



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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Package of Health Care Initiatives Emerges

By John Hanna - Associated Press Writer

Topeka — Modest health care initiatives, including new programs to help poor Kansans buy insurance and to encourage small businesses to offer coverage to their workers, have been bundled into a package legislators expect to consider later this month.

House and Senate negotiators drafted a compromise bill Tuesday by taking pieces from different measures. They hoped their bill would benefit some of the state's 300,000 uninsured residents and spur more sweeping changes next year.

The House and Senate plan to vote on the compromise bill after legislators return from their annual spring break April 25.

"This is such a significant demonstration by both the House and the Senate that health reform is a priority," said Marcia Nielsen, executive director of the Kansas Health Policy Authority, an agency set up in 2005 to study health care issues and administer some state programs. "It's clearly a priority for the governor."

Sebelius, a Democrat, said last week that the Republican-controlled Legislature wasn't making enough progress on health care. But she praised lawmakers Tuesday.

"It's an important step not only to get some things done this year but also build a framework, really, for a more comprehensive plan," she said during an interview. "We're kind of positioned to be at the forefront of this effort, and I'm excited about that, but it takes the Legislature kind of coming together and moving ahead."

Both chambers had approved separate bills under which the state, starting in 2009, would give poor Kansans about \$3,200 a year for health insurance. By 2012, the state would be providing \$77 million annually to 24,000 people.

Legislative negotiators included the program in their compromise bill. They also included House-passed proposals to permit more Kansans to set aside pretax income to cover health expenses and to allow the state to make no-interest loans to help small businesses form associations to purchase health plans for their employees.

Also incorporated were a study of overhauling the Medicaid program serving about 250,000 needy Kansans, a proposal establishing an inspector general to root out Medicaid waste and fraud and a measure expanding health screenings for newborns.

Neither chamber responded to a call Sebelius made in January to draft a plan to eventually bring universal health coverage to Kansas. Nor has either one endorsed her \$10 million initiative to expand Medicaid and cover all children under 6.

But the compromise bill includes reforms that will help uninsured Kansans and families struggling to pay medical bills or insurance premiums, said Sen. Jim Barnett, R-Emporia, a physician and one of the negotiators.

Barnett, while campaigning unsuccessfully for governor last year, proposed creating a state "connector," a central agency through which Kansans could purchase health insurance. The compromise bill mandates a study of the idea.

"It sets the stage for broader health care reform," Barnett said. "I think it's a very significant package."

Some House Republicans wanted to overhaul Medicaid by converting it from a program that pays directly for medical services into one that helps needy Kansans buy insurance. Sebelius questioned whether the plan is realistic, and GOP leaders backed away from the idea in favor of a Medicaid study.

Speaker Criticizes Regents on KUMC

By Scott Rothschild

Topeka — The proposed affiliation between Kansas University Medical Center and Missouri-based St. Luke's Hospital continued to dominate legislative discussions Wednesday.

House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, said he feared the agreement would result in Kansas tax dollars going to Missouri.

And he characterized the Kansas Board of Regents as being "negligent" in monitoring negotiations of KUMC.

KUMC officials and the regents denied Neufeld's allegations.

"St. Luke's will pay for the full cost of any medical resident rotating through their hospital, just as they do now," said Amy Jordan Wooden, senior director of public affairs for KUMC. "The reality is the KU School of Medicine stands to get Missouri dollars invested in it."

Reginald Robinson, chairman and chief executive officer for the Kansas Board of Regents, said the regents were kept informed about the proposed affiliation.

"As I hear criticism of the board's role, some have said, 'I've got a problem with these affiliations, and if you don't then you are not paying attention,'" Robinson said. "I would hope folks would think it is possible for the board to be fully aware of the issue and come down in a different place."

KUMC has proposed a research and training agreement with Kansas City, Mo.-based St. Luke's, saying it is needed to broaden life sciences efforts and help win designation as a national cancer center.

But KU Hospital, the medical center's primary partner, has said the affiliation could hurt it because it competes directly with St. Luke's.

A proviso in the state budget approved by the Legislature would give the KU Hospital Authority Board veto power over any proposed affiliation between KUMC and St. Luke's.

Although the proviso was hotly debated, Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, R-Independence, said he didn't believe it would have much impact on the ongoing negotiations.

