



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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Second Week of Legislative Session Ended



Several "health bills had hearings last week and there were lots of all sorts of bills introduced. And lots of briefings occurred. [Click here](#) to see the "Final Activity" from last year (which includes some carryover bills). [Click here](#) to see the Bills that Failed to be passed last year. If you want to see what bills are being heard in the legislature for the week, [click here](#) and click on the agenda's for both chambers.

The Joint Committee on Health Policy Oversight committee met last week. It oversees the Kansas Health Policy Authority, which will eventually take over management of Medicaid and the state employee health insurance business plus do general health care planning and innovation. Governor Sebelius is seeking a delay from July 1, 2206, to July 1, 2007, for the KHPA to start managing Medicaid and state insurance.

Some legislators think that the KHPA cost about \$250,000 should be in the budget of the Kansas Department of Administration, which is the home agency for the KHPA. The committee ordered KHPA to post its agendas and minutes on the Legislature's website and to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Administration to continue running the health plans until KHPA has that authority.

Gubernatorial nomination contender State Sen. Jim Barnett, R-Emporia, and running-mate Sen. Susan Wagle, R-Wichita, released last week their "prescription for growth and prosperity" that freezes most new state spending, extends the highway program two years, saps Supreme court power to order school spending and calls for Senate confirmation of justices. Their theme is smaller government and lower taxes. The spending freeze would begin in the upcoming fiscal year and allow increase in spending only for K-12 education (\$400 million over four years), increases in Medicaid expenditures, and a 2.5% annual increase for regents' universities' budgets. There's a "TABOR" element that would allow state spending to increase only when revenues increase. [Back to top](#)

KPHA Board Agrees to Join KPEC

KPHA Board agrees to join KPEC to make sure "TABOR" does not happen in Kansas.

It appears that there may be an effort in the legislature this year to address TABOR. A council composed of many cities, associations, the regents institutions has formed to help oppose this cause. You can join as an individual organization by filling out their application form. There is no cost to join. [Click here](#) for the form.

Below is an article from their Executive Director:

Kansas Economic Progress Council

A new organization has formed to draw together organizations and businesses interested in advancing sound public policy in Kansas to enhance our state's quality of life. The Kansas Economic Progress Council is a statewide non-profit organization that will bring together a wide array of interests to educate and enlighten Kansans as to the impact that various public policy issues might have on our state.

One such proposal is a proposed amendment to the Kansas Constitution which would forever put in place a rigid and inflexible fiscal policy that claims to restrict the rate of government growth. This amendment, known as "TABOR" is opposed by the Kansas Economic Progress Council.

If enacted, the Taxpayers Bill of Rights would spell the end to representative democracy by forcing virtually all fiscal policies to be placed on the ballot. It is a dangerous threat to our state and places the health of local governments in jeopardy as well. Under a TABOR law, the men and women we elect to represent us in Topeka would be stripped of their responsibilities to study issues and make informed decisions. Instead, they would be left to tackle very few real issues since the artificial limit on government spending would force those decisions in an entirely arbitrary manner.

Colorado is currently the only state in the nation to experience TABOR, passing the amendment in 1992. The impact of TABOR in Colorado has limited government growth immensely, causing most government services to see steep declines. The spending limits of TABOR have choked many state services and are not allowing them to recover. The difference grows and continues to compound significantly each year and will continue until spending limits are changed.

TABOR is the first of many issues being addressed by the Kansas Economic Progress Council. This bi-partisan organization will address further issues as they surface, as well. Those issues might include finding ways to encourage collaboration among various service providers to enhance service delivery.

Kansas Economic Progress Council has a membership base which includes businesses, local chambers of commerce, local and state trade associations, educators, concerned citizens, labor unions and many others who are dedicated to defeating a proposed TABOR style constitutional amendment. Such an amendment is likely to be an issue during this legislative session and during the upcoming campaigns.

There is no membership fee to join KEPC. But if you're interested, the organization would welcome your membership as it works to inform and enlighten citizens throughout Kansas.

For additional information please contact:

Mary Birch

Executive Director

Kansas Economic Progress Council

Phone: 913-451-5124 [Back to top](#)

Job Openings



Will direct and oversee Sedgwick County Health Department involvement and county wide leadership in preparedness and planning for public health emergencies.

Essential Job Functions:

Coordinate public health emergency preparedness efforts of Health Department.

Coordinate Health Department's involvement in preparation and response planning for pandemic influenza.

Develop and implement local plans for bio-terrorism preparedness to meet external funder's requirements.

