



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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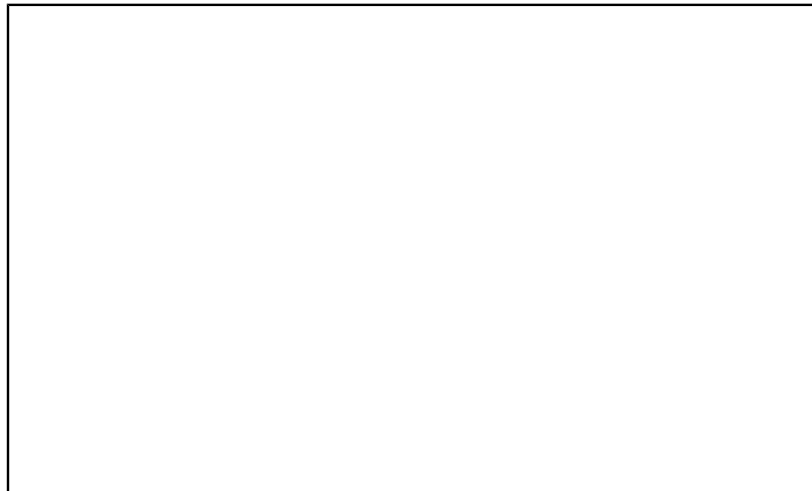
Thanks to KPHA Treasurer and Chair of Health Day, Sonja Armbruster, and other KPHA volunteers, this year was again a success. The originator of the idea for Health Day, KPHA member Cindy Winters was there for her third year to display for KDHE. The day began at 6:30 a.m. with setting up the KPHA table display and signs and health advocates began arriving to take the Fitness Challenge results from Legislators. [Click here](#) to see the Challenge to Legislators. [Click here](#) to see the invite.

Marci Neilson gave a welcome, Sen. Laura Kelly also spoke. And, at lunch, Sen. Wagle addressed the crowd. Thanks to all the KPHA members who made this event again a success. If you are interested in participating in next year's please let Sonja know!

[Click here](#) to see the other pictures!

Health Day at the Capitol Draws Crowd

By Sarah Green
KHI News Service





Leon Vinci, director of the Johnson County Health Department, and Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas Coalition, discuss the health department's literature that they distributed during the Health Day at the Capitol on Thursday.

TOPEKA, March 8 — Legislators, state employees and others took advantage of health information and screenings during Thursday's "Health Day at the Capitol."

The Association of Health Advocates-Kansas — a collection of health organizations that meet weekly to discuss health happenings around the state — organized the event, which brought local health departments, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, advocacy groups and others to the statehouse to promote healthy lifestyles.

Sonja Armbruster, health promotion coordinator for the Sedgwick County Health Department and the event's planner, said the day was a good way for health professionals to talk to lawmakers.

"The Legislature makes important decisions that affect the public health of everyone, whether it's mandatory vaccines for kids in school or mandating booster seats for kids like they did last year," she said. "They make the budget decisions that affect all of our funding. This is a way for us to say 'thank you for all your hard work.'"

Barbara Mitchell and Leon Vinci from the Johnson County Health Department said the event allowed them to mix with people who were interested in a variety of health issues.

"We enjoy this," said Mitchell, director of the department's health education division. "There's so much more to public health than people realize."

"We hope, from our perspective, that the legislators will make health the number one priority," Vinci, the department's director, said. "Health is for everyone."

Legislators and others seemed to be informed about the agencies and asked "good, solid questions" about health topics, said Corrie Edwards, director of the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition.

“We had several people ask where they could go for more information, or how the organizations were representing them today,” she said. “There’s quite a bit of consumer interest.”

A contest sponsored by the Governor’s Council on Fitness brought a good showing of legislators, who wore pedometers this week to track the number of steps each walked.

The top three representatives and top three senators won “Healthy Kansas” apparel. The winners from the House were Rep. Mike Burgess, R-Topeka; Rep. Raj Goyle, D-Wichita; and Rep. Eber Phelps, D-Hays. The winning Senators were Sen. Laura Kelly, D-Topeka; Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington; and Sen. Marci Francisco, D-Lawrence.

-Sarah Green is a staff writer for KHI News Service, which specializes in coverage of health issues facing Kansans. She can be reached at sgreen@khi.org or at 785-233-5443, ext. 118.

KU Medical Center Affiliation Topic of Meetings

By [Scott Rothschild \(Contact\)](#), [Eric Weslander \(Contact\)](#)



LAWRENCE, Saturday, March 3, 2007 — A House committee next week will have meetings on the proposed affiliation between the Kansas University Medical Center, KU Hospital and St. Luke’s Hospital.

