



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

Ph: 233-3103
Fax: 233-3439
Email: director@kpha.us
<http://www.kpha.us>

March 20, 2007

Questions? director@kpha.us

Table of Contents

Legislative Update

AHA Member Presents on Marriage in Topeka

KPHA Member, Dr. Angela Paschal Honored!

Information from Dr. Kim Richter

National Public Health Week Coming Soon!

Legislative Update

AHA-KS continues to meet each Friday to discuss legislation. Click [here](#) for the latest activity.

Click [here](#) for the notes from the meeting.

GOVERNOR WEIGHS IN ON KU MED-ST LUKES AFFILIATION PLANS

Yesterday Gov. Sebelius entered the fray over the affiliation proposal between Kansas University Medical Center and St. Luke's Hospital, saying legislators should refrain from interfering. GOP members of the House Appropriations Committee passed a provision that would threaten to pull KUMC's funding because of concerns that an affiliation with the Kansas City, Mo., hospital would have a negative effect on KU Hospital, which is KU School of Medicine's primary teaching hospital. KU Hospital is governed by a private authority created by the legislature.

Gov. Sebelius cited Dr. Roy Jensen, executive director of the KU Cancer Center, as saying increased collaboration between KU and other Kansas City area hospitals is needed for KU to win a national cancer center designation. She said KU Hospital had made an amazing turnaround since it was cut loose from the state in 1998 and run by the independent board. But, the governor said, the hospital's core mission under state law is to support KUMC's education, research and public service activities. "We are now at an important next step in the progress made by the hospital, and it would be a mistake to have legislative

interference in this process,” she said.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, sent a letter Monday to the Kansas Board of Regents asking the regents to hire an arbitrator to work in negotiations between KUMC and KU Hospital. Neufeld said KU Hospital should be designated as the lead hospital in KU’s efforts to become a national cancer center. The affiliation, he said, shouldn’t restrict KUMC’s ability to partner with other institutions. Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, chairman of a committee that has been having meetings to air the differences.

ARTICLES FROM KHI NEWS SERVICE



Speaker Wants Arbitrator to Help Settle KU Medical Center Affiliation Talks; Governor Says She’s Confident with Current Course of Negotiations



TOPEKA, March 12 — House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, sent a letter Monday to the Kansas Board of Regents, asking the board to hire an arbitrator to help the University of Kansas Medical Center and the University of Kansas Hospital reach agreement on affiliation negotiations with St. Luke’s Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

“Thousands of Kansans and communities across our great state depend upon the health care services and medical education provided by KUMC.” Neufeld wrote to Regents Chairman Nelson Galle, listing three “principles” he said should be upheld in whatever affiliation agreement is struck:

- No agreement should restrict KU Medical Center’s ability to join with other research or medical institutions.
- University of Kansas Hospital should be the designated lead hospital if KU succeeds in gaining federal National Cancer Institute status.
- All partnerships entered into by KU Medical Center should improve the quality and quantity of medical education in Kansas with KU Med, the university hospital and KU School of Medicine-Wichita each encouraged and allowed to expand teaching, residency and fellow programs.

“Kansans have invested hundreds of millions of dollars into the KUMC health care and medical education systems. It is the responsibility of the Board of Regents to make sure those investments are nurtured and cared for so they might continue to flourish for the good of the entire state, not just one part,” **Neufeld wrote.** “It is clear to me and others in the Kansas Legislature there are still many unanswered questions about these potential partnerships that, if not addressed prior to the deadline, could have a negative effect on our state’s health care system and medical education system.”

Also on Monday, Gov. Kathleen Sebelius issued a statement saying the Legislature should not meddle in

the affiliation talks, which she is confident are proceeding satisfactorily, though **KU Medical Center and University of Kansas Hospital were at impasse last week over how to move ahead.**

“...bringing a cancer center to Kansas should be a top priority for our entire state,” Sebelius said in her prepared statement. “Dr. Roy Jensen, who is leading this effort, has made it clear that obtaining a National Cancer Institute Designation for Kansas is directly tied to the proposed affiliation of Kansas City-area hospitals with the University of Kansas Medical Center.

