

KHPA Purchaser Advisory Council Meeting
March 28, 2007, LSOB 9th Floor Conf Rm, Topeka KS
Minutes

KHPA Purchaser Advisory Council Members Present:

- Jane Chandler Holt – Chair
- Bill Bruning – via teleconference
- Brad Clothier
- Andrew Corbin
- Bob Finuf
- Valerie Keller
- John Naramore
- Linda Steinke – via teleconference
- Dr. Marla Tobin
- Keith Wisdom

KHPA Purchaser Advisory Council Members Not Available for Initial Meeting:

- David Knocke
- Gregg LeMaster
- Jeff Levin

KHPA Board Members Present:

- Connie Hubbell, Chair
- Dr. Ray Davis

KHPA Staff Participants:

- Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen, Executive Director
- Dr. Andrew Allison, Deputy Director
- Janis DeBoer, Advisory Council Manager

Welcome by Connie Hubbell, Board Chair

Board Chair Hubbell opened the meeting, welcomed members, the public, and KHPA staff. She introduced the Purchaser Advisory Council Chair, KHPA participating staff, and asked Advisory Council members to introduce themselves.

Dr. Nielsen noted recruitment efforts of two additional employer members to the Purchaser Advisory Council.

Presentation by Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen, Executive Director – Overview of KHPA Board and History

Dr. Nielsen presented a power point slide show titled “Health System Reform in Kansas: Context, Challenges and Capacity.” Kansas is not alone with regard to rising rates of uninsured, insurance affordability and getting what we purchase. To address these challenges, various options are being tried in states including: premium assistance programs, new insurance products, tax credits, children’s health coverage, and access to community health centers. Specific to Kansas, the Kansas Health Policy Authority was created by the Kansas Legislature in 2005 to (1) develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that (2) combine effective purchasing and administration of health care (3) with health promotion oriented public health strategies (4) which is driven by health data.

Dr. Nielsen’s presentation also outlined the governing structure of the KHPA. The Legislature created a nine member Board to govern health policy, along with seven non-voting, *ex officio* members. Dr. Nielsen, as Executive Director, reports directly to the KHPA Board and also presents testimony to the legislative Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight.

Action – Members asked for a list of legislators serving on the Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight which is attached.

Dr. Nielsen closed her presentation with an overview of the KHPA vision principles, as follows: Access to Care; Quality and Efficiency; Affordable and Sustainable Health Care; Health and Wellness; Responsible Stewardship; Education and Engagement of the Public.

Presentation by Dr. Andrew Allison, Deputy Director – Health for All Kansans Steering Committee

Dr. Allison reviewed the 2007 Short Term and Long Term Consensus Package handout. The Consensus Package captures the work of the Health for All Kansans Steering Committee. The Health for All Kansans Steering Committee was established at the request of the Governor and is comprised of four legislators, the Governor’s Chief of Staff, six KHPA board members, KHPA’s Executive Director, two members-at-large, and KHPA staff. The Committee began their work in February and in March reached consensus on a short term legislative package for adoption this session as well as enabling legislation that directs the KHPA to develop long term health reform options for consideration by the 2008 legislature and implementation in 2009 and 2010.

The 2007 short term legislative package includes six mutually exclusive options. There was discussion on the premium assistance for low-income families option. This option creates a phased-in premium assistance program in order to help low income uninsured families in Kansas to purchase private health insurance, either through their employer or through state procured health insurance plans.

For long term health reform, the Steering Committee endorsed the Substitute for Senate Bill 309 proposal, which was authored by Senator Jim Barnett and passed the Senate 40 to 0. Dr. Allison noted that the goals reflected in Section 1 (b) of Substitute for Senate Bill 309 are very similar to the guiding principles for health reform in Kansas, as adopted by the Steering Committee.

Action – Members asked for a contact list of Purchaser Advisory Council members which is attached.

Role of Advisory Councils – Jane Chandler Holt, Chair of Purchaser Advisory Council

Chair Holt reviewed the role of the advisory councils which is to assist the KHPA Board and Steering Committee with the development of long term health reform options. An example of a Health Reform Option grid and Framework for Economic Impact Analysis was included in the packet as a tool for the advisory councils to begin discussion of long term health reform options.

Dr. Nielsen referred council members to the Substitute for Senate Bill 309 which requires an analysis of a Kansas Health Care Insurance Connector model alongside other pertinent initiatives and policies designed to increase access to affordable health insurance and to otherwise promote health. Dr. Nielsen explained how the various options will be reviewed, discussed, and perspectives shared among the three Advisory Councils (Purchaser, Consumer, and Provider). All health policy options developed by the Councils will include an independent economic analysis in order to help legislators understand (a) the costs of any proposals and (b) who will gain access to health insurance as a result of the policy option.

Action – Members asked for website links to pertinent research materials and articles which are attached, including a .pdf file for “A Blueprint for Universal Health Insurance Coverage in New York.” Members also asked for a report on evaluation of premium assistance options which is attached.

The timeline was reviewed by Chair Holt and dates for future meetings were established. The Advisory Councils will meet monthly for the next six months. Dates for the Purchaser Advisory Council meetings are as follows: May 9, June 13, July 18, August 8, September 5, and October 3 (tentative).

Dates of the At-large Council meetings are tentatively scheduled for May 8 and September 14.

The Chairs of each Council will provide updates to the KHPA Board and Steering Committee throughout the summer and fall and by November 1, 2007, the KHPA shall deliver to the Governor and Legislative leadership health care finance reform options in accordance with Substitute for Senate Bill 309.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9 – 1:30 – 3:30 at the Landon State Office Building, 900 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, KHPA Conference Room E/F