



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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Legislative Update



Medicaid Fraud Bill

Compromise legislation creating the crime of obstruction of a Medicaid fraud investigation and expanding the state's forfeiture law to cover Medicaid fraud was sent to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. The bill drafted by a House-Senate conference committee went to the governor last Monday after the House approved it 121-0. Last week, the Senate approved it 40-0. Under the legislation, obstruction would include falsifying, concealing or covering up a

material fact or making a false statement. It also expands the forfeiture law to include property derived from any proceeds from any Medicaid fraud. Such forfeitures would go first to the state Medicaid Fraud Reimbursement Fund. The bill allows the attorney general's office to file civil lawsuits to recover Medicaid money improperly paid. Currently, only criminal charges can be filed. Violators would be subject to civil penalties of up to \$10,000 and could pay triple damages when fraud is proven. The damages would be the state's loss of money. Language creating an inspector general in the attorney general's office to oversee, audit and investigate Medicaid is included in the final budget bill being considered by negotiators from the two chambers. The number of Medicaid recipients averages around 215,000 per month and is expected to be as many as 300,000 over the next year. The greatest increase in numbers are children, but the biggest costs are for the aged and disabled.

Direct Shipments of Wine to Consumers

The state's liquor wholesalers are pushing back against a legislative proposal that could alter the state's alcohol distribution system. The Kansas Legislature is presently weighing in a conference committee as a way of allowing the state's farm wineries to ship their wares in- and out-of-state. Those shipments are presently prohibited. Each change also would allow customers to purchase wines not commercially available in the state. Wholesalers said a poll evidenced that residents want to keep the state's distribution system intact, in part, because of its safety. Under state law, alcohol shipments must pass through distributors and wholesalers or retailers, before they reach customers or businesses. Many feel the state's present system meshes better with the state's values because it's better at keeping liquor out of the hands of minors. Face-to-face identification checks would more be thorough at retailers than they would if wines were shipped to people's doorsteps. Rep. Joe McLeland, R-Wichita, is the lead negotiator on a House panel that is trying to work out the details on wine legislation affecting shipments, as well as beer and wine sales at the Kansas State Fair. Sen. Pete Brungardt, R-Salina, is the lead negotiator for the Senate, which voted to route shipments through retailers.

Small Business Health Plan Stalls

House Democrats hit a brick wall this year in their bid to provide the state's smallest businesses with more affordable health coverage. Their proposal to let businesses with 30 or fewer employees enroll in the state employee health benefit program gained little attention from Republican leaders at committee level this session. In recent days, Democrats have made last-ditch attempts to amend it onto another bill on the House floor. But majority Republicans suggested they should cool their heels until a new state board offers its recommendations on health policy and the uninsured. That board, the Kansas Health Policy Authority, is made up of Kansas professionals from a variety of business and medical fields. It isn't expected to have its first report to legislators for several months. "The authority goes into effect July 1, and the Legislature said we want these knowledgeable people from across the state to volunteer their time and come back with recommendations to the Legislature," said House budget Vice Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita. "I think we should give them an opportunity to do that". "In public policy, particularly health care, we can have the most sophisticated data and we still wind up doing trial and error once in a while in public policy. And this is why we wanted to try it as a pilot project." Dennis McKinney, Minority Leader, said the state employee insurance program offers a high-deductible plan with a health savings account, which could make catastrophic coverage more affordable. "We thought a lot of small businesses might choose that."

