Health in the Media:

House Votes To Repeal Health Law (ctrl+click for full story)

National News
In a largely symbolic and generally party-line vote, the House clears a measure to repeal the signature legislative achievement of the Obama administration.

January 18th Consortium Breakfast Meeting

Due to the inclement weather last week, the Minority Health Consortium had to cancel our January 11th legislative breakfast. We held our first breakfast, Tuesday, January 18th. (FYI, please see attached invitation with topic and speaker.)

- Legislative turnout the 18th was good considering it followed a holiday.
• Dr. Idonia Trotter, Executive Director of Arkansas Minority Health Commission (AMHC), opened with introductory remarks about the mission and vision of the Consortium.

• Sen. Jack Crumbly spoke about the vast health disparities that exist between West Arkansas in comparison with the Delta region, stating that there is a 10 year difference in life expectancy between children born in Benton County versus a child born in Phillips County. He also reviewed his subcommittee recommendations to improve access to healthcare services and dental hygiene/care in order to begin to erode away the disparity divide within our state.

• Each legislator present spoke about what health issues concerned them the most.

• There were several staff members from the Governor’s office.

• Consortium members took advantage of the time they had to speak one-on-one with legislators.

• We encourage all of the Consortium members to attend because this forum provides a great opportunity to network, meet legislators and interact with the Governor’s staff.

Consortium Legislative Breakfast Forum Schedule:

<table>
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<th>Schedule To Date:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday, January 18th – Arkansas Minority Health Commission (AMHC)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, January 25th – Coalition for a Tobacco Free Arkansas (CTFA)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 1st – Women’s Council on African American Affairs (WCAAA)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 8th – AARP Arkansas</td>
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<td>Tuesday, February 15th – ADH/HHI (tentative)</td>
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- February 22nd and possible March dates are still available for any member that is interested in hosting a legislative breakfast forum.
- If you are interested in hosting a breakfast, please notify Pamela Hayes at pamela.hayes@arkansas.gov to schedule a date.

Senate & House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee Meetings

| House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee – Every Tuesday and Thursday at 10 am in Rm 130 |
| Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee – Every Wednesday and Friday at 10 am in Rm 272 |

(Note: Senate Public Health Committee may not meet every Friday; therefore, please check schedule weekly and we will keep you abreast of whether any meeting(s) have been cancelled).
If you are interested in speaking at any committee meeting, please contact Legislative Bureau to request adding your name to the agenda.

Public Health Bill Updates:

Pamela Hayes is monitoring all bills that have been filed daily.
You will receive a summary of legislation in weekly emails regarding any bills that may impact the consortium.

**SB 65**  (ctrl+click for full bills)
*Senator J. Jeffress*
AN ACT TO IMPROVE ENROLLMENT OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN IN 9 THE ARKIDS FIRST A AND B MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; 10 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**SB 69**
*Senator J. Jeffress*
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE SALE OF HERBAL SNUFF TO 8 PERSONS UNDER EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE; AND FOR 9 OTHER PURPOSES.

**SB 42**
*Senators D. Johnson, P. Malone, Crumbly*
AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE DENTAL HYGIENISTS TO PERFORM DENTAL HYGIENE PROCEDURES FOR PERSONS IN PUBLIC SETTINGS WITHOUT THE SUPERVISION OF A DENTIST.

**SB 43**
*Senators D. Johnson, P. Malone, Crumbly*
AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE PHYSICIANS AND NURSES TO APPLY FLUORIDE VARNISH TO A CHILD'S TEETH AFTER APPROPRIATE TRAINING.

**HB1049**
*Representative Allen*
TO IMPROVE THE SAFETY OF HIGHWAYS AND ROADS BY PROHIBITING WIRELESS TELEPHONE USE IN SCHOOL ZONES.

If any consortium member has: (a) an event scheduled; (b) legislation filed; (c) presentation before committee; (d) legislation coming up for a vote in committee or House/Senate; (e) press conference; (f) or news to share…please forward information to Pamela Hayes at pamela.hayes@arkansas.gov.

We will place information on master calendar, AMHC website and AMHC facebook page.
If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to call Kendal Booker at 501.563.0731, or email kbooker00@yahoo.com.
News from Arkansas Advocates for Children & Families

Kids Count Day at the Capitol set for Feb. 8
Register today!
Please join child advocates from across the state joining together at the Arkansas State Capitol to participate in the legislative process, to meet with their local legislators, attend legislative committee meetings, and observe lawmakers voting on bills that affect the lives of children and their families. Learn about specific bills that impact children being considered at the Capitol that day and give input to your legislators. Hear from legislative leaders and talk with experienced legislative advocates about how you can make a difference for children during the day at the Capitol.

Click here for an agenda and registration information. <http://click.aristotle.net/click.aspx?lid=4W0qWOLJMqL>

News from Arkansas Minority Health Commission

AMHC leadership met with The Honorable Governor Mike Beebe on Friday, January 14th to share the Commission's legislative priorities for 2011. Pictured are Dr. Idonia Trotter, Gov. Beebe, AMHC Chair Vivian Flowers and Dr. Creshelle Nash.