

KHPA Consumer Advisory Council Meeting  
March 30, 2007, Topeka KS  
Minutes

**KHPA Consumer Advisory Council Members Present:**

- Peggy Johnson, Chair
- Jane Adams
- Theola Cooper
- Corrie Edwards
- Shannon Jones
- Bruce Linhos – via teleconference
- Rocky Nichols
- Alvin Penner
- Teresa Schwab
- Nancy Soeken – via teleconference
- Dinell Stuckey
- Maury Thompson
- David Wilson

**KHPA Consumer Advisory Council Members Not Available for Initial Meeting:**

- Deanne Bacco
- Dr. Timothy Davis

**KHPA Staff Participants:**

- Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen, Executive Director
- Dr. Andrew Allison, Deputy Director
- Janis DeBoer, Advisory Council Manager

**Welcome by Janis DeBoer, Advisory Council Manager**

Ms. DeBoer opened the meeting, welcomed members, the public, and KHPA staff. Chair Johnson, Dr. Nielsen and Dr. Allison introduced themselves. Chair Johnson asked Advisory Council members to introduce themselves.

**Presentation by Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen, Executive Director – Overview of KHPA Board and History**

Dr. Nielsen presented a power point slide show titled “Health System Reform in Kansas: Context, Challenges and Capacity.” Kansas is not alone with regard to rising rates of uninsured, insurance affordability and getting what we purchase. To address these challenges, various options are being tried in states including: premium assistance programs, new insurance products, tax credits, children’s health coverage, and access to community health centers. Specific to Kansas, the Kansas Health Policy Authority was created by the Kansas Legislature in 2005 to (1) develop and maintain a coordinated health policy agenda that (2) combine effective purchasing and administration of health care (3) with health promotion oriented public health strategies (4) which is driven by health data.

Agency Website: [www.khpa.ks.gov](http://www.khpa.ks.gov)

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Dr. Nielsen's presentation also outlined the governing structure of the KHPA. The Legislature created a nine member Board to govern health policy, along with seven non-voting, *ex officio* members. Dr. Nielsen, as Executive Director, reports directly to the KHPA Board and also presents testimony to the legislative Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight.

Dr. Nielsen closed her presentation with an overview of the KHPA vision principles, as follows: Access to Care; Quality and Efficiency; Affordable and Sustainable Health Care; Health and Wellness; Responsible Stewardship; Education and Engagement of the Public.

There was discussion and questions by the group regarding current legislative activity which is noted below.

#### **Presentation by Dr. Marcia J. Nielsen – Health for All Kansans Steering Committee**

Dr. Nielsen reviewed the 2007 Short Term and Long Term Consensus Package handout. The Consensus Package captures the work of the Health for All Kansans Steering Committee. The Health for All Kansans Steering Committee was established at the request of the Governor and is comprised of four legislators, the Governor's Chief of Staff, six KHPA board members, KHPA's Executive Director, two members-at-large, and KHPA staff. The Committee began their work in February and in March reached consensus on a short term legislative package for adoption this session as well as enabling legislation that directs the KHPA to develop long term health reform options for consideration by the 2008 legislature and implementation in 2009 and 2010.

The 2007 short term legislative package includes six mutually exclusive options. There was discussion on the premium assistance for low-income families option. This option creates a phased-in premium assistance program in order to help low income uninsured families in Kansas to purchase private health insurance, either through their employer or through state procured health insurance plans.

For long term health reform, the Steering Committee endorsed the Substitute for Senate Bill 309 proposal, which was authored by Senator Jim Barnett and passed the Senate 40 to 0. Dr. Nielsen provided an overview of activity by the House and House Substitute for Senate Bill 11. House Substitute for Senate Bill 11 included sweeping Medicaid reform language along with health reform options (including Substitute for Senate Bill 309 language) and other directives.

#### **Role of Advisory Councils – Peggy Johnson, Chair of Consumer Advisory Council**

Chair Johnson reviewed the role of the advisory councils which is to assist the KHPA Board and Steering Committee with the development of long term health reform options. An example of a Health Reform Option grid and Framework for Economic Impact Analysis was included in the packet as a tool for the advisory councils to begin discussion of long term health reform options.

Dr. Nielsen referred council members to Substitute for Senate Bill 309 which requires an analysis of a Kansas Health Care Insurance Connector model alongside other pertinent initiatives and policies designed to increase access to affordable health insurance and to otherwise promote health. Dr. Nielsen explained how the various options will be reviewed, discussed, and perspectives shared among the three Advisory Councils (Purchaser, Consumer, and Provider). All health policy options developed by the Councils will include an independent economic analysis in order to help legislators understand (a) the costs of any proposals and (b) who will gain access to health insurance as a result of the policy option.

Dr. Nielsen and Dr. Allison also referred to a special report from the United Hospital Fund and the Commonwealth Fund titled "A Blueprint for Universal Health Insurance Coverage in New York."

**Action** – Members asked for the website link to the Blueprint and other pertinent research materials and articles which are attached. Members also asked for specific information about current KHPA programs, including Medicaid, SCHIP, and the State Employee Health Plan which is attached.

The timeline was reviewed by Chair Johnson and dates for future meetings were established. The Advisory Councils will meet monthly for the next six months. Dates for the Consumer Advisory Council meetings are as follows: May 4, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 7, and October 5 (tentative).

Dates of the At-large Council meetings are tentatively scheduled for May 8 and September 14. Chair Johnson recommended that Advisory Council members attend the At-large Council town hall meetings, if available. In addition, she requested one of the At-large Council meetings be held in Wichita.

**Note: The date of the initial At-large meeting has changed from May 1 to May 8.**

The Chairs of each Council will provide updates to the KHPA Board and Steering Committee throughout the summer and fall and by November 1, 2007, the KHPA shall deliver to the Governor and Legislative leadership health care finance reform options in accordance with Substitute for Senate Bill 309.

### **Adjournment**

Next Meeting: Friday, May 4 – 10:00 – 12:00 at the Eisenhower Building, 7<sup>th</sup> & Harrison, 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room.