“The KU Hospital Board was created by the Legislature in 1998, to ‘facilitate and support the education, research and public service activities of the University of Kansas Medical Center...’ and under this independent governance, there has been a successful turnaround of a failing institution. We are now at an important next step in the progress made by the hospital, and it would be a mistake to have legislative interference in this process.

I have great confidence that the negotiations, which are well underway, will result in an agreement which strengthens both the KU Hospital and the University of Kansas Medical Center — including its program in Wichita — and will enhance the prospects for a cancer center designation that will bring invaluable treatments to patients throughout the region.”

A regents' spokesman said officials there hadn't yet had time to review Neufeld's letter, which was made available to the media, and so could not immediately comment about it.

Bill Would Move Inspector General Unit from AG to KHPA

By Dave Ranney

TOPEKA, March 12 — A key legislative committee has proposed a change in the state's search for health-care fraud.

“We'd like to take the inspector general out of the Attorney General's Office and put it in the Kansas Health Policy Authority,” said Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer.

“The mission would be the same,” he said. “We just think it would be a better fit with the health policy authority.”

Last year, lawmakers encouraged then-Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline to start an inspector general's office to look for fraud in state-funded health programs. But Kline, a Republican, was defeated before the positions were filled. They remain vacant.

“Up to this point, nothing's been done,” said Ashley Anstaett, spokeswoman for Attorney General Paul Morrison, a Democrat.

Anstaett said Morrison is “waiting for legislative guidance because he doesn't want to expend the money and then have the position moved in a couple months.”

The Attorney General's Office already has a 10-person Division of Medicaid Fraud and Abuse, which will remain in place. Under the Ways and Means proposal, the Attorney General's Office also would continue to investigate complaints of abuse and neglect within the state's network of social services.

If moved to the health policy authority, as proposed in **Senate Bill 373**, the inspector general's office would be charged with auditing, investigating and enhancing efficiencies within the state's Medicaid, MediKan and health insurance programs for low-income families.

The unit also would have the legal standing to investigate the health policy authority, its programs' beneficiaries and anyone providing services. It would have the power to subpoena witnesses and records.

SB 373 does not indicate how much would be spent on the unit. That discussion is expected Thursday morning when the committee hears testimony on the bill.

Umbarger said the bill has the backing of the both the Attorney General's Office and the health policy authority.

"In fact, it was the Attorney General's Office that came up with the idea," he said.

It's not yet clear how the two agencies — both charged with investigating fraud and abuse — would avoid duplicating efforts.

"That's something the Legislature will have to line out," Anstaett said.

Megan Ingmire, a spokeswoman for the health policy authority said the unit would be expected to work with both agencies.

"While we cannot avoid total duplication, every effort will be made through communication and cooperation so that efforts are not duplicated," Ingmire said.

-Dave Ranney is a staff writer for KHI News Service, which specializes in coverage of health issues facing Kansans. He can be reached at dranney@khi.org or at 785-233-5443, ext. 128.

House Moves on Various Health Initiatives While Working Budget Bill, Governor's 0-5 Plan Rejected

TOPEKA, March 15 — The House on Thursday voted down an amendment that would have added \$4.2 million to one of its first major spending bills of the year to finance Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' plan to extend health insurance to more Kansas children ages 5 and under.

The amendment to **House Bill 2542** offered by Rep. Barbara Ballard, D-Lawrence, was rejected 67-55. Her amendment also included some funding for childhood obesity initiatives.

Without saying how much should be spent to do it, Sebelius asked legislators during her State of the State address in January to come up with a plan for providing health insurance for all Kansans. But her budget proposal delivered the next day specifically asked for the dollars needed to expand coverage to more young children.

