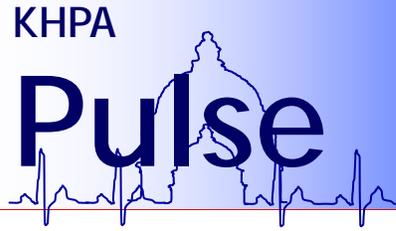


Coordinating health & health care  
for a thriving Kansas



8.29.08

## Agency Activity

Agency updates  
focused on KHPA  
stakeholders.

The Kansas Health Policy Authority has scheduled a 2008 Community Dialogue tour to discuss the issue of health reform with community members and agency partners across the state. The tour is scheduled for a variety of dates beginning on September 15<sup>th</sup> and ending on October 23<sup>rd</sup> and will include all-day visits to 10 Kansas cities.

According to KHPA Executive Director Marcia Nielsen, "In 2007, we started a conversation with Kansans about health care reform. We intend to continue that conversation. People's lives are deeply affected by the state of their health and the health of their loved ones. This year, we hope to share information with communities about the progress of

## KHPA Board Approves Budget Proposals for Next Year

At its monthly meeting on August 19<sup>th</sup>, the Kansas Health Policy Authority Board approved the staff's recommendations for next year's agency budget. The Board also discussed plans for next session relating to health reform and strengthening and sustaining Kansas Medicaid through Medicaid transformation.

The Medicaid transformation process will take place under the leadership of Medicaid Director and KHPA Deputy Director, Dr. Andy Allison. Kansas Medicaid has been growing each year as the federal government shifts costs to the states and as the number of families with private health insurance continues to decline. "Transforming Medicaid is a process - we are developing a roadmap for improving Medicaid one data-driven step at a time; there is no silver bullet", said Allison. Transformation of the program began with information-rich program reviews aimed at improving consumer services and promoting cost-effectiveness. The Medicaid Transformation plan will be completed by the end of the year.

Highlights of the approved budget include a number of proposals to improve cost-effectiveness in the Medicaid program, such as:

- Helping the elderly and disabled navigate the health care system
- Ensuring access to care for families who are currently eligible for Medicaid
- Automating the pharmaceutical approval process for patients

Consistent with the passage of SB 81 last session, the Board approved the request for State General Funds to expand HealthWave (State Childrens' Health Insurance Plan, or S-CHIP) from 200% of the federal poverty level (FPL) (about \$35,200.00 for a family of three) to 225% of the FPL (about \$39,600.00 for a family of three). The expansion of the program, however, is dependent on future increases in federal funding. Reauthorization and expansion of S-CHIP has been supported by Congress, but consistently vetoed by the Bush Administration.

Recognizing the potential for a difficult budget year, the Board also approved a proposal to manage mental health medications for those who receive Medicaid. Under the direction of a yet-to-be-named committee of mental health providers, strategies to better manage these medica-

health reform in Kansas and to hear more about individual experiences with the Kansas health care system.”

Agency representatives will provide an overview of the recent legislative session, offer recommendations for the upcoming legislative session, and respond to community questions and concerns about health care.

The Community Dialogue public meeting schedule appears on the last page of this issue of the *Pulse*.

KHPA Executive Director Dr. Marcia Nielsen will make a presentation the 2008 Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) Fall Conference and Annual Meeting. The event is scheduled for Sept. 17 and 18 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Dr. Nielsen’s presentation will address policy strategies and challenges from the 2008 legislative session. The Kansas Public Health Association is sponsoring the conference with support from the Kansas Health Foundation and the Kansas University School of Medicine.

The Medicaid and HealthWave division of KHPA will have an exhibit booth at the 2008 [Kansas State Fair](#) in

## KHPA Board Approves Budget Proposals for Next Year Cont.

tions will increase patient safety and help to ensure the financial sustainability of the Kansas Medicaid program.

According to KHPA Executive Director Marcia Nielsen, “The KHPA has a great responsibility to the people of Kansas. Our proposed budget reflects our mission to develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that combines the effective purchasing and administration of health care with promotion oriented public health strategies. As evidenced by its actions today, the Board takes its role as the steward of state funds very seriously.”

For more information on the Kansas Health Policy Authority budget, please visit the [KHPA Website](#).

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## KHPA to Launch Permanent Medical Cards on September 1, 2008

The Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) has announced the launch of permanent medical identification cards for Medicaid beneficiaries. Beginning on September 1, 2008, the KHPA will issue permanent plastic medical identification (ID) cards in place of the previously issued monthly paper cards.

As part of the health reform recommendations advanced by the KHPA Board last year to decrease administrative costs in health care, Kansas will be the first state to conform card information to the national standards for advanced ID cards endorsed by the Workgroup for Electronic Data Interchange (WEDI). The design for the new cards was developed through a collaborative stakeholder process over the course of 18 months. The transition is anticipated to benefit both providers and beneficiaries with greater accuracy of information as well as added convenience and security.

The front of the medical identification card will contain the beneficiary’s name, ID number, and date of birth. The back of the card will contain contact information about the medical plan for both providers and beneficiaries.

