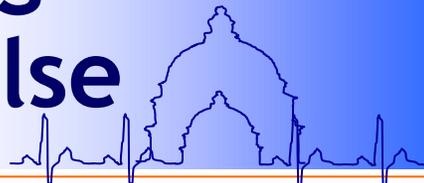


Coordinating health & health care
for a thriving Kansas



Legislative Pulse



1-30-09

KHPA Activity

Agency updates
focused on KHPA
stakeholders.

Save the Dates:

KHPA Advisory Councils:

Provider Council:

Date: Thursday, Feb. 12

Time: 10-noon

Location: Landon State
Office Building Room 9E/F

Consumer Council:

Date: Friday, Feb. 13

Time: 10-noon

Location: Landon State
Office Building Room 9E/F

At-Large Council:

Date: Monday, Feb. 16

Time: 3–5 pm

Location: Curtis State Of-
fice Building, Room 530

Purchaser Council:

Date: Friday, Feb. 20

Time: 10-noon

Location: Landon State
Office Building Room 9E/F

Upcoming Meetings:

Medical Home All Stakeholders:

Date: Tuesday, Feb. 3

Time: 1– 3 pm

Location: Eisenhower
Building, Auditorium

Data Consortium:

Date: Wednesday, Feb. 4

Time: 9–noon

Location: Landon State
Office Building, Room 106

Health Indicators, Quality Report Now Available

How healthy are the people of Kansas overall, and how do they compare with the rest of the nation? Are people in the Kansas Medicaid and HealthWave programs getting the quality of care they really need? The answers to those questions, and many more, can be found in two new reports that are now available on the [KHPA website](#).

The 2009 [Kansas Health Indicators](#) report represents KHPA's fulfillment of its statutory charge to gather, analyze and distribute a wide range of useful, reliable data about the health status of Kansas. This helps the agency, legislature and other public policymakers develop sound, data-driven policies that truly address the health needs of Kansas.

This year's report marks the completion of the first phase of an on-going process by KHPA's Data Consortium, a diverse group of health care professionals, insurers and stakeholders who advise KHPA on data management policy. Additional indicators will be added in future years as the sources of data are validated and made available. For more background on the project, please see the [Data Consortium website](#).

Likewise, the [HealthWave Quality Report](#) represents KHPA's continuing effort to make sure children and families enrolled in the state's managed care insurance program get the quality of care they need, and that the money Kansas taxpayers invest in those programs is spent effectively. The report includes two assessments of HealthWave: one based on actual claims data; and another based on surveys of beneficiaries. Both reports compare the performance of the Kansas program to national benchmarks.

HealthWave is a managed care program that serves both traditional Medicaid and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) populations. KHPA contracts with two managed care organizations to administer the program: UniCare and Children's Mercy Family Health Partners.

Legislative Activities

Things to Watch:

Monday, Feb. 2

Senate Public Health and Welfare
Bariatric Surgery Update
Room 136-N, State-house, 1:30 p.m.

House Social Service Budget Committee
Mental Health Drug Management
Room 783, Docking SOB, 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 3

House Social Service Budget Committee
Review Medicaid costs for aged and disabled
Room 783, Docking SOB, 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 4

House Appropriations Committee
State Employee Health Plan Payment Moratorium
Room 143-N, State-house, 9 a.m.

House Vision 2020 Briefings, demonstrations and discussions on health care delivery, telemedicine and telehealth monitoring.
Room 711, Docking SOB, 1:30 p.m.

New KHPA Advisory Council Members Selected

The KHPA Board has approved the appointment of 64 new members to its four advisory councils. The councils were developed in 2007 to offer input to the KHPA Board regarding the Board's six vision principles, including the agency's health policy agenda. Reflecting the involvement of over 100 Kansans, the advisory councils represent consumers, providers, and purchasers of health care, as well as a variety of health care partners and stakeholders.

More than 60 Advisory Council nominations were generated during the open nomination period which began on Wednesday, Oct. 15, 2008, and ended on Friday, Nov. 14, 2008. After extensive preparation and a review process by KHPA Executive Director Dr. Marci Nielsen and KHPA Board Chair Joe Tilghman, 64 names were submitted to and approved by the KHPA Board at its meeting on January 20.

For a complete list of new KHPA Advisory Council members, please visit our [website](#).

Additional information about the KHPA Advisory Councils, please visit our [website](#).

Clean Indoor Air Supporters Testify

The Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee held two days of hearings this week on a proposed "clean indoor air law" that would ban smoking in most public establishments and workplaces. The bill was introduced by Sen. David Wysong, R-Shawnee Mission.

Passage of a clean indoor air law is among the Kansas Health Policy Authority's top legislative priorities in 2009. Supporters who testified in favor of the bill included the Greater Kansas City and the Manhattan chambers of commerce and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, as well as individual business owners, health care professionals and public health advocacy groups.

The committee also heard testimony from opponents of the bill, including Americans for Prosperity and representatives of the restaurant and hospitality industries.

The committee has not announced when it will vote to advance the bill to the full Senate.

KHPA Pulse is a publication by the KHPA Communications Team distributed weekly during the legislative session. If you have questions or comments, contact the Public Information Officer Peter Hancock at 785/296.5603 or peter.hancock@khpas.gov

