



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE



January 27, 2005

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KPHA Legislative Update for the Week of January 24



Not much has happened this week in the legislature. Over 50 bills have been introduced on "Health" and they are being reviewed by the KPHA Legislative Committee. Many bills are introduced, but the important news will be if they are heard in Committees and then get to both Chamber's floors. We will be tracking the Governor's HealthyKansas bills, the Senate Republican Health Proposal, and possibly a House Republican Proposal. We can count on "Health" being one of the main topics in the rotunda this year.

Here are a few bills that will most likely get hearings:

HB 2001 - This bill would establish the Kansas Health Care Commission, which is to provide comprehensive statewide health insurance coverage for all residents of the state beginning January 1, 2006. The commission would be governed by a board of governors who would perform the duties outlined in Section 4 of the bill. There shall be two parts of coverage. Part I shall provide basic health care services to every resident in the state. Part 2 shall be optional and may be purchased from the plan or from private insurers. A copayment schedule, based on income, marital status, and number of dependants, is outlined in Section 4. To generate revenue, taxes would be collected as defined in Sections 16 and 17.

ERO 33 - Executive Reorganization Order No. 33 would establish the Division of Health Policy and Finance within the Kansas Department of Administration, effective July 1, 2005. The director of this division would be appointed by the Governor and shall have the following powers and duties: (1) coordinating health care planning, administration, and purchasing and analysis of health care data for the state of Kansas with respect to certain programs administered by the state of Kansas; and developing, implementing, and administering programs that provide medical assistance, health insurance programs, or waivers granted for persons who are needy, uninsured, or both and that are financed by federal funds, state funds, or both.

On July 1, 2005, the Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) would be renamed to the Department of Health and Human Services. All the powers, duties, and functions of the Secretary of SRS with regard to the above named programs would be transferred to the director of the Division of Health Policy and Finance.

SCR 1601 - This resolution is a proposition to amend Article 15 of the Constitution of the State of Kansas by redefining marriage and providing an explanatory statement. If the resolution is passed by two-thirds of the members elected (or appointed) and qualified to the House and Senate, the proposition and explanatory statement would be added to the general election ballot in April 2005. [Back to top](#)

KPHA and Other "Health Partners" to Hold a Welcome Reception for Dr. Rodenburg, KDHE's New Health Director in March

The KPHA Board voted last Friday to host a welcoming reception in March for Dr. Howard Rodenburg, the new KDHE Health Director. Plans are underway to partner with KHF, KHI, KALHD, KSNA, KUMC, KUSM-WALD, Washburn School of Nursing, and others, to hold the reception here in Topeka. It will be your opportunity to meet him one on one, so please plan to attend! We'll let you know more as plans are finalized!

Watch for more information on KPHA and other "health partners" holding a welcome reception for Dr. Rodenburg. Please plan to attend and meet Dr. Rodenburg, personally! [Back to top](#)

Director Needed for the University of Nebraska Medical Center for Biosecurity



The Mid-America Alliance based at the University of Nebraska Medical Center's Center for Biosecurity is seeking a Director. The position will direct the activities of the alliance which seeks to develop mutual aid agreements between 10 midwest states. A complete copy of the job announcement is available on the KRHIS [website](#) or you may download the [Job Announcement](#) pdf file. [Back to top](#)

One Electronic Health Record Forum You Don't Want To Miss!



Physicians, nurses, medical managers and physician office staff are invited to attend a continuing professional education event April 30, 2005.

The Greater Kansas City Forum on Electronic Health Records, sponsored by the Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium, Metropolitan Medical Society in partnership with the Greater Kansas Medical Managers, Primaris, Kansas Foundation for Health Care, and others, is scheduled from 8 am - 5:00 pm April 30, 2005, at the Fairmont Hotel on the Country Club Plaza in Kansas City, Missouri. The Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium is a collaborative effort across health plans, medical schools, medical societies, local physicians, community, and quality improvement organizations addressing quality issues in health care.

The Greater Kansas City Forum on Electronic Health Records will provide opportunities for participants to better understand the future of ambulatory care practice and healthcare information technology at the regional, state and national levels, and discuss the business case for implementing an EHR in provider offices.

The EHR Forum will also present specific case examples and strategies for selecting, purchasing, financing, implementing and maintaining clinical applications in the small to medium-size physician practice environment.

Among other speakers, the EHR Forum will feature presentations by Bruce Bagley, MD, medical director of quality improvement for the American Academy of Family Physicians, John Bachman, MD, Sanders Professor of Family Medicine at the Mayo Clinic, and Steve Waldren, MD, associate director of the AAFP Center for Healthcare Informatics.

The EHR Forum will offer concurrent sessions featuring a remote demonstration of the implementation of an electronic health record, an interdisciplinary practitioner round table, details about information technology functionality, and a discussion of how to individualize an EHR for a particular practice. In addition, a day-long vendor fair and demonstration will facilitate participant dialogue with vendors, and enable participants to learn about various healthcare information technology systems and software.

The program is accredited for Continuing Medical Education and Continuing Nursing Education. All attendees will receive a certificate of attendance. Continuing education credits will be awarded, and the modest registration fee includes a complete syllabus, refreshments, luncheon, and reception. Early bird registrations are available and on-site registration will be available as well. To register and learn more about the upcoming Forum, visit the University of Kansas Continuing Education [website](#).

For more information, contact the University of Kansas, Continuing Education, Registrations, at 785-864-5823 or toll-free 877-404-5823. [Back to top](#)

News from SAMHSA on Suicide Prevention



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced the launch of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, 1-800-273-TALK (1-800-273-8255). The national hotline is part of the National Suicide Prevention Initiative (NSPI)-a collaborative effort led by SAMHSA that incorporates the best practices and research findings in suicide prevention and intervention with the goal of reducing the incidence of suicide nationwide. In addition to the national hotline, a new website is being launched www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org.

In the United States, suicide currently is the 11th leading cause of death among all age groups, accounting for approximately 30,000 deaths annually. More than 100 crisis centers in 39 states currently participate in the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is funded by a 3-year, \$6.6 million grant from SAMHSA's Center for Mental Health Services. The National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is a network of local crisis centers in communities across the country. The crisis centers are committed to suicide prevention. Callers to the hotline will receive suicide prevention counseling from trained staff at the closest certified crisis center in the network. A nationwide public education campaign to raise awareness about suicide and the national hotline is under development.

Our country will be served by two suicide telephone support networks. The two networks include virtually the same centers, all certified or accredited as meeting national standards in suicide prevention.

The National Hopeline Network, 1/800/SUICIDE will continue as a privately funded network under the administration of the Kristin Brooks Hope Center and the National Mental Health Association. It was formerly funded by a three year SAMHSA grant.

SAMHSA awarded the second three years of funding for a suicide prevention network to a different administrator, lead by the Mental Health Association of New York City. The new network is called the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and has the number 1/800/273-TALK.

Both networks are available free of charge 24/7 for people of all ages. [Back to top](#)

News from KFMC



We are excited to announce the 10th Annual Kansas Health Quality Forum "Building on Successes to Redesign the Future." This year's Forum, scheduled for April 1, 2005, at the Wichita Marriott, features some powerful speakers including Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius,

Frank Christopher, executive producer of the PBS documentary series "Remaking American Medicine," Bill Thomas of The Eden Alternative, and more!

We hope you will be able to join us for this special occasion!

For a schedule of events and registration form [click here](#). Feel free to pass it along to your members or others who may be interested.

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