

**Testimony to the Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight**  
**From**  
**Robin J. Kempf, Inspector General**  
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**Overview of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Office of Inspector General**

Good afternoon, Chairman Barnett and Committee members. My name is Robin Kempf. I am the first and newly appointed Inspector General of the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA). I would like to thank the Chair for inviting me to provide the Committee with an overview of the KHPA Office of Inspector General (OIG).

I was appointed to the position of Inspector General by the KHPA Board on September 17, 2007 and approved for confirmation by the Senate Confirmation Oversight Committee on Oct. 16, 2007. I am very excited as I begin my work to establish the first statutorily created Office of Inspector General in Kansas.

As you know, the KHPA OIG was created last session as part of a larger health care reform bill, 2007 Senate Bill (SB) 11. The OIG was created in SB 11 § 15. Frankly, I consider the creation of an independent oversight body with the authority to review and investigate the performance of the KHPA's delivery of health services is a significant step in reforming public health care in the state of Kansas.

The mission of the KHPA OIG is:

- to provide increased accountability and integrity in the Kansas Health Policy Authority's programs and operations;
- to help improve those programs and operations; and
- to identify and deter fraud, waste, abuse and illegal acts in the state Medicaid Program, the State MediKan Program and the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

I and my staff will do so through performance reviews, audits, and investigations.

My goal is to create a professional government evaluation office that is a source of relevant, credible, useful information. To try to reach this goal, I have, thus far, focused on creating the infrastructure for the OIG. I am working on such things as:

- developing policies for audits and investigations to provide guidelines for the work of the OIG
- drafting communications protocols for how the OIG will communicate with the KHPA Board, the KHPA staff, the Kansas Department on Aging and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services
- building a working relationship with law enforcement agencies such as the Attorney General's Office

and the U.S. Attorney General's Office

- recruiting staff with professional qualifications that will assure the OIG can produce accurate and to-the-point audit and investigative reports
- networking with other Offices of Inspector General throughout the country, as well as other auditing organizations such as the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit, the Johnson County Auditor and the U.S. Governmental Accountability Office
- last, but not least, launching an agency-wide risk assessment from which I can build a one-year audit plan that targets the high risk areas of KHPA's programs and operations.

In addition to creating the infrastructure needed for the KHPA OIG, my immediate plans include attending an Institute for Inspectors General in January. After a week of study at the Institute, I will receive my certification as an inspector general, thereby meeting a statutory requirement found in 2007 SB 11 § 15(b)(2)(B). I am also starting to draft an annual report for the Legislature, another requirement found in 2007 SB 11, in which I will describe more fully what I am reporting to you today. In that report, I will also provide some suggestions for cleaning up some of the language in SB 11 § 15 that directly impact the operations of the OIG.

Other goals include:

- developing appropriate metrics to determine whether and to what extent the OIG is truly adding value to KHPA programs and operations by reducing fraud, abuse, waste and illegal acts
- crafting a three to five year strategic plan to target auditable areas that should be looked at within that time frame
- ensuring that my staff are properly trained to understand which criminal laws are relevant to KHPA programs, how they should collect the appropriate amount of creditable evidence, how to properly preserve that evidence and hand it off to appropriate law enforcement agency.

Although it is clear that I have my work cut out for me, I want to let you know that I am very proud to have the opportunity to contribute to the important effort of improving government and health care. I hope that I will be able to report great success from my office in a year's time.

Thanks again for the opportunity to appear before you. I am pleased to stand for any questions the Chair or members of the Committee might have at this time.