“This is a dialogue to find out what is going on,” said Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, and chairman of the Government Efficiency and Technology Committee. “There are a lot of rumors that need to be put to rest.”

The committee will receive a report from KU Hospital on Monday, the Kansas Board of Regents on Wednesday and KUMC on Thursday. All meetings start at 3:30 p.m. and will be in room 526-South in the Capitol.

The meetings represent another attempt by state leaders to get information about the proposed affiliation.

Friday was the deadline, set last month by Kansas Board of Regents Chairman Nelson Galle, for KU leaders to submit answers to the regents about a variety of concerns raised by House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls. But the board didn’t make that information available to the public Friday.

Neufeld has said he has been dissatisfied with how the affiliation has proceeded and he has called on the regents to provide oversight of the plans.

KU officials have said the affiliation is needed to improve life sciences in the region. But some lawmakers and health care organizations have questioned whether the deal would hurt KU Hospital while bolstering a competing Missouri hospital, St. Luke’s. KU Hospital leaders have said they were shut out of negotiations between the school and St. Luke’s and that the plan could hurt them financially.

“Will it be good for Kansas or will it be bad for Kansas? That’s what we need to investigate,” Morrison said.

He described the meetings as a forum or dialogue. He said he was seeking information, not conflict.

The committee has little oversight over health or appropriations issues, but Morrison said its charge to seek government efficiencies fits with the question of whether the proposed affiliation would be a wise use of state resources.

End-of-Session Schedule

House and Senate negotiators settled the end-of-session calendar issue, and first adjournment will be Tuesday, April 3.

March 23 is scheduled for the last day for committees to meet, and March 26 and 27 will be virtually all day on the floors debating bills.

March 28 is last day for non-exempt bills to be considered in either house.

March 29 will be for conference committees and March 30 is the last day for conference committees to agree on reports, which will be considered April 2 and 3.

House and Senate appropriations committees will meet sometime the week of April 16 to assemble their Omnibus bills.

The veto session starts April 25 and is scheduled to be over April 28, resulting in an 86-day session.

[Click here](#) to see next week’s activity.

House Health Plan

House Republicans released their plan for expanded health insurance based on the possibility of federal funding flexibility and waivers. The basic plan is reduced mandates for health insurance coverages; no new taxes; expanding private-sector offerings of health insurance through reduced regulation of insurers; Medicaid reform, and encouraging charitable care of the poor who are ill.

Some of the bills to accomplish the House GOP package might be ready for introduction later this week. Rep. **Jeff Colyer**, R-Overland Park, chairman of the House’s health care planning team, said that there are ways to reduce complexity and mandates for health insurers that ought to bring more insurers into Kansas to provide low-cost coverage. Key to the House GOP plan, as it was in the Senate GOP’s plan, is individually owned policies, which employees can take with them when they change jobs. The House also is going to be trying to expand so-called “Section 125” plans that allow individuals to use pre-tax dollars to pay for health insurance, which Colyer said could save individual policyholders during times when their premiums aren’t paid by employers up to 15% of the cost of buying health insurance without the tax avoidance. The House’s proposal would create a private “connector” that would become the statewide

marketplace for individual health insurance plans. The Senate's proposal would have a state agency either operate that insurance market or contract it out but maintain control over it.

More on the House Health Plan from KPHA Member, KHI



Health for All Kansans Steering Committee Refines Its Recommendations and Agrees to a Deadline

By Mike Shields
KHI News Service

TOPEKA, March 5 — The Health for All Kansans Steering Committee on Monday refined its list of health-care reform recommendations for the Legislature, making a “short” list for this session that carried a tentative price tag of about \$1.7 million from the state general fund.

Members also agreed to continue meeting through the year and to work with advisory councils to the Kansas Health Policy Authority to develop a plan for more sweeping reforms to be presented to the Legislature in November for action in 2008 so that they could take effect in 2009 and 2010.

The steering committee was formed in January at the urging of Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, who called on the Legislature and the health policy authority to this year come up with a plan for “universal coverage.”

The committee shied from meeting that ambitious goal and instead focused on what members and staff workers concluded might be possible this year given the session now is more than half over. The steering committee agreed Monday it will finalize its recommendations by March 19, so they can be forwarded for review by the health policy authority board and then shipped to lawmakers.

“I consider this a down payment,” steering committee chairman Joe Tilghman said of the recommendations so far developed. “We should try to get a couple things done this session but also put into play a more comprehensive package for the 2008 session.”

