

Legislative Activities

Things to Watch:

Monday, March 16
Appropriations Committee. Budget Subcommittee report on KHPA. Time: 9 a.m., Room 143-N

Monday, March 16
House Social Services Budget Committee. Discussion on Tele-Health. Time: 3:30 p.m., Room, Docking State Office Bldg.

Tuesday, March 17
Ways and Means. Confirmation Hearings on KHPA Board: Garen Cox, Joe Tilghman. Time: 10:30 a.m., Room 545-N

Tuesday, March 17
House Health and Human Services Committee. Hearing on HB 2275, Drug Screening for public assistance applicants and recipients. Time: 1:30 p.m., Room 784, Docking State Office Bldg.

Tuesday, March 17
House Aging and Long Term Care. Hearing on Telemedicine. Time: 3:30 p.m., Room 784 Docking State Office Bldg

KHPA Board to Meet March 17

A lunch hour discussion with state legislators will be among the highlights of the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, March 17.

Sen. Jim Barnett (R-Emporia), who chairs the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, is scheduled to lead a discussion about state health policy with the Board's new Legislative Caucus. In February, the Board voted to form the caucus in order to have more direct contact and dialogue with lawmakers and legislative committees about health policy issues. At least 17 other lawmakers have indicated they plan to attend the luncheon.

Other topics of interest on the [Board agenda](#) include updates on the impact of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in Kansas, a report by Chief Financial Officer Scott Brunner on the various budget proposals being discussed in the legislature and consideration of KHPA's multi-year strategic plan.

The Board meeting begins at 8:30 a.m. Tuesday in the Emerald Rooms, III-V, at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, 17th and Topeka Blvd., in Topeka.

New KDHE Health Director to Join KHPA Board

Dr. Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD, MPH, has officially started work as the new Health Director and Kansas State Health Officer at the Department of Health and Environment. In that capacity he will join the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board as a non-voting ex-officio member on Tuesday, March 17.

Since 2006, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips was the county health officer in El Dorado County, California. He has also served in the past as the chronic disease director for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, as a medical epidemiologist for the ESR Health Communicable Disease Centre in Porirua, New Zealand, and as an Epidemic Intelligence Service officer for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dr. Eberhart-Phillips earned his undergraduate degree in journalism from Northwestern University and his medical degree from the University of California-San Francisco. He also holds a master's degree in public health from the University of California-Berkeley and a master of divinity degree from the Pacific School of Religion.

Before becoming a physician, Dr. Eberhart-Phillips worked as a news reporter in Pennsylvania and Arizona. He has been the lead or principal investigator on a number of research and surveillance activities. He is the author of two books and numerous medical articles.

Legislative Activities

Things to Watch:

Tuesday, March 17
House Insurance Committee. Hearing SB 49—Insurance coverage, mental health, substance abuse. Time: 3:30 p.m., Room 784 Docking State Office Bldg.

Thursday, March 19
Joint Health Policy Oversight Committee. Discussion and possible action on: Scope of KHPA Review. Time: 12:00 p.m., Room 143-N

HITECH Meeting to Focus on Use of Technology Stimulus Dollars

The Kansas Health Policy Authority will solicit ideas from a wide range of stakeholders next week about how Kansas can use federal stimulus funds for Health Information Technology and Exchange (HIT/HIE). The goal will be to use HIT/HIE to improve care coordination and promote positive health outcomes, consistent with a medical home model of health care.

Federal funding for state technology initiatives is available through the recently-passed stimulus package under a provision known as HITECH - Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health.

“HIT and HIE are crucial in our efforts to promote the medical home model of health care delivery in Kansas,” said Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Executive Director of KHPA. “We want every Kansan to have a medical home that coordinates their health care. Providers will benefit from being able to store and exchange patient health information in a standardized, systematic way. Medical homes and HIT can go hand-in-hand.”

The meeting is set for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Thursday, March 19, in the Shawnee Room of the Maner Conference Center, 17th & Western Ave., in Topeka.

Dr. Helen Connors of the University of Kansas School of Nursing will present an overview of the Health Information Security and Privacy Collaboration (HISPC). Dr. Mike Kennedy, Assistant Dean of Rural Health at the KU Medical Center, will give a presentation about the medical home model for Kansas. And Dr. Dave Cook, Ph.D., Associate Vice Chancellor for Outreach at KUMC, will discuss the role of the E-Health Advisory Council.

Following lunch, participants will break into discussion groups for brainstorming sessions to identify specific HIT/HIE projects and priorities for possible federal funding.

Save the Date

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



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