"While it would have been fine with me if the Legislature had just stayed out of the issue. ... I also think it's something of a tempest in a teapot," Schmidt said.

Teens Need to Buckle Up or Face \$60 Ticket

By Jim Sullinger

The Kansas Legislature's efforts to get tough on teenage drivers have faced a long, bumpy road.

The Senate approved a bill to increase the driving age, but it failed to get out of a House committee and won't be considered until next year.

The measure that passed the Legislature early Wednesday will allow police officers to pull over and ticket any motorist or passenger ages 14 to 17 not wearing a seat belt, considered a primary traffic offense. It would take effect July 1 but only warning tickets will be issued until Jan. 1.

After that, it will carry a \$60 fine.

Current law doesn't allow officers to stop a motorist if the only violation is not wearing a seat belt. Known as a secondary violation, a ticket for not buckling up can be issued only if the driver is stopped for another violation such as speeding or running a stop sign. It applies to drivers of any age.

The seat belt bill passed the Senate 30-10 last month and was recommended for approval by the House Transportation Committee. However, House Majority Leader Ray Merrick, R-Stillwell, blocked the bill from debate by the full House.

Last week, a House and Senate negotiating team agreed to place the measure into SB 8, bypassing Merrick's opposition.

Sen. Les Donovan, R-Wichita, chairman of the Senate Transportation Committee, said he was disappointed that the bill increasing the driving age wasn't considered by the House.

However, he said the seat belt bill would save lives. He said 85 percent of teenage drivers involved in accidents weren't wearing a seat belt.

"That's all you need to know," Donovan said.

Cindy D'Ercole, lobbyist for Kansas Action for Children, said traffic accidents were the biggest killer of teenagers in Kansas.

Kansas Action for Children and AAA Kansas were major proponents of cracking down on teenage drivers.

Ron Gaches, a lobbyist for AAA, said supporters asked that the driver's license bill be continued until next year. He said some lawmakers were worried about a requirement that young drivers complete a driver's education course. They noted that not all school districts offer driver's education.

He said supporters will work on that problem and will have a solution by the next legislative session.

The measure would increase the age from 14 to 15 for an instruction permit and from 15 to 16 for a restricted license. Those licenses limit when teens can drive unsupervised.

One provision could affect countless teens who like to gab on their cell phones. Motorists under age 18 would be banned from using wireless devices when they drive under the bill to be considered next year. If they're caught, it could result in a loss of driving privileges.

Officials Put Off Decision on Funds for Handicapped

By Sarah Kessinger

Harris News Service

TOPEKA - House Speaker Melvin Neufeld expressed satisfaction with the Legislature's passage of its main state budget bill Wednesday, saying it holds the line at a 5 percent spending increase.

But groups advocating for the disabled are worried, considering the Legislature has yet to decide funding for physically and mentally handicapped Kansans on waiting lists for services in their homes and communities.

Those deliberations will come as lawmakers finalize the expected \$12.4 billion 2008 state budget later this month.

House Minority Leader Dennis McKinney, D-Greensburg, questioned why House leaders insisted on putting off funding decisions for vulnerable Kansans rather than address it in this week's budget bill.

"Why wait? Why make these people fret and stew?" McKinney said at a media conference Wednesday. "It's probably not accurate to say we're holding the line on spending when we still haven't funded waiting lists."

House Budget Chairwoman Sharon Schwartz, R-Washington, said in House debate early Wednesday that she wanted some time to review a state financial forecast due later this month.

"And we have a lot of wishes and we can't fulfill all of those wishes," she added.

At a news conference later in the day, Neufeld, R-Ingalls, was asked about the \$20 million sought by social service officials to cover waiting lists for physically and developmentally disabled Kansans.

"Oh sure, they'll work it out," he said of unresolved budget negotiations.

The House budget panel's ranking Democrat, Bill Feuerborn of Garnett, however protested briefly at the House microphone Wednesday, saying lawmakers had put off too many important decisions before going on break.

"Never before in my 13 years here have I seen a budget bill that delayed major budget issues in this mass," he said before voting against the bill.

Senate Budget Chairman Dwayne Umbarger, R-Thayer, recently said he was concerned the overall issue of community-based services should be a priority. His remarks reflect recommendations made by a House-Senate study group last fall.

"It's something we really need to address," Umbarger said, adding that workers who care for the disabled "don't need to be penalized with low wages."