Sebelius' plan was to subsidize insurance for Kansas children and pregnant women who live at or below 300 percent of federal poverty guidelines. The current cut-off point for state assistance is 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), which, for a family of three is \$33,200. Income for a family of three at 300 percent of federal poverty level, is \$49,800, a figure most House Republicans considered too high.

House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney, D-Greensburg, said the amendment's failure was a disappointing message for the Legislature to send the Kansas public.

"Budget bills are a statement of values, about what is important to the state," he said. "My frustration with this session is that we're willing to give tax breaks to out-of-state corporations but we're not willing to address issues that affect working families."

But Republicans said they feared extending the eligibility to 300 percent of poverty would encourage some

who already have private insurance to abandon it for the state program. The House GOP has its own health care plan, which is expected to take bill form next week.

Rep. Peggy Mast, R-Emporia, is vice chairman of the House GOP health care task force, which developed the GOP plan. She said she and task force chairman, Rep. Jeff Colyer, R-Overland Park, met recently with top officials from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and were told that the federal government is "discouraging" expansions of programs that rely on Medicaid or SCHIP dollars. House Republicans instead are keen on pursuing federal waivers that would allow Medicaid dollars to be used to subsidize private insurance premiums for low-income households.

Some Democrats said they were heartened that Ballard's amendment gained a few Republican votes, interpreting that as a signal the governor's proposal could gain favor before the session is over. No Democrat voted against the amendment.

Also on Thursday, the House voted to spend \$1.2 million to expand the states' newborn screening program. Currently, Kansas screens newborns for only seven serious but treatable genetic disorders. The added money would allow screening for 29 disorders, the number recommended by the American College of Medical Genetics.

The House on Thursday also gave final approval to **House Bill 2530**, which would exempt professional services by health care providers from the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.

House Tentatively Approves a Bill Exempting Professional Health Services from the Consumer Protection Act

By Mike Shields

TOPEKA, March 14 — After brief debate, the Kansas House gave tentative approval Wednesday to legislation exempting professional services by health care providers from the Kansas Consumer Protection Act.

House Bill 2530 was advanced on a voice vote for a final House vote Thursday. The bill was carried on the floor by Rep. Mike O'Neal, R-Hutchinson, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee. The measure had support from virtually every segment of the health care industry, including veterinarians.

O'Neal, an attorney who defends those accused of medical malpractice, told House members that opposition to the bill stemmed from plaintiff attorneys keen on having a new and easier way to sue medical providers. He predicted if the bill did not pass then he and others who defend health care providers would be "fighting, fighting, fighting and spending thousands and thousands of dollars" to counter claims from plaintiff lawyers.

"It's all about attorney fees," he said. "There are these slick, emotional pleas (against the bill) because it's all about attorney fees."

"This is not just about attorney fees," countered Rep. Mike Peterson, D-Kansas City, "this is about your constituents' right to make a claim."

The House rejected, 37-79, an amendment offered by Peterson, which O'Neal warned would "gut" the bill, if adopted.

The bill was introduced in O'Neal's committee following a ruling by the Kansas Supreme Court in the case of **Williamson v. Amrani**. In that case, the court ruled Feb. 9, that doctors could be held liable under the

Kansas Consumer Protection Act and returned the case to district court.

The bill was opposed by the Attorney General's Office, AARP, plaintiff lawyers, and consumer groups, but it had strong support from the Kansas Medical Society and every other Kansas health professional association.

It was amended in the committee so that the exemption from the consumer law only applied to health care providers' "professional services" but not their "billing, advertising or other business services."

-Mike Shields is a staff writer for KHI News Service, which specializes in coverage of health issues facing Kansans. He can be reached at mshields@khi.org or at 785-233-5443, ext. 123.

