**Policy Option:  Extension of Community Health Record Pilot Project**

**Description:**  Extend the Community Health Record (CHR) pilot program in order to obtain adequate information to evaluate the impact of the information technology on Medicaid providers and beneficiaries.

**Background:**  The former Division of Health Policy and Finance entered into a collaborative pilot project with our Medicaid managed care plan, FirstGuard Health plan, and Cerner Corporation, a Kansas City based information technology company.  The goal of the project is to deploy community health record (CHR) technology to FirstGuard Medicaid managed care providers in Sedgwick County. The CHR is built on administrative claims data and provides clinicians electronic access to claimed medical visits, procedures, diagnoses, medications, immunizations and lead screening data. We are currently working to enable the transfer of lab results to the CHR. The CHR also has an ePrescribing component that provides a drug interaction and contraindication tool, along with formulary information for the prescriber along with the capability to submit prescriptions electronically to pharmacies.

FirstGuard currently covers approximately 14,000 Kansas Medicaid managed care members in the Sedgwick county area. The pilot involves twenty FirstGuard provider sites throughout the county, with over 200 trained users and 18 trained ePrescribing users as of August 2006. The project was launched in February 2006 and is set to end December 31, 2006.  Due to the several month ramp-up period to train users and implement across provider sites, the program has been in operation at most sites for six months or less.

An independent evaluation of the CHR will be conducted. Tom Wilson, Ph.D., Trajectory Consultants, has been engaged by KHPA to perform the evaluation. The evaluation will have a lag time of approximately six (6) months from the project end date, in order to assess all relevant claims data.

**Population Served:**  Kansas Medicaid managed care members in Sedgwick County.

**Considerations:**  Feedback from provider sites has been very positive, especially regarding the medication history component. Emergency rooms, which in the past would have been faced with treating patients with little or no information, have also provided very positive feedback regarding the access to information through the CHR.  Both FirstGuard and Cerner have been excellent partners for this pilot project.

**Cost:**
Project Funding: **$125,000 SGF** for remaining FY 2007; $250,000 All Funds.

Evaluation: **$25,000 SGF** for FY 2008 to fund expense for independent evaluation.

**Staff Recommendation:**  Fund for Supplemental Request FY 2007 and end the pilot project. Fund the independent evaluation for FY 2008.  After the completion and analysis of the independent evaluation, consider the development of an RFP process to open a Community Health Record for Medicaid beneficiaries and/or the State Employee Health Plan for FY 2009.

**Board Action:**  Motion made, seconded and carried to approve for Supplemental FY 2007 funding but to delete the words "…and end the pilot project…".  This project and funding will be revisited by the Board again in six months.