



11.6.08

## Agency Activity

Agency updates focused on KHPA stakeholders.

### AHRQ Workshop

The State of Kansas has been selected, along with five other states, to attend the Agency on Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Workshop on Administrative Data and State Policy Questions. The workshop will be held on December 4th and 5th in Rockville, Maryland. The Kansas Contingent will include five staff members from KHPA and a staff member from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE).

### Looking Forward

The KHPA Community Dialogue Tour has come to an end. In the near future there will be posted meeting summaries on the KHPA Website. These summaries will include: the number of people with whom KHPA visited in each

## KU Hospital Clinics, Physicians, Get Boost in Medicaid Funding

The state of Kansas will receive an estimated \$8.8 million in additional Medicaid funding this year to pay for care provided by University of Kansas faculty physicians and associated outpatient clinics in Kansas City and Wichita. The new funding is the result of a change in the state Medicaid plan that was approved recently by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), the agency that oversees federal Medicaid spending. The Kansas Health Policy Authority requested the change in February upon the recommendation of Dr. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of the KU Medical Center and executive dean of the KU School of Medicine, and of officials at the University of Kansas Hospital.

The State Plan Amendment (SPA) recognizes that physicians who teach at the School of Medicine serve a high volume of Medicaid patients, with reimbursement rates below their actual costs, and that due to their teaching and research responsibilities their losses cannot be offset by higher paying patients.

This change does not require any additional state funding, but merely recognizes that certain money already being spent by the state is eligible for federal Medicaid matching funds. In Kansas, the federal government pays approximately 60 percent of the cost of Medicaid services while the state pays the remaining 40 percent.

The SPA will bring new money to the two University of Kansas physician faculty practice groups - the University of Kansas Physicians, Inc. (KUPI) in Kansas City, and the Medical Practice Association (MPA) in Wichita. It will also provide additional funding for the KU Hospital Outpatient Clinic and KU Hospital Outpatient Lab.

Kansas Medicaid Director Dr. Andrew Allison said, "This is one of several steps we have taken to ensure adequate reimbursement for providers who give care to underserved populations in Kansas. It is timely and appropriate for the federal government to recognize our partnership with medical professionals in public universities. They provide for the health needs of some of the poorest Kansans."

For more information about the SPA, please visit the [KHPA website](#).

**NEW!** View minutes from the Small Business Stakeholders meeting and the Medical Home Stakeholders meeting [online](#). You can also view upcoming meetings and agendas for other KHPA initiatives.

community, the nature of each group visited, and the highlights of group discussions. KHPA representatives filmed individual consumers telling their health care stories. These videos are anticipated to be posted on the Website as well.

### Save the Dates!

#### KHPA Advisory Councils:

##### 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

#### Medical Home Stakeholder Meeting:

*Date:* November 19, 2008

*Time:* 1-3 p.m.

*Location:* 4th floor of the Eisenhower State Office Building, Eisenhower Auditorium

#### Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight:

*Date:* November 20 & 21

*Location:* Room 143-N Statehouse

For more information about the please visit the [Kansas Legislative Research Department Website](#).

## KHPA Seeks Nominations for Three Advisory Councils

The Kansas Health Policy Authority is seeking nominations to fill open seats on three of its advisory councils: the Consumer Council; Provider Council; and Purchaser Council.

These councils were established by the KHPA Board to provide guidance in developing health policy for the state and recommendations for the governor and legislature to consider. The goal for each council is to ensure that health care consumers, providers, advocates, insurance carriers and businesses are adequately represented as the KHPA Board develops policies and recommendations.

Since their inception in 2007, a number of seats have become vacant due to turnover and other events. In addition, the Board decided recently to expand the councils by adding two seats to each.

The public nomination process began Wednesday, Oct. 15, and runs through 5 p.m. Friday, Nov. 14, 2008. Anyone interested in nominating someone, or themselves, for a Council membership may do so by sending a letter of nomination and resume to Fran Breyne, Director of Communications, Kansas Health Policy Authority, 900 SW Jackson Ave., Suite, 900, Topeka, KS, 66612. Nominations may also be submitted by email to [Fran.Breyne@khpa.ks.gov](mailto:Fran.Breyne@khpa.ks.gov).

At the cease of the nomination process, KHPA staff and the Board will review applications and make membership recommendations. Because there is no scheduled December 2008 Board meeting, these recommendations will be shared with the board via email during December 2008 for their review and revision. The newly revised Council membership will be approved at the January 2009 Board meeting.

More information on the nominating process and the advisory councils can be found at the [KHPA website](#).

## KHCC Launches Online Dialogue

As part of a multi-state effort to engage leaders and the public in working through alternatives for health care reform, the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition has launched the Voices for Health Care Online Dialogue.

The online dialogue has two phases, designed to blend an innovative learning experience with the opportunity to shape and share your own sense of the best choices for our state. The phases include: Through November 14th—Personal Deliberation, Share your values and vision for health care and November 18-25—Online Dialogue, Work together to shape the future we want. In December all participants will receive a customized “personal participant report.”

Voices for Health Care is a project of Viewpoint Learning, funded by a grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation. For more information, contact Anna Lambertson at [anna@kshealthconsumer.com](mailto:anna@kshealthconsumer.com), 785-232-9997.

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@khpa.ks.gov](mailto:fran.breyne@khpa.ks.gov)

