**Health in the Media:**

**House passes bill on pharmacist-only pseudoephedrine**  
*Posted: March 16, 2011 4:16 p.m.*  
The Arkansas House has passed a bill that would allow only pharmacists to sell cold medicine that contains a key ingredient in methamphetamine.

**Overhaul of Medicaid in state breeds conflict**  
**Providers knock Beebe plan, scant data**  
*BY CHARLIE FRAGO*  
*Posted: March 18, 2011 4:20 a.m.*  
Health-care providers said Thursday that Gov. Mike Beebe’s plans to overhaul Medicaid will disrupt services, kill jobs and damage the state’s economy. Groups representing doctors, pharmacists and hospitals also questioned why the state has kept the plan largely under wraps until recently.

**Fetal-pain abortion ban fails to clear committee**  
*BY SARAH D. WIRE*  
*Posted: March 18, 2011 4:14 a.m.*  
A bill to prohibit abortions beyond the time fetuses are thought to feel pain failed in a state House committee Thursday. Support for the bill included an emotional account from the bill sponsor’s wife, and other proponents who said that studies show a fetus is capable of feeling pain after 20 weeks and that abortion is morally wrong.

**GOP holding on grocery-tax cut for concessions**  
*BY ALISON SIDER, SARAH D. WIRE*  
*Posted: March 16, 2011 5:01 a.m.*  
House Republicans are considering expanding one of the governor’s top plans for the session, a half-cent cut to the sales tax on groceries.

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**Free dental clinic expects more than 2,000 patients**  
*BY EVIE BLAD*  
*Posted: March 16, 2011 4:45 a.m.*  
An annual temporary dental clinic expects to break the previous year’s records by providing free dental care to more than 2,000 patients this year.
**March 15 Consortium Breakfast Meeting**

Front Row: Kevin Hunt, Willa Sanders, Christine Patterson, Sen. Michael Lamoureux  

Rep. Tracy Steele, Chairman ALBC speaking to attendees  
Sen. Jack Crumbly, Vice Chairman ALBC addressing those in attendance

**Speakers**

- **Representative Tracy Steele**, Chair of the Black Caucus
  - Praised the attendees for the time and resources that they have spent at the Capitol during the 88th General Assembly
  - Emphasized that the Arkansas Minority Health Commission is about more than race—it is about serving the underserved in Arkansas
  - Highlighted the legislators’ and advocates’ responsibility to change both the system and the mentality of people in our community
  - Discussed the need for more positive messages to get out to counteract the bad habits and negative messages that affect our children and families
  - Emphasized that health care policy is going to be more and more difficult as the nature of the legislature changes
    - Health care policy is the one area where you are telling people what is best for them and taking choice away.
    - Advocates need to work hard and ensure that research is ready to back all of their proposals.
Legislators

- Representative David Fielding
  - Emphasized the need to collaborate to make policy that will have a positive impact on the lives of Arkansans
- Representative Frederick Love
  - Emphasized the importance of bringing positive new policies and defeating harmful policies
- Representative Reginald Murdock
  - Asked for support for sickle cell legislations
- Senator Jack Crumbly
  - Discussed need to deal with issues that disproportionately affect minorities, including diabetes, hypertension, and sickle cell
  - Thanked David Johnson and Dental Association for bills that improve oral health
- Senator Joyce Elliot
  - Thanked the Commission for organizing and supporting a cultural competency bill
- Senator Michael Lamoureux
  - Emphasized the need to share different perspectives and looked for opportunities for common ground

Senate & House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee Meetings

Schedule To Date:
- March 22, 2011: Colorectal Cancer (Capitol Café)-FINAL BREAKFAST
- April 5, 2011: Legislative Appreciation Luncheon - TBA

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 some 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).