Matt Fletcher, spokesman for Interhab, a network of service providers for developmentally disabled people, said they are circulating a petition this month urging the Legislature to look at multi-year funding for community services in Kansas.

Budgeting now occurs year to year and has led to an under-funded system without the stability of any long-term commitments, advocates argue.

This year the decision has been pushed into the Legislature's final few days.

"It's as important an issue as any other issue before the Legislature right now," Fletcher said.

News from Rep. Marti Crow

Medicare Site Has Info on Nursing Homes

If you or a friend or neighbor needs information on nursing home quality, you can get information from Medicare. Medicare has details on nursing homes and the records are open to the public. This includes information kept by Medicare about nursing homes, including health and fire safety deficiencies. You can compare nursing homes and learn more about one you or someone you know may be considering for a family member or yourself.

You can get the records from Medicare's Web site, www.medicare.gov.

On the home page, scroll down under "Search Tools" and click on the "Compare Nursing Homes in Your Area" link. You can search by state, county, city or name. You can find out whether or not the nursing home is a nonprofit. If you click on a specific nursing home, you will get information such as number of residents and nursing staff hours per resident per day. The information is free online. If you do not have access to the Internet, call Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE.

Notable Items in the Mega Budget Bill

Items of note in a compromise, \$12.3 billion budget bill drafted by House and Senate negotiators in HB 2368: — \$86.5 million to cover pay raises and bonuses for state workers. — \$3.5 million for treatment programs for prison inmates and programs that help inmates re-enter society. — \$1.9 million so that the state can continue contracting with local hospitals to provide inpatient mental health services for children. — \$800,000 for the Department of Health and Environment to expand health screenings for newborns. — \$625,000 to expand services for Kansans with traumatic brain injuries. — \$499,535 for new equipment for public television stations KPTS in Wichita and KCPT in Kansas City and public radio station KMUW in Wichita. — \$499,474, for a new judge's position in Johnson County and a new magistrate judge's position for Clay and Riley counties, plus support staff for both, and five new court staff positions. — \$400,000 for grants to school districts for after-school programs for middle school students. — \$250,000 to continue the Parents as Teachers program in the Department of Education. — \$237,418, to allow the Kansas Bureau of Investigation to expand its analysis of DNA samples. — No funding for a presidential primary in February 2008 and language canceling the election in favor of caucuses held by the Democratic and Republican parties. ___A proviso requiring the approval by the K.U. Hospital of any affiliation between KU Med and St. Luke's Hospital.

But there is much that is NOT in the mega bill, twelve pages of items, not a big tab, that directly affect Kansans . . . funding for domestic violence programs, rape crisis centers, public broadcasting grants and funding, long term care ombudsman who take complaints about nursing homes, investigator/auditors for unemployment insurance fraud, the Veterans Claim Assistance Program, community based primary care clinics, expansion of the immunization program, addressing waiting lists for frail elderly and disabled in-home services and other services to seniors and developmentally disabled folks, health insurance assistance for indigent children under age 6 and the existing state health insurance program, the Grandparents as Caregivers program, expansion of Early Head Start and Pre-K early childhood programs, phase-in of all day kindergarten funding, funding for special education excess costs, postsecondary and technical education (community colleges and tech schools), teachers' scholarships, more parole officers and correctional counselors, homeland security regional coordinators, disaster funding, expansion of DNA analysis, expanded tracking of sexually violent predators, substance abuse treatment programs, alternative energy projects . . . all left to be considered in the Omnibus Reconciliation bill.

The explainer prepared by Legislative Research staff is about 60 pages, tiny print, listing just items negotiated between House and Senate. [Back to top](#)

News from KPHA Org Members on Coordinated School Health



KPHA enjoys being on the list serve for the newsletter and information from Shannon on Coordinated School Health. Below is the contact information for Shannon.

Shannon Bergmann, MSE
Health Education Coordinator
Kansas Coordinated School Health
KSDE, Child Nutrition & Wellness
120 SE 10th Avenue
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-2726
785-291-3372 (Fax)
sbergmann@ksde.org
www.kshealthykids.org

[Click here](#) for the Healthy Schools Workshop Information

Mark your calendar for the Kansas Coordinated School Health Conference on October 1st and 2nd. For more information, go to www.kshealthykids.org and click on "Upcoming Events"! [Back to top](#)

Job Openings



Sedgwick County, Kansas

Community Assesment Coordinator

Essential Job Functions:

Designs and implements epidemiological studies, surveillance systems and reports, using appropriate statistical methods to evaluate and interpret data.

