
KHPA Purchaser Advisory Council Meeting
December 19, 2007
Landon State Office Building, Topeka KS
Minutes

KHPA Purchaser Advisory Council Members Present:

- Jane Chandler Holt, Chair
- William Bruning
- Andrew Corbin
- Ken Daniels
- Bob Finuf
- Jeff Levin
- John Naramore
- Linda Steinke
- Marla Tobin
- Keith Wisdom

KHPA Purchaser Advisory Council Members Not Available for Meeting:

- Brad Clothier
- Valerie Keller
- David Knocke
- Gregg LeMaster

KHPA Staff Participants:

- Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen, Executive Director
- Dr. Barb Langner, Policy Director

Welcome by Jane Chandler Holt, Purchaser Advisory Council Chair

Chair Holt opened the meeting, welcomed members, the public, and KHPA staff. All Council members and KHPA staff participants introduced themselves. Dr. Barb Langer, KHPA Policy Director, announced that the KHPA was awarded a \$200,000 grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to do more analysis over the health insurance components of the 2007 KHPA Board Health Reform Package.

Overview of 2007 KHPA Board Recommendations for Kansas Health Reform – Dr. Marcia Nielsen

Dr. Nielsen reviewed the participant handouts: (1) a PowerPoint slide presentation on the KHPA Board recommendations for health reform delivered to the Kansas legislature and the Governor on November 1, 2007, (2) an updated Executive Summary Report of the KHPA Board Recommendations, and (3) a 2008 Hope Health Calendar as a token of KHPA's gratitude for each member's participation in the Advisory Council. A new updated report of the recommendations, which provides more precise estimates of the reform policies, is now available on our website at www.khpa.ks.gov. Also noted was that the reform package pays for itself

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entirely for the first five years. The November 1 meeting with the Joint Health Policy Oversight Committee concluded with Committee Chair Jim Barnett asking for a motion, which Speaker Neufeld made, to introduce all 21 recommendations into bill and was unanimously supported by the committee. Dr. Nielsen indicated that this response reflected the hard work put into the health reform proposal by all of the Advisory Councils, and input from Kansans at the 22-city Listening Tour. A second meeting with the Joint Oversight Committee on December 13th asked the KHPA to split up the bill in order to separate the recommendations by topic. Currently, the KHPA is working with the office for Revisors of Statutes, drafters and amenders of legislative language, to put together the health reform bills.

As requested by Council members, Dr. Nielsen went through the presentation she gave on November 1st to the Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight. This presentation is available on the legislative page of our website at: <http://www.khpa.ks.gov/LegislativeInformation/default.htm>. Below are the 21 recommendations:

Promoting Personal Responsibility

- Transparency for consumers: Health Care Cost & Quality Transparency Project
- Promote health literacy

Promoting Medical Homes

- Define medical home
- Increase Medicaid provider reimbursement for prevention/primary care
- Implement statewide Community Health Record
- Promote insurance card standardization

Paying for Prevention

- Increase tobacco user fee
- Statewide ban on smoking in public places
- Partner with community organizations
- Include Commissioner of Education on KHPA Board
- Collect information on health/fitness of Kansas school children
- Promote healthy food choices in schools
- Increase physical education and fitness in schools
- Wellness grant program for small businesses
- Healthier food options for state employees
- Provide dental care for pregnant women
- Improve tobacco cessation within Medicaid
- Expand cancer screenings

Provide and Protect Affordable Health Insurance

- Expand the premium assistance program to include childless adults up to 100% FPL
- Cover more kids through aggressive marketing and outreach to enroll children already eligible for public health insurance programs
- Increase affordable coverage for solo business owners and other small businesses
 - Voluntary health insurance clearinghouse with similar functions of Human Resource departments (e.g., evaluate and compare health insurance products)
 - Encourage widespread use of Section 125 plans (small employers can use pre-tax dollars for purchasing health insurance for their employees)
 - Reinsurance to stabilize premiums for very small businesses
 - Offer health insurance products targeted at young adults (ages 19-25)
 - Require health insurance companies to continue coverage of dependents through age 25
 - Pilot projects for small business health insurance innovation

Dialog with Council Members

A few Council members expressed concerns for increasing payments to providers for services that are currently being provided for free; they want to make sure that payments are necessary and effectively improve health outcomes. Other concerns included whether 24/7 type of care is the direction that providers are moving towards and whether increasing provider payments is limited to primary care providers. Dr. Nielsen noted that evidence indicates that increased payments, especially for preventive care, improves health outcomes. In

addition, the KHPA Board does not believe it would be practical or improve health outcomes by limiting increased payment to primary care providers.

Members also supported the recommendation to promote health and nutrition in schools; nationally, vendors are working with health programs to include more nutritious options without losing school revenues. Some members expressed concerns for whether the tobacco tax is likely to pass; however, several members indicated that there is movement in Kansas to increase the tax, especially when it is tied to funding health care reform.

Next Steps, Dr. Marcia Nielsen

Dr. Nielsen reviewed the future roles of the Advisory Councils which could include public support for health reform. Dr. Nielsen noted that a letter in support of the recommendations from individuals or organizations would be very helpful. This will allow KHPA and legislators to see who does support the recommendations.

Support letters should be addressed to the Governor, Senator Barnett, and to Dr. Nielsen at the KHPA. Please send these letters to Tara Hacker, Manager of Policy and Research Communications, either by mail or email (tara.hacker@khpa.ks.gov) by January 7, 2008; Dr. Nielsen will distribute them to the Governor and legislators. Letters can be mailed to the following address:

Suite 900N, Landon State Office Building
900 SW Jackson Street
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Both Dr. Nielsen, and Dr. Barb Langner, Policy Director for KHPA, mentioned that it is a critical time for moving forward and there needs to be public support for these health reform proposals. Grassroots movements are needed in order to inform policymakers of what Kansas consumers, businesses, providers, and organizations support. One Council member suggested that there be a day during the legislative session for local advocacy to do some grassroots lobbying while another suggested that KHPA provide Council members and health advocates with updates on the legislative process, especially as it relates to the health reform proposals. Dr. Nielsen indicated that KHPA has hired an Outreach Coordinator to start in January to provide updates to Council members.

Adjournment

Next Meeting: No meetings scheduled at this time. Dr. Nielsen does expect to reconvene the Councils at least once, if not two or three times during the 2008 legislative session. Members will be notified of upcoming meetings either by email or by phone.