Budget development, planning, and authorizing expenditures with external bioterrorism funds.

Manage, direct, and evaluate training activities related to preparedness and response.

Oversee Health Department's involvement in volunteer recruitment, training, and management for public health emergency response.

Take leadership role in regional health department activities related to public health emergency preparedness and response.

Provide liaison with multiple levels of government as well as with private sector partners involved in emergency preparedness and response.

Presentations, media and public information dissemination, including risk communication.

Job Standards:

Master's Degree in Public Health preferred. Master's Degree in public service field required. Background experience with local or state health department, preferably at an administrative level. Significant track record in the area of systems planning. Experience with disaster response planning a plus.

Competent in community organizing, leadership, and facilitation of cross-agency, multi-disciplinary collaboration.

Knowledge in the area of community-wide responses to mass destructive events.

Specialized knowledge of the public health aspects of emergencies and disasters.

Skills in disease investigation.

Computer, data management, and electronic surveillance skills.

Ability to investigate, assess, and respond to major disease outbreaks.

Ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing, with experienced public speaking.

Ability to effectively train and direct others.

Knowledge base in epidemiology and principles of public health.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other professionals, co-workers, community partners, the general public, and multiple levels of government.

Administrative abilities to manage human and financial resources.

Understanding of national priorities and recommendations regarding homeland security and public health emergencies

Equipment:

General office equipment: Computer, fax, copier, phone, and Microsoft office products and telecommunications equipment.

Work Environment:

Office, community and field.

\$55,000/year

M-F; 8-5

1530 S. Oliver Wichita KS 67218

Valid Kansas Drivers License Required. Must meet Driver Qualification standards as set forth in Sedgwick County's Fleet Vehicle Operation and Usage policy (R#225-1999).

This position may be filled or closed to further application without notice.

Sedgwick County will prohibit the hiring of spouses and/or immediate family members within the same department, but not within the County structure.

Immediate family and family of the employee's spouse shall be considered husband, wife, son, step-son, son-in-law, daughter, step-daughter, daughter-in law, brother, step-brother, brother-in law, sister, step-sister, sister-in-law, mother, step-mother, mother-in law, father, step-father, father-in-law, grandchildren, grandparents and grandparents-in-law.

VN: 20002309122205 \$/ Open Until Filled. To apply go to www.hrepartners.com.

Unified Government Personnel Services

Fax # 913/573-5006

Apply at : jobs@wycokck.org

Nurse Practitioner - Health Department/ Personal Health Services - FP/PN. PART-TIME. -20 hrs. per week. NO BENEFITS. \$24.49 - \$26.89/hr. Duties include performing physical assessments, including pelvic exams. Will provide pre-natal, post-partum and routine gynecological care management. Will prescribe medications and order/interpret diagnostic tests within scope of clinic setting. Will assist writing

protocols and procedures. Provides client education on health issues, including all pregnancy options. Strong time management, organizational, and communication skills are essential. Experience in OB/GYN setting; exercise judgment and refer clients as needed. Bilingual Spanish/English desirable. Completion of an approved Nurse Practitioner Program; or, an equivalent combination of education and experience sufficient to successfully perform the essential duties of the position. Kansas Licensure as an Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner (ARNP); incumbents are required to have 30 credit hours of Continuing Educational Units every two years. Valid Kansas Driver's License. Deadline: Until Filled

Public Health Nurse - Health Department/PHS-MCH Healthy Families. \$3,408.34/mo. 40 hrs. per week. Primary area will be newly acquired Healthy Families Wyandotte grant. The position involves case management of high risk pregnant women and young families. Must be a graduate of accredited school of professional nursing and be licensed as a registered nurse in Kansas. Must provide proof of professional liability insurance, valid Kansas Driver's License, car insurance, and have reliable transportation. Strong time management, organizational and communication skills are essential. Experience in maternal/child health and/or case management is helpful. Bilingual in English/Spanish is desired. Deadline: Until Filled

Public Health Nurse Supervisor - Health Department. \$3,785.67/mo. Primary area will be newly acquired Healthy Families Wyandotte grant. The grant provides case management of high risk pregnant women and young families. Position includes both case management and supervisory responsibilities. Must be a graduate of accredited school of professional nursing and be licensed as a registered nurse in the state of Kansas. Must provide proof of professional liability insurance, driver's license, car insurance, and have reliable transportation. Strong time management, organizational and communication skills are essential. Experience in maternal/child health and/or case management is helpful. Bilingual in English/Spanish desirable. Deadline: Until Filled. [Back to top](#)

