



10.1.08



Agency Activity

Agency updates focused on KHPA stakeholders.

KHPA to Receive Initiative for Value-Based Health Benefits Award

The Institute for Health and Productivity Management (IHPM) has selected KHPA to receive the 2008 Initiative for Value-Based Health Benefits (IVB) Award for Public Employer. IHPM's IVB Awards recognize demonstrated leadership and innovation in value health management, including health benefits design. The award will be presented to Doug Farmer, State Employee Health Plan Director at the IHPM's Eighth Annual International Conference in Scottsdale, Arizona on October 15-17.

KHPA Executive Director, Dr. Marcia Nielsen will sit on a panel at the

KHPA Board Approves Health Reform Recommendations

The Kansas Health Policy Authority Board approved the agency's health reform recommendations for the 2009 legislative session at its September 16th meeting. The Board, which met in July and August to lay the groundwork for the upcoming session, prioritized several of the same reforms that were recommended to last year's legislature.

The priorities identified by the [KHPA Board](#) include:

- First, to recommend enacting an indoor statewide smoking ban in public places, allowing Kansans to work together without exposure to deadly secondhand smoke.
- Second, to recommend instituting an increase in the tobacco user fee to decrease tobacco-related illness and death.
- Third, to recommend that tobacco user fee dollars be used to fund programs to provide cost-effective health insurance and promote public health, such as:
 - Expanding Medicaid to include parents earning up to federal poverty level, \$1,467 per month for a family of three.
 - Improving access to affordable health insurance for small businesses and young adults.
 - Implementing a statewide Community Health Record.
 - Expanding early detection for breast, cervical, colorectal and prostate cancer to prevent illness and death from failure to timely detect those diseases; coordinated school health program; wellness for small business.
 - Providing tobacco cessation for Medicaid recipients.

As new KHPA Board Chair Joe Tilghman observed, "If passed by the legislature, the recommendations approved by the KHPA Board will make a substantial positive impact on the health and well-being of Kansans. We encourage Kansans to keep the issue of health reform high on the radar screen of policymakers. It is only through our collective efforts that we will make progress on this important issue."

The Board also confirmed the finalized budget they had approved at the August Board meeting and elected new KHPA Board officers. Joe Tilghman was elected KHPA Board Chair, Susan Page was elected Board Vice-Chair, and Arneatha Martin was elected Board Secretary.

State Employee Health Benefits Plan: Annual Open Enrollment Period begins October 1, 2008 and goes through October 31, 2008. For more information, visit the [SEHBP home page](#).

2008 State of the State Kansas Economic Policy Conference
Thursday, October 30, 2008 in Lawrence, Kansas. The event, entitled "Insuring a Healthy Kansas," will be held at the University of Kansas Memorial Union. The conference is presented and sponsored by the University of Kansas Institute for Policy and Social Research. For more information, please visit www.ipsr.ku.edu

Save the Dates!
Upcoming KHPA Advisory Council meetings

E-Health Council:

Date: Friday, Oct. 24

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Location: Kansas Hospital Association

215 SE 8th Avenue

Consumer Council:

Date: Wednesday, Nov. 12

Time: 3-5 p.m.

Location: Landon State Office Building Room 9E/F

Purchaser Council:

Date: Monday, Nov. 24

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Location: Landon State Office Building Room 9E/F

At-Large Council:

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 2

Time: 10 a.m.—12 p.m.

Location: Curtis State Office Building, Room 530

Provider Council:

Date: Tuesday, Dec. 2

Time: 1-3 p.m.

Location: Landon State Office Building Room 9E/F

Community Dialogue Tour Underway

The Kansas Health Policy Authority has completed four of the 11 community visits that were scheduled for the 2008 Community Dialogue Tour. The tour allows KHPA representatives to discuss pressing health reform issues with community members and agency partners from across the state.

During the community visits, agency representatives 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 and health care policy.

Once the Community Dialogue Tour concludes, KHPA will post meeting summaries on the KHPA Website. These summaries will include: the number of people with whom KHPA visited in each community, the nature of each group visited, and the highlights of group discussions. KHPA representatives are also filming individual consumers telling their health care stories. The agency anticipates posting these interviews on the KHPA website following the completion of the tour schedule.

October 2008

Community Dialogue Public Hearing Tour Schedule

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
October 28, 2008 5:00 p.m.— 6:30 p.m. Pittsburg Public Library 308 N. Walnut St. Pittsburg, KS 66762		

KHPA Pulse is a publication by 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@khpaks.gov



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