

# HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

February 12, 2003 Hearing Room D  
8:30 A.M. Tapes 25 – 26

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Rep. Jeff Kruse, Chair  
Rep. Billy Dalto, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Carolyn Tomei, Vice-Chair  
Rep. Gordon Anderson  
Rep. Jeff Barker  
Rep. Laurie Monnes Anderson

**MEMBER EXCUSED:** Rep. Ben Westlund

**STAFF PRESENT:** Sandy Thiele-Cirka, Committee Administrator  
Mara McGraw, Committee Assistant

**ISSUES HEARD:** Informational Meeting  
Rural Health Overview  
Rural Hospital Architectural Assessment Progress Report

- Ed Patterson, Oregon Rural Health Association
- Don Nyberg, AIA Health Facilities Consultant

Tele-Health Demonstration

- Cathy Britain, Oregon Tele-Health Alliance
- Ruth Giesking, St. Charles Hospital, Bend, OR

Rural Health 101

- Karen Whitaker, Director, Oregon Health and Sciences University (OHSU) Center for Rural Health

Status of Rural Health Care Workforce

- Dr. John Saultz, Director, Oregon Area Health Education Center (AHEC) Program
- Greg Lander, Rural Emergency Service Enhancement Fund, AHEC
- Scott Ekblad, Deputy Director, Oregon Office of Rural Health, OHSU

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These minutes are in compliance with Senate and House Rules. Only text enclosed in quotation marks reports a speaker's exact words. For complete contents, please refer to the tapes.

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<u>TAPE/#</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Comments</u>
<b>Tape 25, A</b>		
005	Chair Kruse	Calls meeting to order at 8:43 A.M. Submits written testimony from Joel Ario, Department of Business and Consumer Services (DCBS) regarding HB 2021 ( <b>EXHIBIT A</b> ).
<b><u>INFORMATIONAL MEETING</u></b>		
034	Ed Patterson	Oregon Rural Health Association. Submits Small Hospital Architectural Assessment Preliminary summary ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ). Refers to HB 2515 ( <b>EXHIBIT C</b> ). Explains architectural assessments and small hospital needs.
103	Donald Nyberg	Consultant, AIA Architecture for Health Presents survey results on small hospital architecture ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ): <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Seismic information.</li><li>2. Air quality.</li></ol>

3. Plumbing and Electrical code compliance.
4. Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements.
5. Patient care facilities

221	Rep. Anderson	Explains structural and long range planning recommendations.
224	Nyberg	Inquires on cost to replace facilities.
242	Rep. Monnes	Presents typical costs. Estimates cost per square foot and per bed.
244	Anderson	Questions nonprofit status of hospitals and existing funding mechanisms.
	Patterson	Reports most of the hospitals are nonprofit. Explains bonding process for capital funding and other funding options. States need for financial profile per hospital to establish basis for bond market or to pursue federal funding.
282	Rep. Monnes	Inquires on federal options.
292	Anderson	
	Patterson	Discusses fund planning via private sources and federal funds. Explains Medicare fund options for critical access hospitals.
324	Rep. Anderson	Questions federal plan to reinstitute Hill-Burton funding.
328	Patterson	Defers to Karen Whitaker. Refers to matrix ( <b>EXHIBIT B</b> ), long range planning guide. Explains categorization of Type A and B hospitals. Refers to article on rural health in Oregon Business Magazine, October 2001 ( <b>EXHIBIT D</b> ).
367	Chair Kruse	Explains Medicaid Upper Limit (MUPL) funds deferred to education fund. Discusses other funding issues.
405	Patterson	Details deferred funding.
420	Cathy Britain	Chair, Oregon Telecommunications Coordinating Council Health Care Committee, President, Oregon Tele-Health Alliance. Introduces telemedicine conference.
<b>TAPE 26, A</b>		
011	Ruth Giesking	Via tele-conference from Bend, OR. Telemedicine Director, St. Charles Hospital in Burns, Oregon.
016	Bruce Brundage, M.D.	Cardiologist, Bend, Oregon. Presents via teleconference from St. Charles Hospital. Reviews telemedicine process and conducts a patient physical exam.
062	Giesking	Places scan on screen and operates machinery enabling Dr. Brundage to view test results.
063	Brundage	Explains results to patient. Continues demonstration: electronic stethoscope (heart, lung and organ sounds are audible via telemedicine) and the high resolution camera (patient skin is visible via telemedicine).
167	Giesking	Offers closing comments.
176	Britain	Concludes and notes the importance of telemedicine in keeping patients in their community while offering specialty care.
193	Rep. Anderson	Inquires on cities currently using telemedicine.
196	Britain	Explains Oregon network of telemedicine. Addresses reimbursement barriers.
230	Karen Whitaker	Director, Office of Rural Health, OHSU. Submits overhead slide presentation ( <b>EXHIBIT E</b> ). Defines 'rural' according to OHSU guidelines for rural health program. Reviews data on rural economy and rural health status.
351	Rep. Monnes	Inquires on rural health status related to tobacco.
	Anderson	