The back of the cards will also contain a swipeable magnetic stripe that allows access to beneficiary eligibility information through KHPA’s Medicaid Management Information System.

Administrative costs consume approximately 30 percent of the US health care budget, partially due to the burdensome paperwork required in an uncoordinated health care system. Designing and implementing a standardized health insurance card for Medicaid beneficiaries is a significant step towards streamlining our health system in Kansas.

For more information on the Kansas permanent medical ID card, please visit the KHPA website at: <http://www.khpa.ks.gov/medicalcard/beneficiary.html>

Hutchinson, KS. The state fair will be from Sept. 5th – Sept. 14th. The KHPA's booth number is 43 and will be located in the Pride of Kansas building.

Materials at the KHPA booth will consist of applications for services, brochures, table toys, and other outreach resources to help educate Kansans about public health insurance that is currently available to them.

**Did you know?**

Operating Officer and owner of Topeka-based Midway Wholesale, Ken Daniel has been nominated by Kansas Speaker of the House of Representatives Melvin Neufeld to the [KHPA Board](#). Also new to the KHPA Board, as an Ex-Officio member, is Alexa Posny, Commissioner of Education. Posny joined the Board in June 2008.

**Did you know?**

The E-Health Advisory Council will hold its first meeting on September 10, from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. in the KHPA Conference Rooms 9E/9F.

KHPA Pulse is a publication of the KHPA Communications Team distributed monthly during the legislative post-session. If you have questions or comments, contact Communications Director Fran Breyne at 785/296.4731 or [fran.breyne@khpas.org](mailto:fran.breyne@khpas.org)

# Kansas Health Online to Improve Accessibility of Health Information

The new consumer health information Website, [Kansas Health Online](#), has been planning workshops across Kansas to meet with librarians to share information about the new Website.

Not only is Kansas Health Online sharing information with librarians, add staff members are also conducting consumer focus groups to learn about the health concerns and health information needs of Kansans.

To read where Kansas Health Online has been, where they are going and what they have heard from consumers, please visit their [blog](#).

## Kansas Health Online Calendar

Consumer Focus Groups		Workshops	
Coffeyville	7-16-08	Iola	7-16-08 10:00 a.m.
Pittsburg	7-16-08	Leavenworth	8-18-08 11:00 a.m.
Lawrence	8-18-08	Norton	9-17-08 10:00 a.m.
Russell	9-16-08	Stockton	9-17-08 2:00 p.m.
Quinter	9-17-08	Garden City	9-18-08 10:00 a.m.
Goodland	9-17-08	Dodge City	9-19-08 1:00 p.m.
Ulysses	9-18-08	Manhattan	9-24-08 10:30 a.m.
Dodge City	9-18-08	Emporia	9-25-08 12:00 p.m.
Manhattan	9-24-08	Wichita	11-5-08 12:00 p.m.
Belleville	9-24-08	Clearwater	11-6-08 12:00 p.m.
Council Grove	9-25-08		
Topeka	10-7-08		
Wichita	11-5-08		
Kansas City	TBA		
Overland Park	TBA		

# 2008 Community Dialogue Public Hearing Tour Schedule

*The Future of Kansas Health Reform: 2009 and Beyond*

Topics covered will include:  
An overview of the 2008 Legislative Session  
A Preview of the 2009 Legislative Session  
Strategizing for Meeting the Needs of Kansas Health Consumers

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September 15, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Atchison Public Library  
401 Kansas Ave.  
Atchison, KS 66002

September 18, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
KU Medical Center  
Support Services Building  
Cancer Information Services Conference Room  
2100 W. 36th St.  
Kansas City, KS 66160

September 23, 2008  
1:00 p.m.— 2:00 p.m.  
Johnson County Community College  
Carlsen Center, Room 211  
12345 College Blvd.  
Overland Park, KS 66210

September 23, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Johnson County Sunset Drive Office Building  
11811 S. Sunset Drive  
Olathe, KS 66061

September 30, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Emporia Public Library  
110 E. 6th Ave.  
Emporia, KS 66801

October 8, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Hutchinson Public Library  
901 N. Main  
Hutchinson, KS 67501

October 9, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Salina Public Library  
301 W. Elm  
Salina, KS 67401

October 14, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Goodland Public Library  
812 Broadway  
Goodland, KS 67735

October 16, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
Finney County Public Library  
605 E. Walnut St.  
Garden City, KS 67846

October 21, 2008  
3:30 p.m.— 5:00 p.m.  
Memorial Hall  
120 SW 10th St.  
Topeka, KS 66612

October 23, 2008  
5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m.  
KU School of Medicine—Wichita  
Sunflower Room # 2202  
1001 N. Minneapolis St.  
Wichita, KS 67214

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For more information, please contact Emily Nickel  
Kansas Health Policy Authority  
785.296.4584  
[Emily.Nickel@khpa.ks.gov](mailto:Emily.Nickel@khpa.ks.gov)