Abortion Measure Tacked onto Schools Bill; Sex Ed Bill Stalled

A proposal requiring sex education courses to discuss abortion methods and fetal development became part of a school finance bill last Tuesday, but a bill to keep school districts from canceling sex ed classes remained stuck in committee. The House voted 74-49 to add the abortion-related amendment to the school finance bill. Teachers would have to show photos or drawings of fetuses, discuss the medical risks associated with abortion procedures and provide information about whether the fetus feels pain. Abortion opponents have pushed for such a provision, saying girls should know the risks involved in abortion. They're also suspicious of a bill requiring school districts to offer sex education courses that not only

promote abstinence but also give students information about AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and how to avoid them. The measure is backed by parents, teachers and public health advocates, but supporters also include the American Civil Liberties Union and Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri. The Senate passed the bill in February, but the House Federal and State Affairs Committee hasn't voted on it. On Tuesday, the House voted 73-48 against pulling the measure out of committee. Rep. Peggy Mast, R-Emporia, said a concern about teenagers' health drove her to propose the abortion-related measure. "Young women who go in for an abortion procedure aren't really educated as far as the development of their baby," she said. "They're going to find out eventually, somehow, and then they're going to be traumatized." The vote on the other bill, known as "Abstinence Plus," came as the State Board of Education is considering a proposal to require sex education to include nine consecutive weeks of abstinence-only instruction. For almost two decades, the board required comprehensive sex education classes. But as it revised rules for accrediting schools, it allowed the regulation to lapse. Chairman John Edmonds said he isn't planning to have the committee vote on the measure. "I don't want to get into the business of making education policy. We've got a State Board of Education," said Edmonds, R-Great Bend. "I'm willing to let them do their work."

TABOR Bill

The House debated and sent back to committee the so-called Taxpayer Bill Of Rights (TABOR)-Lite proposal that would require a 2/3 vote of the Legislature to raise taxes. It would have put the provision before voters in November, but it's a little weaker than traditional TABOR with requirements for public votes on tax increases. The bill got off to a tough start when Rep. John Edmonds, R-Great Bend, got on a quick amendment that would require a 2/3 vote on virtually all legislation that would cause a change in state statutes-essentially mocking the TABOR deal and probably bringing most legislation to a deadlock in Kansas. Chances are good that Americans for Prosperity, the chief backer of TABOR, got a usable vote from the fracas, the final 63-57 vote to return the resolution to the House Appropriations Committee, essentially killing further consideration of the measure for the year. [Back to top](#)

CDC Investigates Kansas Mumps Cases



With over 340 mumps cases now reported in Kansas, state health officials invited the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to join the investigation of the outbreak. The Kansas cases are part of an outbreak occurring in at least nine Midwestern states. The outbreak was identified first in Iowa, where more than 1,200 cases have been reported.

CDC representatives arrived in Topeka and Lawrence last Monday. They will look at why mumps is occurring among vaccinated people, why the outbreak is concentrated in the Midwest and why it is occurring now. Mumps cases have been reported in 39 Kansas counties, including Johnson, Wyandotte and Leavenworth. Nearly half the cases, 162, have been in Douglas County, most of them on the University of Kansas campus. To minimize the spread of the outbreak, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment recommends that people who contract mumps stay home for up to nine days after symptoms occur. The agency also advises people to check their vaccination history to make sure they have received the recommended two doses of measles, mumps and rubella vaccine. [Back to top](#)

Unicare web seminar on Medicaid Managed Care in Kansas



UniCare Health Plan of Kansas, Inc. invites KPHA members and others to participate in a FREE Web Seminar to discuss upcoming changes to the HealthWave programs and learn about UniCare's experience in Medicaid managed care. The event will take place May 15, 2006 from Noon to 1 p.m. Questions to be answered will include:

- What changes have been announced for the HealthWave programs?
- Who are UniCare and WellPoint State Sponsored Business?
- How does UniCare serve Medicaid providers and members?
- How can you join UniCare's team of providers?

Click [here](#) for the brochure and registration. Register by May 12 to participate. Email your registration to Brian.Starkey@wellpoint.com. [Back to top](#)

Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute 4th Cycle



The Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute is seeking applicants for its fourth training cycle, 2006-2007. The year-long cycle will begin with an orientation session following the Kansas Public Health Association conference in Topeka in September.