Notes from KPHA's January 13 Board Meeting in Olathe

The Board is looking for an interested member to take on the Membership Committee. This position has not been filled for some time and the result has been inactivity in membership drives, recruiting important shakers and movers to join the association, etc. KPHA has continued to grow without a Membership Chair, but an active Membership Chair ensures the continued growth and participation of the current 550 members. Emails are sent out along with invoices for new and renewing members, but a Membership Chair and committee will have much more effect in getting new members to join. If you are interested in becoming active in helping to "grow" KPHA with lots of possible ideas, please email President Janice McCoy at jmccoy@cowleycounty.org. A big benefit for you is to be able to add another title to your resume and to network with some great people!!

The KPHA Board established a Finance Committee composed of Allison Alejos-Chair- Treasurer, Janice McCoy-President, Alice Weingartner-Section Chair and Martha Froetschner-Section Chair and will meet next week to start on a Financial Strategic Business Plan . Let Allison know if you are interested in serving on this committee at allison.alejos@co.shawnee.ks.us . Membership dues do not sustain any professional association and other funding mechanisms are needed. APHA states this to be the number one reason to build public health infrastructures within the 50 states and have approached several funding entities. KPHA got word this morning that Colgate and a few other national corporations will come through, but the timeline has not been established. The current funding grants KPHA has received in the past six months are \$5000 from MERCK, and \$30,000 from the Kansas Health Foundation for a grant, Public Health-a Common Language (Planning). We have been accepted in Phase II of the Kansas Sunflower

Foundation for the grant we submitted, "Public Health ABC-Advocacy Building Capacity". If you are interested in helping KPHA write and submit grants, please let us know!

Discussion was held on the number of members who belong to KPHA as an individual that should be encouraged to join as an organization. More efforts will be made to ask these individuals to have their organization represented in our Organization Membership listing. This will give us more members, too-five to seven each Organization more! [Back to top](#)

Citizen's Healthcare Working Group Meeting Went Very Well



Over 200 people turned out for the meeting. Dr. Michael Fox, KUMC spoke on KPHA's behalf. From Kansas the others who were registered were:

Sonja Armbruster-Sedgwick County Health Department
Keith Ashcraft, MD
Ellen Averett-University of Kansas School of Medicine
Deanne Bacco - KS Advocates for Better Care
Charlotte Brown
Kari Bruffett-The University of Kansas Hospital
Rep Sydney Carlin-State Representative
Eldonna Chesnut-Johnson County Health Department, Adult and Child Care Facilities Division
Amy Christensen-Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City
Laurie Dale Marshall-Kansas Health Consumer Coalition
Elaine Dagleish
Nancy Daniels-RESULTS
Ken Davis-Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
Cristine Deibler-Johnson Co MHC
Janice Dunwell
Laurie Emerson-Daughters and Company
Becky Fast-U.S. Rep. Dennis Moore
Heather Flick-Johnson County Community College
Joshua Freeman-KU Dept of Family Medicine
James Gardner
Janis Goedeke-Crawford County Health
Allen Greiner-KU Med Center/Wyandotte County health Dept.
Sara Hart, RN, PhD-Westwood, KS Board of Health
John Hennessy-Kansas City Cancer Center
Colette Hernandez-Community Action
Kari Hess
Tawny Hiatt
Heather Hicklin-Henke-Barber County Community Health Department
David O. Hill, PhD-Clinical and Consulting Psychologist

Katherine Idleburg-REACH Healthcare Foundation CAC
David Jacobs, MD
Judy Jacobs, PhD
J. Keith Johnson-Free State Business & Financial Services
Dr. Mike Jurkovich-Catholic Charities
Paul Kerens-Kansas City Orthopaedic Institute
Kim Kimminau-Kansas Health Institute
Mary Kinnaman-Kansas University School of Nursing
Jamie Klenklen-KDHE/BCYF
Deborah Kohler-Action International Kansas & W. Missouri
Peggy Kuehl
Sue Ling
Mary Magathan-Kid-Screen, LLC
Marcia Manter-Oral Health Kansas
Lougene Marsh-Flint Hills Community Health Center
Patricia McCollum-Kansas Children's Service League
Jim McLean-Kansas Health Institute
Anita Metoyer-The University of Kansas Hospital
Ileen Meyer--Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Sondra Meyer Raile
Mary Jane Miller-Health Care Access
Brenda Nickel-Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Cheryl Patterson-Morris County Health Department
Heidi Pickerell-Midland Hospice Care and Day Programs
Kimber Richter-University of Kansas Medical Center
Mark Romero-Columbian Bank & Trust
Jessica Salazar-Congressman Dennis Moore
Teresa Schwab-Oral Health Kansas
Elaine Schwartz-Kansas Public Health Association
Therese Sellers-University of Kansas Graduate Nursing School
Mahnaz Shabbir-Shabbir Advisors
Brenda Sharpe-REACH Healthcare Foundation
Arthur Smith-Healthcare Management and Consulting Services
Joseph So-KPHA
Gretchen Speer
Blair Thedinger-Students for a National Healthcare Plan
Jeanne Walsh-Johnson County Community College
Sherrie Watkins-Alvey-Wyandotte Center for Community Behavioral Healthcare, Inc.
Ruth Werner--Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Ruth Wetta-Hall-University of Kansas Medical School-Wichita
Laura Windsor-National Network of Libraries of Medicine