Regents Praise KU Affiliation with Hospital Signed Agreement Expected in Days

Thursday, March 15, 2007

Topeka — A contentious dispute between the Kansas University Medical Center and its teaching hospital over the medical center's efforts to also join forces with a rival hospital may be resolved within days, a key official said Wednesday.

"Within the next few days, we should have a signed agreement," Dr. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of KUMC, told the Kansas Board of Regents.

At the center of the dispute is a proposed education and research affiliation between KUMC and Kansas City, Mo.-based St. Luke's Hospital.

KU Hospital has said the affiliation could hurt its operations because it competes directly with St. Luke's.

But medical center officials have said after intense negotiations, they think they can mitigate potential harm to KU Hospital and generally improve health care delivery for all Kansans.

"The hope is more cures, better health, better doctors," Atkinson said.

Atkinson didn't provide any details of the agreement, saying lawyers still were reviewing the proposal.

Dennis McCulloch, KU Hospital spokesman, said "steady progress" had been made, but he declined to predict when an agreement would be finalized.

"The key thing is to get it right," McCulloch said. "It will be finished when it's finished."

Regents members praised Atkinson for moving forward with the plan, saying it fit with the state's goal to make the Kansas City area a life sciences center and pull in more research dollars. The regents unanimously endorsed the medical center's efforts.

"This is about growing and enhancing what everyone of those entities are doing," said Regent Donna Shank, of Liberal. "This is a win-win for everybody."

Regents members said that for KUMC to lure more private and federal funding and have a shot at getting national cancer center designation, it needs to affiliate with other hospitals. "To do that, you just have to

grow," said Regent Frank Gaines, of Hamilton.

The regents' comments were in stark contrast to those made by some lawmakers who have been suspicious of the proposal.

The House today is scheduled to debate the state budget, which includes a measure that would cut all state funding to the medical center if the affiliation with St. Luke's was opposed by the KU Hospital board.

And some lawmakers, including House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, have called on the regents to get more involved in making sure that KU Hospital wasn't harmed in the proposed affiliation.

But regents members on Wednesday said they have kept abreast of the situation and saw no need to get further involved.

KU Med Escapes Budget Ax Legislature Backing Down from Earlier Threat

By [Scott Rothschild](#) ([Contact](#))



Thursday, March 15, 2007

Topeka — The House on Thursday removed Kansas University Medical Center from its budget ax, but maintained requirements for the center to enter an affiliation with Missouri-based St. Luke's Hospital.

"This puts the issue to bed for the Legislature, and allows us all to go forward," state Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing, said.

The House approved 72-50 an amendment by Wilk to its proposed state budget that requires KU Medical Center to get majority approval from the Kansas Board of Regents and KU Hospital board before it can implement an agreement with St. Luke's.

Many lawmakers have criticized the medical center's approach to St. Luke's, saying it would harm KU Hospital, which is the medical center's teaching hospital.

KU Medical Center officials have said the affiliation with St. Luke's is needed to expand life sciences research and get designation as a national cancer center.

Last week, the House budget-writing committee added language to its proposed budget that said KU Medical Center would lose its state funding -- \$116 million -- if it entered an affiliation with St. Luke's and didn't receive majority approval from the KU Hospital, regents, and KU's medical program in Wichita.

But Wilk's amendment removed the funding threat and approval of the Wichita program.

He said Wichita's interests were protected by members of the regents and KU Hospital board. He said the funding threat was unnecessary.

"Let the pros negotiate this deal. We need to go about our business," he said.

Several Wichita legislators, however, said the amendment would free KU from having to listen to concerns by some in Wichita who say the affiliation could hurt attempts to lure physicians to south-central Kansas and rural areas.

"We have to have all the players engaged and at the table," state Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, said. "This amendment doesn't do that."

SEAT BELT BILL

The House Transportation Committee is expected to take action today on an updated Kansas seat belt law.