The KPHLI provides competency-based leadership training to public health professionals from around the state. Through four quarterly training sessions, scholars hear renowned speakers and complete directed readings and reflective writings in consultation with a mentor. The training cycle culminates in the development and presentation of an applied public health capstone project.

Potential scholars must complete an application form, a biosketch/statement of interest, and provide a letter of professional recommendation. Click [here](#) for the full application instructions or on the KPHLI website <http://www.waldcenter.org/kphli/scholars.html#CycleIV>).

For further information about the KPHLI application process, contact KPHLI Coordinator Theresa St. Romain at tstromain@kumc.edu. Applications should be completed and submitted to Dr. Suzanne Hawley, KPHLI Program Director, no later than August 11. [Back to top](#)

KPHA Annual Conference Fast Approaching



“Speaking a Common Language: The New Voice of Public Health” September 26-28, 2006

Mark your calendars and plan to attend the annual conference this fall! Conference Chair, Ed Kalas, and Session Chair Cyndi Treaster are excited about the results of the Call for Presentations. There will be over 20 terrific breakout sessions to give you the opportunity to learn about all the activities within public health that is uniting and working to produce the same messages throughout all of our health networks in Kansas. With the Kansas Health Foundation grants that KPHA and KALHD received, this effort began from a vision and is now becoming a reality, and is why KPHA chose the theme "**Speaking a Common Language: The New Voice of Public Health.**"

It's time to nominate special people for the public health awards presented at the KPHA Annual Award Ceremony at the Fall Conference. Just click [here](#) to download the form, fill it out, and return to the KPHA office! Nominations must be received by Friday, July 15, 2006. The 2006 Samuel Crumbine Award winner will receive in addition to the award, a \$2,000 scholarship to attend any public health conference or meeting, continuing education courses, and public health classes at a college or university.

This is also the time for the "**Call for Submissions/Poster/Paper Abstracts and Materials Contest**" Why present your work at Kansas Public Health Conference?

Here are the reasons:

Best student poster entry will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, It will add to your resume or vita as a great experience, Get recognition and awards, Share ideas with interested colleagues, Participate in leadership, Become active in your association. The deadline for submission is July 15, 2006. Click [here](#) for forms.

Best overall practitioner, submission will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, Be a part of enhancing the health of Kansans, Best overall practitioner submission will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, Be a part of enhancing the health of Kansans! The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2006. Click [here](#) for the forms.

One of the conference keynote speakers will be: Patricia (Pat) Mail, MPH, PhD, CHES--APHA President. She is currently a consultant on Native American substance use issues, and served most recently as a research scientist/co-principal investigator with the University of Washington's Addiction Behaviors Research Center. She is also an alternate to the U.S. Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure Military Health Benefit Working Group.

She is an active member of the Washington State Public Health Association, the Society for Public Health Education, the Society for Applied Anthropology, the American Academy of Health Behavior, the Research

Society on Alcoholism and the Association of Military Surgeons of the U.S. She holds life membership in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Anthropological Association, the National Association for the Uniformed Services, the Society for Medical Anthropology and the American Association of Health Education. Pat received her MPH from Yale University, a Master of Science from Smith College, a Master of Arts from the University of Arizona, and her PhD from the University of Maryland at College Park. She has several publications discussing Indians and alcohol. She is a Certified Health Education Specialist and a Fellow of the Society for Applied Anthropology.

Due to evaluations from previous conferences there will not be a pre-event dinner but the reception and dinner on the first night of the conference will be very special. It will be held in the lobby of the Center for Historical Research at the Kansas History Museum with free passes to the museum to view all the Dr. Samuel Crumbine artifacts and documents in the possession of the museum. We are working on a very special speaker for the dinner, and Conference Chair Ed Kalas, is working on some very special music. You won't want to miss this evening.

