



Don Jordan, Secretary

**Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight
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**ARRA Funds for Health Information Technology
Development**

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Chairman Barnett and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide information about health information technology (HIT) and efforts to promote HIT in Kansas. I am Don Jordan, Secretary of the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services and Chairman of the Health and Human Services (HHS) Subcabinet.

The federal government has made funding available as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to support Health Information Technology (HIT) development. In this context HIT involves the development and sharing of electronic medical records and other health information with the goals of improving health outcomes and making the healthcare system more efficient. Currently, medical information is recorded in a variety of ways, in many places still on paper records. Recording health information digitally will establish the potential for healthcare providers to share the information more quickly and accurately. Records are now created and/or saved electronically in a variety of formats and standards, many of which are proprietary, hindering the sharing of information. Developing and standardizing these electronic health records is an important part of advancing HIT.

Governor Parkinson has assigned the HHS Subcabinet with overseeing the tasks of identifying appropriate HIT projects for ARRA funding, assuring applications are completed and submitted in a timely fashion and managing the process in an effective and efficient manner. The HHS Subcabinet includes the Juvenile Justice Authority and the Departments of Aging, Corrections, Health and Environment and SRS. The Kansas Health Policy Authority and DISC also participate in the subcabinet's activities. KDHE is taking the lead for the subcabinet for this project. In addition, it will be important that we involve the E-Health Advisory Committee and other stakeholders to make sure we make wise investments for Kansas.

This will be a complex process, but one that offers real opportunity for Kansas to take some major strides forward.

I will now stand for questions.