Yesterday the committee heard **SB 211**, which would extend the state's primary seat belt law to anyone under age 17. Currently, drivers cannot be stopped just for not wearing a seat belt unless an officer sees children ages 14 or under without seat belts. That offense is a so-called "primary" violation, which means a motorist can be stopped

and ticketed for it.

SB 211 also raises the fine for seat belt offenses to \$60, including court costs. The fine is now \$10 and the offense is a "secondary" violation; drivers may only be charged with the offense if they are stopped for another infraction. The bill includes a distribution plan for collected fines to improve traffic records systems and emergency medical services.

The House committee heard, amended and passed a similar bill, **HB 2136**, last month, which also raised the age of the primary law to 17.

Yesterday the committee members heard impromptu testimony from two students from Smith Center High School who happened in on the hearing.

A 17-year-old senior told the committee that she had been in a serious car accident last June when her boyfriend fell asleep at the wheel. Neither of them wore their seat belts; she was ejected from the car and suffered numerous injuries, including brain trauma. Rep. Vince Wetta, R-Wellington, asked the student what her peers would think of a law that carried a \$60 fine for failing to buckle-up. She said her friends might be more likely to buckle up, if there were a substantial fine involved, but it might not make a difference every time they get in a car. She and her boyfriend were both fined \$10 after their accident.

Committee Chairman Gary Hayzlett, R-Lakin, told the committee he expected to work the bill during today's committee meeting.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE STUDY

Kansas participated in the first U.S. census on domestic violence services, which revealed some Kansas specific information. I thought you may be interested in this report because the programs that participated are serving Kansas residents; including some of our neighbors. These numbers are stunning, especially since we have crisis services in fewer than half the counties in Kansas-imagine what it may look like if services were easily available to all.

In a single day, 564 adults and children in Kansas sought services from domestic violence agencies. This startling data comes from today's inaugural release of "Domestic Violence Counts: the National Census of Domestic Violence Services (NCDVS)," the first-ever national one-day census on domestic violence services. Conducted by the National Network to End Domestic Violence and Harvard University researchers, the census is the most recent data documenting the number of victims who reach out for help.

The NCDVS collected a national, unduplicated count of adults and children who received life-saving services from domestic violence programs on November 2, 2006. Sixteen of the 26 domestic violence programs (60%) in Kansas participated in the census. During the 24-hour survey period, 564 Kansas residents sought refuge in emergency shelters; lived in transitional housing facilities; or received non-residential services such as counseling, legal advocacy and children's support groups. In addition, 248 hotline calls were answered by domestic violence advocates, which totals more than 10 hotline calls every hour.

However, the survey found there is still a significant need for services. Eighty Kansas residents who requested services were referred elsewhere because local programs did not have the resources to aid them.

More than 1,200 of the 2,016 (62%) domestic violence programs from across the country participated in the survey, giving advocates and researchers a glimpse into the number of individuals seeking services, the types of services requested and the number of service requests that went unmet due to a lack of resources.

Participating programs logged an unduplicated count of adults and children accessing their services between 8:00 a.m. on November 2, 2006 to 7:59 a.m. on November 3, 2006. This "snapshot" approach allowed researchers to document the scope of services without collecting victim-identifying data.

Click on the link to look at the [2006 Report](#).

Bid to Expand Health Coverage for Children Fails

The House has rejected Gov. Kathleen Sebelius' proposal to expand state health insurance coverage to all children age 5 and under.

The vote was 67-55 against an amendment offered by Rep. Barbara Ballard, D-Lawrence, to a budget bill. Ballard wanted to set aside \$4 million in state funds to expand the state's Medicaid program for poor families and its HealthWave program for children in working-class families.

Those dollars would attract another \$6 million in federal funds, making the total cost \$10 million.

Sebelius and her fellow Democrats argue that her proposal is the best way to make sure that Kansas has no uninsured children.

But Republican critics worry that the expansion will prove far more expensive than advertised.