The list agreed to Monday differed from an earlier one developed by the committee, most notably for its omission of the governor’s proposal to extend HealthWave coverage to another 2,000 children ages 5 and under. It also deleted endorsement of a health insurance connector as proposed by Sen. Jim Barnett, chief sponsor of Senate Bill 309 and a member of the steering committee. Despite those deletions from the revised list, Tilghman said he’d like to see the governor’s so-called HealthyFive plan enacted this year and Barnett’s connector plan embraced next year as part of the bigger reform package. Added to the list was a recommendation for premium assistance for women, children and low-income families that could blend elements of the governor’s and Barnett’s plans.

Here’s the list of recommendations agreed to Monday:

- Early Detection: Expand mandatory screening of newborns to 29 tests. The state currently requires four screen tests. Cost: \$191,000 SGF or \$1.2 million all funds.
- Expand insurance to young adults through their parents’ policies by expanding the age of dependency from 23 to 25. Cost estimates not yet available.
- More outreach and marketing for HealthWave, the program that provides free or subsidized health care coverage for eligible children and mothers. Cost: \$336,247 SGF or \$822,112 all

funds.

- Consider federal Deficit Reduction Act flexibilities to design benchmark benefit packages with more cost sharing by recipients. Cost: This would rely on federal grants.
- Provide premium assistance for pregnant women, children and low-income families to encourage their participation in private insurance plans. Cost: “unknown at this time; goal to bring in federal dollars.”
- Promote health care pricing and quality transparency. Cost: \$425,682 or \$543,790 all funds.
- Establish an “Implementation Center” for a health information exchange through a “public/private” entity as a single coordination point for health information exchange efforts. Cost: \$750,000 SGF or \$1 million all funds.

-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

Cloning (Stem Cell) Research Bills Stalled

Two measures sought by some conservatives to restrict cloning research may be dead for the 2007 legislative session. Hearings on the bills, which had been scheduled for today before the House Federal and State Affairs Committee, were postponed indefinitely. Chairman Arlen Siegfried, R-Olathe, said many committee members had problems with the bills or needed more time to research the issue. And, I suspect, the proponents have been unable to find the necessary votes to pass the bill on the floor. Of course, as the session gets close to the end, legislators make all kinds of deals to trade a vote on one thing for a vote on a bill they want that hasn't gotten anywhere. Nothing is ever really dead around here.

Put on hold was discussion on HB 2098, which would define terms related to human cloning, and HB 2255, which would prohibit the use of tax dollars for human cloning, which included embryonic stem cell research. Opponents of the bill prohibiting human cloning said it also would ban therapeutic cloning that uses somatic cell nuclear transfer, which is referred to as SCNT. The SCNT process transplants DNA into an unfertilized egg to grow stem cells, which are primitive cells that can develop into other types of cells under certain conditions. Researchers say that this process could be used to treat diseases and repair damaged organs.

Officials with the Kansas University Medical Center said banning SCNT would adversely affect research in Kansas. The biotechnology industry also testified against the proposal. But supporters of the proposed ban, including anti-abortion groups, said the SCNT process is immoral because it destroys a human life once the stem cells are taken out. The legislative director for the anti-abortion group Kansans for Life, said despite the setback, she was confident the bills would advance. She blamed intense lobbying against the bill from the Stowers Institute and KU for “the misinformation that the lawmakers have received as to how these very modest bills might impact the Kansas biotech industry.” “We’re firming up information all the time and we believe it has momentum to go to the (House) floor” for further consideration, she said.

Contentious Committee Hearing on KU Med Affiliations



In the House Government Efficiency and Technology Committee, several lawmakers expressed dismay with Kansas University's proposal to affiliate with Missouri-based St. Luke's Hospital. "We represent the people of this state, and I'm telling you there is an awful lot of distrust of KU," said Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, chairman of the committee. Several committee members also criticized the Kansas Board of Regents for failing to get more involved in KU's proposed affiliation. The committee, which had scheduled three meetings this week on the issue, said it would hold more meetings next week to get testimony from members of the Kansas Board of Regents.