Public Health Bills 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB709</td>
<td>Senator Irvine</td>
<td>AN ACT TO CREATE THE HEALTHCARE REFORM ACCOUNTABILITY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB2167</td>
<td>Rep. Allen</td>
<td>passed Senate Committee, AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARKANSAS HIV-AIDS MINORITY TASK FORCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>SB958</td>
<td>Senator Elliott</td>
<td>AN ACT TO CREATE CULTURAL COMPETENCE INTERIM STUDY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1604</td>
<td>Rep. Murdock</td>
<td>AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA IN ARKANSAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB2100</td>
<td>Rep. Allen</td>
<td>AN ACT TO CREATE AN OPT-OUT HIV SCREENING PROGRAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1800</td>
<td>Rep. King</td>
<td>TO ENACT THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1801</td>
<td>Rep. King</td>
<td>TO ENACT THE MANDATED HEALTH BENEFITS REVIEW ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB459</td>
<td>Senator Crumbly</td>
<td>passed Senate Committee, TO FOCUS STATE AGENCY ATTENTION ON MORTALITY DISPARITIES; TO DEFINE RED COUNTIES; AND TO CREATE PROGRAMS TO REMEDY MORTALITY DISPARITIES IN THIS STATE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1308</td>
<td>Rep. Allen</td>
<td>AN ACT TO CREATE THE MEDICAID GENERIC DRUG COMPETITION AND SAVINGS ACT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1503</td>
<td>Rep. McCrary</td>
<td>failed to pass in House, TO MAKE IT A VIOLATION FOR A MINOR TO POSSESS A TOBACCO PRODUCT OR CIGARETTE PAPERS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB98</td>
<td>Senator D. Wyatt</td>
<td>AN ACT TO AUTHORIZEADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES TO ENTER INTO COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB119</td>
<td>Senator Chesterfield</td>
<td>failed to pass in House, AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SB65  
Senator J. Jeffress  
AN ACT TO IMPROVE ENROLLMENT OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN IN THE ARKIDS FIRST A AND B MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SB113  
Senator Bledsoe  
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE POLICIES FROM OFFERING COVERAGE FOR ABORTIONS EXCEPT THROUGH A SEPARATE RIDER.

SB42  passed ACT 89  
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.

SB43  passed Act 90  
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.

SB165  passed Act 47  
Rep. D. Johnson  
AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LICENSURE PROCESS FOR DENTISTS AND REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND TO REMOVE OBSOLETE LANGUAGE REGARDING LICENSURE TESTING.

SB359  passed Act 197  
Rep. D. Johnson  
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN WATER SYSTEMS TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF FLUORIDE TO PREVENT TOOTH DECAY.

SB77  delivered to Governor  
Rep. J. Taylor  
HONOR PERSONS WHO HAVE PROVIDED LIVING KIDNEY DONATIONS TO ARKANSANS IN NEED OF KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION.

HB1317  passed Act 179  
Rep. Tyler  
AN ACT TO EXPAND THE IMMUNIZATION REGISTRY TO BETTER PROTECT THE CITIZENS OF ARKANSAS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

HB1053  
Rep. D. Meeks  
AN ACT TO ENSURE FREEDOM OF CHOICE IN HEALTH CARE FOR ALL ARKANSANS; AND TO PREVENT INVOLUNTARY ENROLLMENTS IN HEALTH CARE INSURANCE PROGRAMS.

HB1428  
Rep. Hutchinson  passed Act 269  
TO REQUIRE CHILD-ONLY INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.
SB345  
Sen. Malone passed Senate  
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM.

HB1247  
Rep. B. Wilkins passed Senate Committee  
AN ACT TO ENSURE THE CONSTITUTIONALITY OF EXEMPTIONS FROM THE REQUIREMENTS TO TEST NEWBORN INFANTS AND FROM THE REQUIREMENTS TO IMMUNIZE NURSING HOME RESIDENTS.

- If any consortium member has: (a) an event scheduled; (b) presentation before committee; (c) legislation coming up for a vote in committee or House/Senate; (d) press conference; (e) 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 kendalbooker@gmail.com.

Update from our Members