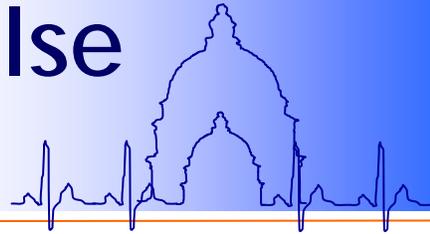


Coordinating health & health care
for a thriving Kansas



5-8-09

Legislative Pulse



Legislative Activities

Tracking the Issues

State Budget: The House voted 64-60 on Thursday to concur with the Senate's final Omnibus Appropriations Bill, S. Sub. for H.B. 2373. In doing so, the House avoided the need for a conference committee and sent the budget bill to Gov. Mark Parkinson.

Clean Indoor Air Law: H.B. 2221, which contains the language of the Senate-passed Clean Indoor Air Law remained in conference committee late Friday afternoon. If no action is taken this session, it remains alive for the 2010 legislative session.

Final Budget Includes SCHIP Expansion Coupled with Operations Cuts

The 2009 legislative session in Kansas appeared to be winding to a close this week after the House agreed to a Senate budget plan that funds expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), while making significant cuts to the Kansas Health Policy Authority's operating budget.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2010, which begins July 1, includes \$1.2 million from the Children's Initiative Fund to expand eligibility for SCHIP from 200 percent to 250 percent of the 2008 federal poverty guidelines. That will raise the income limit to \$44,000 a year for a family of three, and \$53,000 for a family of four.

KHPA estimates the expansion will result in about 4,600 additional children receiving health coverage in 2010, and as many as 9,000 additional children by 2012.

Meanwhile, however, the budget makes substantial cuts to the operating budgets of most state agencies. KHPA's operating budget will be about 17 percent less than the budget lawmakers approved last year for the current fiscal year. That reflects the cumulative total of cuts imposed by the rescission bill for the current year, the preliminary FY 2010 budget that lawmakers approved in March, and the Omnibus budget bill agreed to this week.

KHPA Executive Director Marcia Nielsen said those cuts will likely result in the agency putting less emphasis on activities such as stakeholder outreach, advisory councils and developing new health reform initiatives so resources can be focused instead on managing the core operations of Medicaid and SCHIP.

The KHPA Board plans to discuss the impact of the cuts and the future role of the agency at its annual retreat, which scheduled for June 16-17 in Tecumseh.

NEW: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recently released the 2009 Secondhand Smoke Report. To view the full report visit www.kdheks.gov/tobacco

Agency Activities

**KHPA Board Finance
and Audit Committee
Meeting**
Date: May 11, 2009
Time: 3:00–4:30
Location: KHPA Office

**Pharmacy Drug Utili-
zation Review Board**
Date: May 13, 2009
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Location: EDS/Forbes
Field, 6700 S.W.
Topeka Blvd., Building
283J; Capital/Cedar
Crest Room

KHPA Board Meeting
Date: May 19, 2009
Time: 1:30–4:30
Location: Landon
Bldg. Room 9E–9F,

**KHPA Data Consor-
tium Meeting**
Date: May 28, 2009
Time: 9:00am–noon
Location: TBA

KHPA to Participate in SQII - Phase 2 Initiative

Officials from the Kansas Health Policy Authority will travel to Denver later this month to learn about health reform initiatives in other states and to report on progress that Kansas has made over the last year.

The event is part of the State Quality Improvement Institute (SQII), a project launched in 2008 by AcademyHealth, with funding from the Commonwealth Fund. The purpose of the project is to assist states that have made substantial commitments to improving the quality of health services. Other states taking part in the project include Colorado, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont and Washington.

The meeting in Denver, slated for May 27-28, marks the beginning of Phase 2 of the SQII project. Phase 1 focused on helping states devise concrete action plans for quality improvement in three key areas of health care: delivery and financing systems reform; care coordination/chronic care management/population health improvement; and data integration/transparency.

Phase 2 will focus is intended to build on the relationships established during the first phase and to provide more in-depth technical assistance to participating states.

Vermont to Showcase Health Reform Blueprints

A site visit to Vermont could yield lessons for Kansas in improving the quality of care for people with chronic health conditions.

KHPA will be among six state health agencies attending the site visit in Vermont June 8-10. The tour is sponsored by the State Coverage Initiatives, with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

The Vermont Blueprint for Health is a statewide project that provides the information, tools and support that Vermonters with chronic conditions need to manage their own health - and that doctors need to keep their patients healthy. Click [here](#) for more information about the Vermont Blueprint project.

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@khp.ks.gov