BILLS PASSED THIS SESSION

The following bills have been signed into law by Governor Sebelius.

HB 2002 — WILDLIFE AND PARKS COMMISSION - requires that each of the state's five wildlife regions is represented by a member on the Kansas Wildlife and Parks Commission.

Previously, there had been no requirement guaranteeing geographic balance on the commission.

HB 2039 — PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS - provides property and ad valorem tax exemptions to certain entities; including schools, places of public worship, buildings used to produce renewable energy, and landfill gas pipelines.

HB 2041 — IRON MEN OF METZ DEDICATION - designates part of U.S. highway 24 as the "Iron Men of Metz" highway. The Iron Men of Metz were members of the 95th Infantry Division that fought in Europe during World War II. The title, "Iron Men of Metz", was given to the men by General Kittel, the German fortress commander of Metz.

HB 2303 — KANSAS NBAF TASK FORCE - establishes a working group to help bring a planned \$451 million, 500,000 square foot bio- and agro-defense facility to Kansas.

The National Agro- and Bio-Defense Facility Task Force will coordinate community outreach and advocacy and serve as a focal point for public input on proposals. It will also assist in the preparation of an environmental impact statement on the proposed sites. [Back to top](#)

AHA Member Presents on Marriage in Topeka

Below is an email from one of the "regulars" at the Alliance of Health Advocates meetings, Ira Stamm, psychologist. Ira has been a regular member of the Friday meetings to discuss Legislative happenings. He even came to the meeting without materials to stuff in the bag but wanted to help others stuff. The blue handled bags were provided by Cenpatico, Steve Armbruster this year and they looked fabulous with the stickers that said Legislator's Health Packet on one side and the logo for Health Day on the other. Anyway, Ira is presenting soon and if you are near Topeka, you might be interested in this free workshop:

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

I will be making a presentation on "Marital Autopsies: What Failed Marriages Teach Us About How To Make a Good Marriage." on Friday, March 23, 2007 from 1-3PM at St. Francis Hospital in Topeka in the main auditorium.

You are invited to join us.

Best regards,

Ira

--

Ira Stamm, Ph.D., ABPP
3600 SW Burlingame Road #1A
Topeka, KS 66611
913 706-8831
E-mail address: istamm@cox.net

[Back to top](#)

KPHA Member, Dr. Angela Paschal Honored!



On March 9, Dr. Angelia Paschal was honored with the KU Medical Center's Executive Vice Chancellor's Diversity Award. Angelia received this award in recognition of her work with diverse groups and underserved populations in the community, as well as her research, teaching, and service. Angelia is shown above with her family, receiving the award from KU Medical Center leadership. [Back to top](#)

Information from Dr. Kim Richter

Hi - a reminder of scholarships from that tobacco policy conference - Kim

Kimber Richter, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor
Preventive Medicine and Public Health
University of Kansas Medical Center
Mail-Stop 1008
3901 Rainbow Boulevard
Kansas City, KS 66160
Ph: (913) 588-2718
Mob: (785) 393-9135
Fax: (913) 588-2780
Email: krichter@kumc.edu

Dear Antismoking Colleagues:

IMPORTANT REMINDER: There are still several \$1,000 travel grants to attend the Fourth World Conference on Nonsmokers' Rights, but they are going fast. PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED.

This World Conference, which focuses exclusively on protecting the rights of nonsmokers, will be held in Washington, DC during Cherry Blossom time. For more information, please see: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/fourthworldconf>.

Activists who are working in the area of nonsmokers' rights may apply for a \$1,000 travel grant simply by sending an email describing their position and activities to: info@nosmokingcontest.org.

At the Conference, activists will be invited to present a brief talk on their activities and ideas -- with prizes for the best presentations and new ideas. To apply for a \$1,000 travel grant, please send an email to: info@nosmokingcontest.org.

Only a few grants remain, and they will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. So please act TODAY.