Works collaboratively with Public Health Emergency Management completes training, assists in planning, and responds to public health emergency situations.

Works collaboratively with Center for Health Equity assisting with on-going community health assessment, utilizing existing data sources, and applying same to health care policy.

Supervises development, production, and distribution of annual data book.

Supervises, evaluates, and develops epidemiology interns.

Interacts with the media and conveys information to the public when necessary.

Provides consultation to health care professionals, community organizations and others on specific disease, injury or conditions.

Provides consultation to regional public health partners when necessary re: community and regional assessment, data keeping, and communications.

Presents data-driven information to community partners in public health on health and disease status, and prepares and reviews educational material for public distribution.

Consults with state and regional health officers, private physicians, school officials, and others in an effort to assess and ultimately improve the public s health.

Provides surge capacity in disease investigation and outbreak management when necessary.

Performs related work as required.

Job Standards:

A masters in public health or an equivalent degree in a biological, medical, health science or related field including coursework in epidemiological methods is required; doctorate a plus. A minimum of five years experience in public health is necessary, preferably including community activities and administration, data-keeping, and community assessment. Strong communication, interpersonal, problem-solving and computer skills are required. Any equivalent combination of experience and training will be considered.

Thorough understanding of public health practice and issues.

Knowledge of community health assessment strategies.

Ability to apply epidemiologic methods to public health questions.

Considerable knowledge of cultural factors, including social, economic and health, as they relate to public health and distribution of disease.

Ability to work effectively with both professional and lay people; to meet with the public and conduct such public information programs as necessary.

Ability to write technical and non-technical informative material.

Exceptional ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, to large groups, individuals, and the media.

Ability to utilize personal computers, applicable software and utilize large databases, or willingness to attend training after hire.

Ability to work as a team member, to develop and maintain effective working relationships with associates, employees of other Departments, representatives of other organizations, and the public.

Successful completion of ICS (Incident Command System) and NIMS (National Incident Management System) training after hire.

Successful completion of disease investigation training after hire, if not already knowledgeable.

Ability to acquire and maintain a valid Kansas driver s license.

An employee shall not pose a direct threat to the health or safety of other individuals in the workplace.

Equipment:

Office equipment and other relevant tools.

SALARY: 46,332/YR

LOCATION: 1530 S. OLIVER STE 130

HOURS: M-F 8-5P

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.

Sedgwick County is proud to be an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Applicants requiring Reasonable Accommodation for the application, pre-employment testing and/or interview process should notify the Human Resoueces Department or the County's ADA Coordinator.

Bob Bean
Sedgwick County ADA Coordinator
510 N. Main Suite 306
Wichita KS 67203
Phone (316) 660-7052
TDD (Kansas Relay at 711 or 800-766-3777)
Email: rbean@sedgwick.gov

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Upcoming Workshop in Johnson County on School Wellness

Seeking Donor Support for Your School Wellness Program
Wednesday, April 18, 2007 • 1-4 pm
Saint Luke's-South Hospital
12300 Metcalf Ave • Overland Park, KS

- *PE4life Message—Pinpointing Funding Opportunities*

PE4life Vice President, Brenda VanLengen, will present highlights from a booklet created by PE4life with help from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas City and fundraising professionals in Kansas City to garner support for your physical activity and nutrition programs.

- *Featured Guest Speaker—Dr. Mary Ann Boboskey, Naperville, IL*

As the current President of Advocates Building Communities and a retired Educational leader with more than 35 years of experience, Mary Anne raised over \$2 million for Naperville School District 203, initiated over 250 Business/Community/Education partnerships, and has established a successful volunteer program for senior citizens in the district. (For more information, see www.advocatesbc.com.)

- *Local School Success Stories*

Panel discussion by school representatives who have generated financial support for their schools

- *Learn from the Professionals*

Experts in funding from the Kansas City area

The first 50 registrants will receive a free PE4life t-shirt! Admission is FREE; however, space is limited! Must pre-register by Wednesday, April 11 to attend.