Thanks to all of you for making it a success! We will be tracking the outcome of the meeting. If you'd like to learn more about the Citizens Healthcare Working Group, visit www.citizenshealthcare.gov

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Upcoming Conferences

A one day program on Biostatistics for the Non-Biostatistician is scheduled on Saturday, February 25th. I have included the program [brochure](#) and a link to their [website](#). [Back to top](#)

Lori Haskett Encourages Wearing Red on February 3

She is the one that kissed your knee when you fell off the bike. She is the one that said, I Do. She is the one who greets you with a smile. Who is she? She is your mother, wife, daughter, friend, co-worker.

Friday, February 3, 2006 is the 3rd annual National Wear Red Day for Women! Join the thousands of people across the state of Kansas who will unite to wear red to as a reminder to every woman that heart disease is the number 1 killer of women.

One in three American women dies of heart disease and many fail to recognize its seriousness or the risk factors that increase their risk for developing the disease.

Risk factors for heart disease include: smoking, high blood pressure, high blood cholesterol, overweight/obesity, physical inactivity, and diabetes. Having more than one of the risk factors can double your chances of having heart disease. Women should talk to their doctor about their individual risks and how to lower them. Women who fail to make the connection between risk factors and heart disease increase their risk.

Please encourage your colleagues and associates to wear RED on Friday February 3, 2006 to remember the ones that have suffered a heart attack. Encourage them to send a picture of your event wearing RED to Tara Schooler at TSchooler@kdhe.state.ks.us, Health Educator, Cardiovascular Health Program, to qualify for a drawing for a cookbook." [Back to top](#)

KU Cancer Center Legislative Briefing Book

Dr. Marci Neilson, KUMC, shares electronic copy of the KU Cancer Center Legislative Briefing Book. The document has been distributed to members of the Kansas House and Senate. Click [here](#) to view the book.

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Governor's Column: A New Direction: Hope in the Heartland

The following is a column by Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

Last week, I had the honor of delivering the State of the State address, outlining where our state has been in the past few years and a vision for where we can go.

Our state faced challenges in recent years, but because we chose to face these challenges Kansas is smarter, safer, healthier and more prosperous. We're moving in a new direction and Kansans now have more tools to make the most of their own lives.

We took action to encourage job creation, and because of the countless achievements of individual employers, Kansas has experienced 21 straight months of job growth.

I want to continue to encourage the creation of good jobs by eliminating the property tax on new business machinery and equipment.

We can also create a more prosperous state by building on the recent investment in our children's schools, and I've been consulting with legislative leaders on how we make this happen.

But in addition to a great school, every Kansas child deserves someone he or she can look up to. That's why I've launched Kansas Mentors. Former K-State coach Bill Snyder will lead this effort to match caring adult role models with Kansas kids.

Our children cannot take advantage of life's opportunities if they're sick, however, which is why improving health care remains a priority.

Tens of thousands of Kansas kids have received health coverage in recent years, and I want to add to this number by providing health coverage to every Kansas child from birth to age five. I also believe we can take steps to improve the safety of our children, and of all Kansans. We've seen fewer meth labs since the Legislature passed the Sheriff Matt Samuels Act, which puts cold pills behind the counter so meth makers can't get to them.

I now want to focus our attention on repeat sex offenders by requiring them to wear electronic tracking devices which will allow law enforcement officers to track their movements.

These are all common-sense steps which can help expand on the unprecedented opportunities we have before us today. I pledge to work every day to expand these opportunities for all Kansans, and I encourage you to remain an active citizen by making your voice heard as the Legislature considers these and other important issues. [Back to top](#)



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