For more information, please see below:

PROFESSOR JOHN F. BANZHAF III
Executive Director and Chief Counsel
Action on Smoking and Health (ASH)
2013 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20006, USA
(202) 659-4310 // <http://ash.org>

The Fourth World Conference on Nonsmokers' Rights, the only world conference devoted solely to protecting the rights of nonsmokers, will be held in Washington, DC, April 6-8, 2007, during Cherry Blossom time.

This invitation-only Conference will include:

- * presentations about new ideas and novel approaches for protecting the rights of nonsmokers
- * a review of some important developments, both in the U.S. and in foreign countries
- * discussions about the most effective tactics and approaches
- * information about employment opportunities in the field
- * presentations about effective nonsmokers' rights activities abroad

* and an opportunity to network with others active in the field

Attendees, who will be coming from many countries, will also have an opportunity to see Washington, DC, and to sample its many attractions, including the world-famous Cherry Blossoms.

The Conference includes dinner on Friday, as well as breakfasts and lunches on Saturday and Sunday. Nonsmokers' rights activists may also apply for \$1,000 travel grants to cover their other expenses.

To apply for a \$1,000 travel grant, please send an email describing your activities and interest to: info@nosmokingcontest.org.

As of 3/17/07, only a few grants remain, and they will be awarded largely on a first-come, first-served basis, so please send in your application via email at your earliest possible convenience.

For more information, please check the following links or call (202) 659-4363:

First World Conference: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/firstworldconf.html>

Second World Conference: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/secondworldconf.html>

Third World Conference: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/thirdworldconf.html>

Travel Grant Policy: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/travelgrantpolicy>

Convenient D.C. Hotels: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/dchotels>

Air Travel Links: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/airtravel>

Local Eating Places: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/entertainment>

Local Map: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/map> [see Mapquest.com, etc. for more information]

Cherry Blossom Info: <http://www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org/cms/index.php?id=390>

[Back to top](#)

National Public Health Week Coming Soon!



**National Public
Health Week**

April 2-8, 2007

With the week just around the corner, APHA is gearing up for one of the best ever and needs your help.

Now is the time to get involved in National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2007 by visiting www.nphw.org! APHA would like to thank **The California Endowment**, **The California Wellness Foundation**, **The Lewin Group**, the **National Association of Community Health Centers, Inc.**, and **Research!America** for their generous financial support of National Public Health Week 2007. To find out how you can be a sponsor, contact APHA Affiliate Affairs department at (202) 777-2515.

In its 12 th year, NPHW will be observed from April 2-8, 2007. The theme is “Take the First Step! Preparedness and Public Health Threats: Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation’s Vulnerable Populations.” While everyone should take steps to ensure they are prepared to address public health threats, APHA will focus specifically on making sure vulnerable populations are prepared by identifying unique barriers to preparedness. APHA will create a series of tools and resources for five core audiences:

Monday: Mothers with Children in the Household

Tuesday: Local Food Banks

Wednesday: Hourly Wage Workers

Thursday: Schools K-12

Friday: Individuals with Chronic Health Care Needs

In this Issue

- 1. NPHW Materials Are Now Available!**
- 2. Post a NPHW Event on the Online Calendar**
- 3. Get Involved: Become a NPHW Partner**

NPHW Materials Are Now Available!

Materials to help our partners promote NPHW are now available on the NPHW Web site at www.nphw.org.

- **2007 Toolkit**
- **Fact Sheets**
- **Advocacy**
- **Kids Corner**
- **Logos**
- **Posters**
- **Banners**

Post a NPHW Event on the Online Calendar

Let everyone know how you plan to celebrate National Public Health Week! Please submit any NPHW events on the **online calendar** for the public and media to find out what is happening during NPHW in communities across the country.