At the conference we will elect new officers. If you are interested in nominating someone or serving yourself click [here](#) for the nominating form! The KPHA Board is always on the look for up and coming new leaders. The Presidency term is only for a year and provides many opportunities for advancing one's career, evidenced by prior KPHA Presidents and their positions! But, you have to have served on the Board according to the bylaws "All officers shall either be current KPHA Board members or have been on the KPHA Board of Directors in the past 10 years." The Board of Directors makeup is: President, President-Elect, Treasurer, Secretary, APHA affiliate representative, and three Directors at Large, and the full KPHA Board includes Section Chairs who will also be chosen at the fall conference. So, if you have any interest in getting more involved in Public Health, you will have a great opportunity in September. Just let Janice McCoy, our current President, or any current Board member at http://www.kpha.us/content/board_staff.htm know of your interest and you will be guided as to how to get involved.

Again, "**Speaking a Common Language: The New Voice of Public Health**" takes place September 26-28, 2006, Capitol Plaza, Topeka, Kansas. Registration materials will be available soon, (in June) but mark it down now, on your calendars! [Back to top](#)

National Board of Public Health Examiners Announce Selection of Inaugural Board and Officers

The National Board of Public Health Examiners (NBPHE) announces the selection of its inaugural Board and officers. The organization dedicated to credentialing public health graduates is officially launched; this is a landmark event for public health, the only health profession without a credential. The Board includes organizational members appointed by the American Public Health Association (APHA), the Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH), the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), the Association of Teachers of Preventive Medicine (ATPM) and the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), as well as at-large members.

Elected officers are Dr. Bernard Goldstein, Dean Emeritus of the University of Pittsburgh Graduate School of Public Health, chair; Dr. Donna Petersen, dean of the University of South Florida College of Public Health, chair-elect; and Dr. Cheryl Heaton, President and CEO of the American Legacy Foundation, secretary-treasurer. The Executive Committee also includes Dr. Patricia Buffler, Dean Emerita of the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, chair of the Nominations Committee and Dr.

Terry Dwelle, North Dakota State Health Officer, chair Testing Committee.

Organizational board members selected are Dr. David Gregorio, director University of Connecticut Graduate Program in Public Health; Dr. Sally Guttmacher, New York University MPH Program; Dr. Robert Harmon, President of the Harmon Health Group; Dr. Diane Matuszak, director of the Community Health Administration, Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene; Dr. Alan Melnick, Health Officer for Oregon's Clackamas County Public Health Division and faculty at Oregon Health & Science University; Dr. Andrew Sorensen, President of the University of South Carolina; and Dr. Walter Tsou, past-President of APHA and public health consultant.

NBPHE's by-laws stipulate that twelve members of the board will represent the organizations listed above. These representative board members, selected in December 2005, convened in Washington, DC March 31 through April 2, 2006 and elected seven additional at-large board members: Dr. Jack Barnette, Senior Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Public Health; Dr. Mindy Fullilove (Mailman School of Public Health) and Dr. Kristine Gebbie (School of Nursing) , both at Columbia University; Dr. Fernando Guerra, Director of Health, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District; Dr. Camara Jones, Research Director on Social Determinants of Health, CDC; Dr. Edward Mamar, Director, MPH Program, San Jose State University; and Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of the Louisville Metro Health Department and faculty at the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information Sciences.

The NBPHE will develop a voluntary credentialing exam for graduates who earn masters or doctoral degrees from the 37 public health schools and 65 programs accredited by the Council on Education of Public Health (CEPH)-currently over 8,000 per year. This public health credential will ensure that graduates have mastered competencies in the 5 core public health disciplines: biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences.

The NBPHE was launched to assure graduates from CEPH-accredited schools and programs of public health have mastered required competencies and to address the need for greater recognition of public health as a health profession. Employers hiring credentialed graduates will be assured that these candidates have a fundamental breadth and depth of public health knowledge. Graduates achieving the credential will be able to more easily transfer their experience from state to state. Dr. Charles Mahan, President of the National Board of Public Health Examiners, says, "It is my prediction that having a national credential for our graduates will have a similar impact the public school teachers have seen when they started their exam some 15 years ago: better career ladders, better salaries, better retention and increased portability moving around the country."