Everyone in attendance will receive a 24-page booklet, "Seeking Donor Support for Your School Wellness Program"

Please RSVP to Kim Cairns at 816-472-7345 or kcairns@pe4life.org.

This project is funded by: BUILDING HEALTHY STUDENT BODIES – ONE AT A TIME

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APHA News on National Public Health Week



www.nphw.org

TAKE THE FIRST STEP!

PREPAREDNESS AND PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS:
Addressing the Unique Needs of the Nation's Vulnerable Populations

 **National Public Health Week • April 2-8, 2007**

National Public Health Week in the News

- Commentary: Your Safety, The Albuquerque Tribune, April 4, 2007, <http://www.abqtrib.com/news/2007/apr/04/commentary-your-safety-mn/>
- A Significant Erosion of Home Readiness, Scripps Howard News Service, April 4, 2007, http://www.shns.com/shns/g_index2.cfm?action=detail&pk=MEDICAL-04-04-07
- Territory Observing Public Health Week with "Take the First Step!" Events Theme, The Virgin Islands Daily News, April 3, 2007, http://www.virginislandsdailynews.com/index.pl/article_home?id=17606766
- State's New Health Chief Visits to See Local Efforts, Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, April 3, 2007, <http://www.democratandchronicle.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2007704030333>
- [Click here](#) to sign up to receive Get Ready for Flu blog entries delivered right to your e-mail inbox

National Public Health Week Resources:

- **First Step! Preparedness Assessment:** www.nphw.org/2007/pg_howprepared.htm
- **National Public Health Week Kids Corner:** www.nphw.org/2007/pg_kidscorner.htm

Resources for Teachers:

- **American Red Cross:** www.redcross.org/pubs/dspubs/childmatls.html
- **American Red Cross Coloring Book:**
www.redcross.orgservices/disaster/eduinfo/colorbk.pdf
- **Department of Education:** <http://ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/index.html>
- **Masters of Disaster Instruction:** www.redcross.org/disaster/masters/intro.html
- **FEMA:** www.fema.gov/kids/ and www.fema.gov/kids/teacher.htm
- **National Hurricane Center:** www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/kids.shtml
- **Ready.gov:** www.ready.gov/kids/
- **SAFE (School Actions for Emergencies) Center:**
www.eschoolnews.com/news/showStory.cfm?ArticleID=6801

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This last week many of us celebrated Passover and Easter. Here are 2 non-religious poems that can be life lessons from each:

'Twas the night after Pesach and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse.
The matzoh, the farfel, the charoses I ate
After both the sederim had gone to my waist!
When I got on the scales there arose such a number!
As I walked to the Shul (less a walk than a lumber!)
I remembered the marvelous meals I'd prepared
The turkey with gravy, the beef - nicely rared!
The wine and the matzoh balls, Migdal kosher cheese
The way I'd never said, "No more, if you please!"

As I tied myself into my apron again
Spied my reflection disgustedly, then
I said to myself, "You are such a weak wimp!
You can't go to shul resembling a blimp!"
So away with the last of the meatballs so sweet,
Get rid of the turkey, chopped liver and meat.
Every last bit morsel I like must be banished
'Til all the additional ounces have vanished!
I won't have those good macaroons from the box
And wait until next week! - OY! Bagels and lox!
I won't have the lukshen, farfel or p'chah -
I'll munch on a carrot or wire shut my own jaw!
It's three days of Yom Tov and Shabbos is still
Ahead of me - with more fleishik meals to fulfill!
If I have to cook one more chicken, I'll riot!
So, a Zeesen Pesach to all and to all - a good diet!

ALL I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT LIFE I LEARNED FROM THE EASTER BUNNY

*Don't put all of your eggs in one basket
Walk softly and carry a big carrot
Everyone needs a friend who is all ears
There's no such thing as too much candy
All work and no play can make you a basket case
A cute little tail attracts a lot of attention
Everyone is entitled to a bad hare day
Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits
Some body parts should be floppy
Keep your paws off other people's jellybeans
Good things come in small sugarcoated packages
The grass is always greener in someone else's basket
An Easter bonnet can tame even the wildest hare
To show your true colors you have to come out of your shell
The best things in life are still sweet and gooey*

Have a wonderful spring and join us in Hutchinson for the 2 nd Annual Governor's Public Health Conference! Register today on <https://ks.train.org>. [Back to top](#)



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