358 Whitaker Responds on lack of research relating to tobacco use in rural communities. Discusses physician economic and workload status, Type A and B hospitals and critical access. Offers data on occupancy rates in rural versus urban hospitals.

**TAPE 25, B**

030 Whitaker Continues presentation. Offers data on insurance status at discharge for patients and the average operating margin. Summarizes rural health operations, programs and legislation.

095 Rep. Monnes Anderson Inquires on hospital closure data.

102 Whitaker Explains clinics referenced are located outside of hospital area.

106 Rep. Dalto Questions cost based medical reimbursement.

107 Whitaker Explains reimbursement issues.

124 Rep. Dalto Requests clarification of cost reimbursement.

127 Whitaker Details new policy on cost based reimbursements.

141 Rep. Barker Inquires on median income of rural residents.

140 Whitaker Offers information on the calculation of median income. Explains emergency medical service funds threatened by SB 5513 and Governor's budget.

149 John Saultz, M.D. Chair, Family Medicine, OHSU and Director, Oregon Area Health Education Centers (AHEC). Refers to health professionals reports titled *Oregon Workforce Project* published by AHEC (reference material in Legislative Library) and related database. Discusses:

- principle role and services provided via AHEC;
- grants and funding sources;
- program to recruit medical professionals to rural areas;
- rural health research program;
- recruitment programs directed at youth;
- OHSU national ranking for addressing issues of rural health;
- downturn in pursuit of medical careers; and
- issues of training generalist practitioners versus specialists

318 Chair Kruse Addresses expanding scope of medical professionals.

327 Saultz Discusses issues of nurse practitioners and physician assistants as method to expand medical professional. Reports type of health system needed in rural areas includes recruiting generalists.

368 Rep. Anderson Inquires on nursing recruitment issues.

378 Saultz Explains current nursing recruitment efforts and the regionalization process in nurse training programs. Addresses a "physician-less system of care."

423 Rep. Anderson Inquires on training for other medical professionals.

433 Saultz Explains workforce training efforts and dental partnerships with trainees.

447 Rep. Monnes Anderson Addresses nursing shortage issue. Notes proposed legislation to increase nursing education opportunities.

**TAPE 26, B**

026 Saultz Describes OHSU efforts to train nurses.

044 Rep. Monnes Anderson Inquires on AHEC funding

045	Saultz	Explains past and current funding.
076	Rep. Monnes Anderson	Question General Fund leverage to federal funds.
079	Saultz	Explains local and federal fund relationship.
085	Rep. Barker	Addresses recruitment efforts Comments on lack of training space versus lack of medical trainee applicants.
100	Saultz	Relates issues related to status of medical applicants at OHSU. Reports economic issues, medical students and the pursuit of medical careers. Notes that applicants in rural areas are nontraditional learners.
152	Gregg Lander	Rural Emergency Service Enhancement Fund, AHEC. Explains issues related to rural emergency services ( <b>EXHIBIT F</b> ) and to diverted funds.
247	Scott Ekblad	Deputy Director, Oregon Office of Rural Health, OHSU. Presents information on rural emergency medical service grants ( <b>EXHIBIT G</b> ). Discusses survey of rural health agencies. Addresses issues of recruitment relating to grant awards. Details items purchased via grant awards. Refers to SB 5513.
317	Chair Kruse	Comments on rural health tour during previous session. Closes informational meeting and adjourns meeting at 10:22 A.M.

### **EXHIBIT SUMMARY**

- A – Informational, written testimony, staff, 3 pp.**
- B – Informational, written testimony, Ed Patterson, 5 pp.**
- C – Informational, prepared testimony, DHS staff, 4 pp.**
- D – Informational, prepared testimony, Ed Patterson, 6 pp.**
- E – Informational, slides, Karen Whitaker, 6 pp.**
- F – Informational, Fact sheets, Gregg Lander, 2 pp.**
- G – Informational, written testimony, Scott Ekblad, 2 pp.**