



3-06-09

Legislative Activities

Things to Watch:

Tuesday, March 10 – House Health and Human Services Committee. Hearing on S.B. 25, Statewide Clean Indoor Air Law. Testimony by proponents. Time: 1:30 p.m., Room 784, Docking State Office Bldg.

Tuesday, March 10 – Senate Ways and Means Committee. Subcommittee report on KHPA. Time: 10:30 a.m., Statehouse, Room 545-N.

Wednesday, March 11 – House Health and Human Services Committee. Opponents of S.B. 25 to testify. Time: 1:30 p.m., Room 784, Docking State Office Bldg.

Wednesday, March 11 – Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee. Continued discussion on Health Information Technology and Exchange, and impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Time: 1:30 p.m., Statehouse, Room 136-N.

House Panel to Hear Clean Indoor Air Bill

The House Health and Human Services Committee is scheduled to hear testimony next week on Senate Bill 25, the proposed Statewide Clean Indoor Air Law.

The bill, which passed the Senate on Feb. 17 by a vote of 26-13, would ban smoking in virtually all indoor workplaces and public establishments, including bars and restaurants. It includes a handful of exemptions such as gaming casinos and existing private clubs.

Passage of the bill is among the Kansas Health Policy Authority's top legislative priorities this year. KHPA has developed a [Fact Sheet](#) that details many of the dangers of second-hand smoke, as well as the benefits of passing a statewide Clean Indoor Air Law. The agency has also compiled a list of peer-reviewed [scientific studies](#) that demonstrate how clean indoor air laws have a positive impact on business activity and public health.

The committee will hear from proponents of the bill on Tuesday, March 10. Opponents will testify Wednesday, March 11. The hearings are scheduled for 1:30 p.m. each day in Room 784 of the Docking State Office Building.

First HITECH Meeting Set for March 19

The Kansas Health Policy Authority will sponsor an "all stakeholders" meeting on Thursday, March 19, to begin discussions about the new Kansas HITECH initiative.

"HITECH," which stands for Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health, is one of the provisions in the recently-passed federal stimulus package. It provides approximately \$19 billion nationwide for health information technology and exchange (HIT/HIE) projects, including roughly \$2 billion that will be available to states in the form of competitive grants.

HIT and HIE are critical components of health reform efforts in Kansas and the push to shift Kansas health care toward a "medical home" model of delivery. The ability to store and share medical

Continued: First HITECH Meeting Set for March 19

information in a standardized format will enable primary care providers to coordinate patient care more efficiently. That, in turn, will lead to better quality and cost efficiency in Kansas health care.

The purpose of the all-stakeholders meeting will be to identify priority areas in Kansas for potential HITECH funding. Over the next several weeks, KHPA will be working with stakeholders and health professionals to narrow the list of HITECH initiatives down to specific projects and, eventually, to submit funding applications.

The all stakeholders meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 19 at the Maner Conference Center, Shawnee Room, in the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 17th and Topeka Blvd., in Topeka.

Save the Date

KHPA Board Executive Committee Meeting

Date: March 9

Time: 1:30–3:00

Location: Landon State Office Bldg. Room D

Medical Home All Stakeholders Meeting

Date: March 11

Time: 2 - 4

Location: Landon State Office Bldg. KHPA Conference Room 9E and 9F

KHPA Board Finance and Audit Committee Meetings:

Date: March 13

Time: 1–2:30

Location: EMBARQ
5454 W. 110th St.
Overland Park, KS
66211

KHPA Board Meeting

Date: March 17

Time: 8:30 am–4:30 pm

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Emerald III-V Rooms

HITECH All Stakeholders Meeting

Date: March 19

Time: 10 am–2 pm

Location: Capitol Plaza Hotel, Shawnee Room

Data Consortium Meeting

Date: March 26

Time: 9 am- 12 pm

Location: Landon State Office Bldg, Room 106

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