatch want more engagement with the committee as to where the subcommittee members want funding to go. Rep. Heddens asked members about their priorities:

Representative Miller -- Waiting lists -- would like to see people on waiting lists receive the services promised them.

Representative Heaton -- Waiting lists -- important to get situation rectified. Also need DHS adjustments on line items, so the committee can evaluate. Greatest concern is how we might best use the federal money within the limited time frames. Other states are not increasing services to adults, only children. Why would Iowa do its own thing when the Federal people are ready to move forward with a health care plan in the Fall?

Rep. Thede -- Concern for the elderly and funding for the IowaCare program. Do not decrease the funding for IowaCare, increase it.

Senator Hartsuch -- Address all priorities in a fair manner. The political

arena is addressing the hot button issues. Wants the marginal dollar to have the same value in all project lines.

Senator Schmitz -- Concerned with individuals who have no health care benefits. Wants a creative way to take the short term federal funds to address the needs of individuals without jeopardizing sustainable funding for programs.

Rep. Heddens -- Maintain maintenance of effort. We don't want to fund programs for two years and then cut back. We need to look at needs with the projected budget targets and determine how the stimulus dollars fit in. We need to look longitudinally beyond the 27 months of increased federal funding.

Rep. Rayhons -- Concerned with funding to rural counties. Wants to prevent an additional property tax increase to keep county programs.

Rep. Heddens -- Work Force issues -- direct care, physicians, psychiatrists. We also need additional details from each Department--how many individuals served, what is working, what is not working, is there a better way, are there duplications?

The agenda for the March 3rd meeting will include accountability measures and future meetings will include additional details from the Depts.

Meeting adjourned at 10:55 am.

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Representative Lisa Heddens

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Doris Taylor, Committee Secretary