Here are a few events that are planned for NPHW 2007:

Take the First Step: Preparing Public Health Workers in South Bend, IN

National Public Health Week will kick-off a month long series of events where local Health Department staff will be invited to participate in preparedness education and activities. Partner agencies will also participate in these events and additional community preparedness activities will be tied in with NPHW and the month long focus.

Preparing for Emergencies: Pandemic and Avian flu awareness for families in Englewood, NJ

On April 2, from 10am-2pm there will be a preparedness information session and many giveaways at the Palisades Court Shopping Center! One of the prizes is a "Family Emergency Supply Kit."

"Be Red Cross Ready" with Palmer College of Chiropractic's Clinic System in Davenport, IA

In partnership with the American Red Cross and Medic EMS, Palmer College of Chiropractic's Clinic System is hosting National Public Health Week events for the third consecutive year. This program will outline the three basic steps of preparedness: 1) Build a disaster kit; 2) Make a plan; 3) Be informed. A complete disaster kit will be given away at each session to a lucky participant. A specific effort will be made to invite members of the nation's most vulnerable populations in the local region to benefit from these free programs. This event will help many people learn how to better prepare themselves and their families for disaster and realize that everyone should prepare for public health emergencies.

Public Health Preparedness Fair in Corpus Christi, TX

During NPHW, there will be a preparedness fair in Corpus Christi, TX featuring live radio, a blood bank drive, information and display booths to educate residents about the need to become better prepared to address public health threats.

Emergency Preparedness for Senior Citizens in Springfield, MA

Springfield, MA is hosting an emergency preparedness for event for senior citizens during their Public Health Month observance. The event will feature a local doctor and include on site blood pressure screening.

National Public Health Week Lecture Series at Virginia Commonwealth University

Virginia Commonwealth University's emerging School of Public Health is teaming up with the Virginia Department of Health to celebrate National Public Health Week, April 2-8, 2007. The centerpiece of our celebration is a 4-day lecture series with speakers addressing preparedness at the national, state, local, and university levels. Keynote speaker, April 2, 2007, is Irwin Redlener, MD, Director, Columbia University National Center for Disaster Preparedness, and author of *Americans at Risk: Why We Are Not Prepared for Mega disasters and What We Can Do Now*. Other speakers include the Virginia Deputy Commissioner for Emergency Preparedness and Response, the Director of the Henrico County Health Department, and

representatives of Virginia Commonwealth University with expertise in preparedness issues.

2007 Cascade County Community Health Fair in Great Falls, MT

The Community Health Fair will offer education in preventative health: speakers, self-help health care demonstrations, situation and action areas, health education displays and exhibits. Agencies such as Benefits, Great Falls Clinic, Cascade City-County Health Department (CCHD) and others plan to participate in this exciting event. CCHD will highlight Tobacco Prevention, Breast & Cervical information, WIC/Maternal Child Health, Disease Prevention, and Disaster Preparedness- including pandemic and information targeted to vulnerable populations.

Get Involved- Become an NPHW Partner

There are now nearly 200 **organizations signed up as partners!** APHA would like to invite you to celebrate NPHW as a national, state or local partner. The success of NPHW will depend on the energy of our hundreds of organizational partners. Please visit the NPHW website (www.nphw.org) and complete the **partnership form** to become involved in the week. NPHW partners can expect visibility and participation in the following ways:

- Name and link on the NPHW website.
- Access to materials that can be used to educate your members about the campaign and taking the first step to be prepared.
- Access to materials to help plan and implement organizational activities during the week.
- Access to materials that can be used at meetings and conferences to educate members about the campaign.
- The opportunity to conduct media outreach using approved campaign templates.
- Recognition in The Nation's Health.

In Kansas one of the steps we are taking is a Governor's Proclamation. Sonja Armbruster put together the language! Click [here](#) to see the Proclamation. If you are interested in the Photo Op with the Governor (it will be in May this year), please contact the KPHA office. [Back to top](#)



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



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

Copyright 2006. Kansas Public Health Association. All rights reserved.