The dispute centers on an effort by the KU School of Medicine to enter into an affiliation with St. Luke's Hospital, a hospital based in Kansas City, Mo. Our own Cushing Hospital is affiliated with St. Lukes KU leaders say the affiliation is needed to advance life sciences in the region, win a national cancer center designation, and lure private philanthropy research dollars in Missouri. St. Luke's Health System includes eleven hospitals and several physician practices in the metropolitan area and surrounding region. Saint Luke's is an active center of medical education and a primary teaching hospital for the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Medicine, which includes a physician residency program. It is also home to Saint Luke's College of Nursing. Besides Cushing, the Health System includes St. Luke's South in Overland Park, Kansas, and hospitals in Garnett, Kansas and Lee Summit, Chillicothe, Smithville and Trenton, Missouri. KU Hospital says the proposal will harm it and Kansas' ability to train and recruit doctors.

Reginald Robinson, president and chief executive officer of the Board of Regents, told the committee that the board was generally pleased with the effort by the KU School of Medicine. He said that the Regents have been fully informed of the Med Center's vision, and it is a vision that the board has embraced. The board has been criticized by some lawmakers for failing to protect Kansas' interests in the negotiations. Robinson testified that the board has limited authority in the matter — it oversees the KU Medical Center, which includes the School of Medicine, but it has few dealings with KU Hospital, which operates under an independent board created by legislative action.

Committee members insisted that the Regents must maintain the integrity of health care training in Kansas. Rep. Joe McLeland, R-Wichita, said the affiliation with St. Luke's could hurt KU's School of Medicine in Wichita. He fears that the result will be "pulling residents and interns out of Wichita and putting them in Kansas City." Robinson reiterated KU Chancellor Robert Hemenway's statements that the affiliations by the medical school would do nothing to harm KU Hospital or health care in Kansas. Morrison then asked Robinson if the Regents would commit to opposing any affiliation agreement that didn't have the OK from KU Hospital.

"I'm not prepared to make that commitment," Robinson said. Word around the dome is that disgruntled docs who left St. Luke's and now work at the KU Hospital are opposing the potential affiliation with St. Luke's. Morrison then said it would be necessary to have board members testify, probably Tuesday or Wednesday. Barbara Atkinson, executive vice chancellor of KU Medical Center, is scheduled to testify today before the committee. Earlier yesterday, KU School of Medicine and KU Hospital issued conflicting statements on how negotiations were going between the two entities. Atkinson said "substantial agreement was achieved on a number of issues." But Irene Cumming, KU Hospital chief executive officer, responded with a statement that said "we have significant unresolved issues." Atkinson said KU and the hospital reached accord on several issues, including future financial investments in the School of Medicine, the

number of residents at KU Hospital and “defining the future alignment between the physicians and the KU Hospital and the KU School of Medicine.” But Cumming said issues of whether KU Hospital would play a lead role in efforts to get national cancer center designation, and the way in which St. Luke’s will use the KU brand, remain up in the air.

Sebelius Appoints Two to Fitness Council

KHI News Service

TOPEKA, March 7 — Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has appointed Diane Greenleaf and Sandra Procter to the Governor’s Council on Fitness, which encourages Kansans to eat right, exercise and avoid tobacco.

“More than 3,000 Kansans have taken the Healthy Kansas pledge and 84 school districts are part of our Healthy Schools initiative,” Sebelius said. “This council will continue to promote health and wellness in our state, which will lead to longer, healthier lives and lower health costs.”

The council promotes healthy lifestyles by endorsing events and assists the governor in giving youth fitness awards and making healthy community designations, as well as identifying local community health heroes and model workplace wellness sites.

Greenleaf, a dietician in the Wichita area, graduated from Emporia State University in 1982 before going on to Kansas State University where she earned a master’s degree in food and nutrition. A member of the American Dietetic Association and the Wichita District Dietetic Association, in 1990 Greenleaf and her husband, Gilbert, wrote “Well Plan Cuisine – A Healthy Cookbook.”

Proctor, Manhattan, is an assistant professor of human nutrition at Kansas State University and coordinator of the Kansas Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program. She previously attended K-State, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in dietetics, a master’s degree in institution management and a doctorate in human nutrition. Proctor has written a number of articles and presentations, and is a member of the American Dietetic Association, Kansas Dietetic Association, American Public Health Association and Society for Nutrition Education. [Back to top](#)

News from APHA



American Public Health Association

The 2007 Policy Review and Archiving Process Has Started!

All members are encouraged to get involved in this year's Policy Review and Archiving Process. To participate, contact the leadership of your Section, SPIG, Caucus, Affiliate or other membership component to assist in a review of this year's identified policies. This year the policies fall under four categories: children's health insurance, rural health, Medicaid and public health workforce. Please visit <http://www.apha.org>.


apha.org/advocacy/policy/archive/default.htm to view this year's list of policies up for review. The review form has been formatted into an easy to use table. Please download the table and fill in the requested information for each policy reviewed.