The Board has met with test development companies to select a vendor. The first exam is scheduled for 2008. Information will be available on the organization's website at <http://www.nbphe.org>, which will be launched soon. For more information, contact Gillian Silver, Board Administrator, at 202-296-1099, ext. 132, or gsilver@asph.org.

Contact: Gillian B. Silver, MPH, Board Administrator, National Board of Public Health Examiners, c/o the Association of Schools of Public Health, 1101 15th Street, NW, Suite 910, Washington, DC 20005, Tel: 202-296-1099, ext. 132, Email: gsilver@asph.org

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The Citizens Health Care Working Group Update



If you remember, in January, KPHA helped to host the first national meeting with this group in Kansas City. They since have held numerous meetings around the country. Here is the latest information they sent for publication:

Since it is both "Health Care Week" and "Cover the Uninsured Week," we have seen great interest in the online health care poll. Many employers and community groups are sending the link out to their list serves to give people an easy way to participate. If you haven't encouraged your friends and networks to take the online poll, send them this link and ask them to take a few minutes to be part of a national effort to find some solutions. (http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/speak_out/hcpoll.php)

Get More Involved

- Tell your members, employees, constituents, and networks about this opportunity to do something about health care
- Email the link to the online Health Care Poll to your list-serves (http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/speak_out/hcpoll.php)
- Distribute the Health Care Poll at your meetings and mail them back to us (<http://www.citizenshealthcare.gov/community/healthcarepoll.pdf>) [Back to top](#)

Public Health Statutes and Regulations Book Popular!

KPHA has received numerous orders for the book that has been recently updated from 2003 and formatted to less pages, including orders from non-KPHA members!! We are trying to figure out how to provide an electronic format to those who purchased the book so that it would be possible to do an electronic search. Even though it is already copyrighted we have to figure out how to get it in a layout that cannot be shared with others who have not purchased the book. This is one of the revenue producers that KPHA chose to do many years ago, and has been and still remains a popular book in public health workforce offices across the state. You can order your hard copy that includes both a Table of Contents and an Index for easy retrieval of the law or regulation you are looking for. Click [here](#) for the order form. [Back to top](#)

KDOA Asks KPHA to Participate in Medicare/Medicaid Efforts

The Kansas Senior Medicare Patrol of the Kansas Department on Aging is embarking on a new statewide project to insure that all important information about Medicare fraud abuse and health care error reaches every Medicare and Medicaid beneficiary within the State of Kansas. KDOA is developing community based information, education and training campaign, to distribute information materials to consumers and local organizations, to build upon existing network of partners to recruit and train volunteers, and to serve

as a point of entry to report Medicare and Medicaid fraud, abuse and health care error. Identity theft, fake insurance policies, false claims, and scams are designed to steal money from those who need it the most, seniors, disabled, and those with limited resources. Fraud can touch anyone at any time with disastrous results. KDOA bring together a core group to discuss the make-up of this partnership and its goals and responsibilities. The first meeting is on Tuesday, May 16, at 10:00 AM. at the Kansas Department on Aging. Let me know at director@kpha.us if you are interested in attending this meeting. [Back to top](#)

KPHA Preparedness Section April 2006 Newsletter

Section Sharing Forum

Alice Weingartner and Gloria Vermie, Co-Chairs of the KPHA Emergency Preparedness Section have produced another great newsletter that includes information on ICE, Mumps, and Pandemic Bird Flu. Click [here](#) for the Newsletter. Click [here](#) for the "WHO checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning." Click [here](#) for the news release on Spotlight Interagency Readiness Plans. [Back to top](#)



Visit our site at <http://ks.train.org>.



Visit our site at <http://phpartners.org/>.

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