

February 20th Data Consortium Meeting Summary

The second meeting of the Data Consortium was hosted by Kansas Health Policy Authority on Wednesday, February 20th. Representatives of 17 member agencies/organizations/businesses were present as well as other interested individuals from the public. In accordance with the KHPA Board's January decision to add two health insurers to the Consortium, new members from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas and Coventry Healthcare were welcomed to the group.

The primary purpose of the meeting was to map out a strategy for identifying specific measures associated with each of the statewide health indicators identified by the KHPA Board in 2007. Workgroups were established to address four of KHPA's six vision principles: Access to Care, Quality and Efficiency, Affordable and Sustainable Health Care, and Health and Wellness. Dr. Hareesh Mavoori charged the four new workgroups, who will be led by KHPA staff as well as three member organizations – Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, and Kansas Health Institute – to bring measures back to the Consortium by early fall 2008 for use in an annual report on the status of health in the state to be prepared prior to the start of the 2009 legislative session, as envisioned in KHPA's originating legislation. Workgroup meetings are already being scheduled to meet this timeline. This work is expected to consume much of the Consortium's first year in operation. Future years are expected to focus on filling gaps in measurement and advancing policies related to the collection and use of data.

Karen Cole and Julie Broski of the KUMC Dykes Library gave a presentation of the new Consumer Health Transparency Website, "Kansas Health Online." This sparked many suggestions for additional links to the site, ideas for making it known and available to more consumers, and evaluating its use and effectiveness.

Tom Bell of Kansas Hospital Association and Jerry Slaughter, Kansas Medical Society presented an overview of proposed legislation for provider data collection and reporting in Missouri and Kansas. The legislation addresses "quality of care" ratings and assures that methodologies used in creating such ratings be adequately disclosed.

The Consortium was given brief updates on plans for data collection/reporting systems which cross agency lines: general and specialty hospital discharge data (KHA and KHPA), Kansas Health Insurance Information System (KID and KHPA), and the Data Analytic Interface, which will link the Medicaid, SCHIP, State Employee Health Benefit/Workers' Compensation Program, KHIS, Licensure data, and Hospital Inpatient Claims. Examples of dashboard features which could be available via the DAI were displayed.