Completed policy review tables should be e-mailed to APHA at policy@apha.org by **midnight on May 23, 2007**. Additionally, a Q&A about the Policy Review and Archiving Process is available at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/policy/archive/archiveQA.htm>.

Questions?

Contact your Action Board representative or Don Hoppert/APHA, donald.hoppert@apha.org, Elaine Auld, eauld@sophe.org or Ted Hanekamp, tgh300@aol.com. [Back to top](#)

NALBOH Webcast New Rules for Strengthening the Public Health System

	<p align="center">8th Annual Ned E. Baker Lecture in Public Health WEBCAST Friday, March 30, 2007 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. Eastern</p>
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New Rules for Strengthening the Public Health System

Leslie Beitsch MD, JD
Director, Center for Medicine and Public Health
Florida State University

Remove Viewing Information	Onsite Viewing Information
<p>Webcast online at: http://wbgu.org/baker/index.html</p>	<p align="center">Lenhart Grand Ballroom Bowen-Thompson Student Union Bowling Green State University</p> <p align="center">The lecture and a reception following the talk are free and open to the public.</p>

For more information, please visit www.nalboh.org or contact Linda Crawford at lcrawfo@bgsu.edu or nalboh@nalboh.org.

For information regarding on-site participant CEUs, please contact Jennifer Wagner at hspd@bgsu.edu.

Sponsors:

College of Health and Human Services
Cove Charitable Trust of Boston
National Association of Local Boards of Health

Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health
Wood County Hospital Foundation

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Information from Legislative Chair, Dr. Kim Richter

THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON NONSMOKERS' RIGHTS HELD IN WASHINGTON, DC DURING CHERRY BLOSSOM TIME [4/7-8/07]

INCLUDING \$5000 1st PRIZE, \$3000 2nd PRIZE, and \$1,000 3rd PRIZE FOR THE BEST 1000-WORD SUBMISSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

PLUS \$1000 TRAVEL GRANTS FOR SELECTED PARTICIPANTS BUT APPLY ASAP BEFORE THEY ARE ALL GONE!

Yes, here is a conference devoted solely to protecting nonsmokers, and one focused on developing new legal approaches and strategies for protecting their rights.

To encourage lawyers, law students, and activists to come up with the best new ideas for legal action, we are offering an unprecedented number of prizes and travel grants.

The Conference will feature presentations by law students, as well as by attorneys and nonsmokers' rights activists from around the world presenting their ideas.

There will also be special sessions designed to develop strategy for nonsmokers' rights organizations during the coming years, and some insight into several new trends which could prove very powerful and effective

WHO IS INVITED? Attorneys who have been active in nonsmokers' rights activities, and activists involved in similar activities whether individually or as part of a group

HOW CAN I GET A GRANT? Send an email ASAP to info@nosmokingcontest.org describing your involvement and accomplishments on behalf of nonsmokers.

Those who are selected will be advised that they have been awarded a \$1000 travel grant. Act quickly because grants are limited!

HOW CAN I WIN A PRIZE? Send a 1000-word description of your idea for a new legal strategy or tactic for protecting nonsmokers' rights in an email to info@nosmokingcontest.org. For information and inspiration,

see: <http://nosmokingcontest.org/> AND <http://nosmokingcontest.org/ideas.html> AND <http://nosmokingcontest.org/ashmodel>

WHAT'S THE DEADLINE? Because we goofed, and our earlier email apparently got lost in cyberspace, we will be processing requests for travel grants as soon as they are received. So please send a brief email

ASAP if you wish to be considered. Also, contest submissions – a 1000-word summary of your idea – should be sent via email ASAP.

For additional information, please check the links above or call (202) 659-4383. AND PLEASE FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO ANYONE ELSE WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED

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Information on “Keep Our School Healthy”



KS Dept. of Health & Environment Notice:

“**Keep Our School Healthy**” is an educational program created as part of the **KDHE’s Don’t Let Flu Bug U** multimedia campaign. The two instructional videos are aimed at kindergarten through third grade, and fourth through sixth grade. The videos and instructional material were designed to teach students how to stay healthy through the flu season by avoiding behaviors that help spread the flu. To view the videos and download the scripts and other educational materials and information go to the following site.

<http://www.kdheks.gov/flu/FluBugU.htm#school>

Many of the materials are also appropriate for display and distribution at hospitals, clinics, in provider units, health departments, and at community centers. [Back to top](#)



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



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

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