Input scant in Beebe's Medicaid plan, GOP says  
By Charlie Frago  
Posted: March 24, 2011 4:30 a.m.  
Republican lawmakers attacked Gov. Mike Beebe's proposal to cut Medicaid costs Wednesday, saying Department of Human Services officials had been secretive in developing a plan to revamp the $4.3 billion system covering hundreds of thousands of the state's poor and disabled.

Bill for AR sickle cell anemia clinic passes House  
Mar 24, 2011 at 2:48 PM EST  
The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences would open a clinic for treating sickle cell anemia under a bill that has been passed by the House.

Panel addresses health overhaul  
Watch the story  
Mar 23, 2011 at 8:32 PM EST  
A House committee spent the morning hearing arguments on a bill that would give the state insurance commissioner authority to put in place a structure to implement the federal healthcare overhaul.

Update: Fluoride bill headed to Gov. Beebe's desk  
Watch the story  
Mar 3, 2011 at 7:46 PM EST  
The Arkansas House approved a bill that would provide fluoridated water to most Arkansas homes.
March 22 Consortium Breakfast Meeting

Top row: Kevin Hunt, Rep. Fred Love, Dr. Jonathan Laryea, Vivian Flowers, Michael Preston, Dr. Paul Greene
Bottom row: Cornelya Dorbin, Delores Woods, Gemessia Ford, Dr. Karen Yeary, Dr. Ronda Henry Tillman, Dr. Creshelle Nash

Speakers

- **Cornelya Dorbin, MPA**, Executive Director, Arkansas Cancer Coalition
  - Explained the importance of addressing disparities in cancer care and treatment
  - Emphasized the important work that many of the ACC partners are doing to address colorectal cancer

- **Ronda Henry-Tillman, MD, FACS**, Professor of Surgery, UAMS
  - Highlighted the importance of early detection to save money and save lives
  - Described important funding streams from the state, ACC, NIH, and other grants that enable education and early detection across the state
  - Explained primary screening mechanisms
    - Fecal Occult Blood Test (FOBT)
    - Colonoscopy
  - Promoted early detection and treatment for people over 50

- **Jonathan A. Laryea, MD, FACS**, Chief, Division of Colorectal Surgery
  - Explained the importance of screening before symptoms occur
  - Described treatment options at each stage of colorectal cancer
  - Described different types of surgery
  - Discussed disparities linked to colorectal cancer
    - Even if cancer is detected at the same stage, African Americans have worse outcomes than Caucasians.
    - Many studies show mixed results and additional research is needed.
Gemessia Ford, Empowering Communities for Life, UAMS
- Explained community based participatory research approach that is being used to address colorectal cancer and heart disease in Mississippi and St. Francis counties
- Described the progress and goals of the Empowering Communities for Life program
  - Recruited 229 participants (goal is >1300)
  - 40 have already completed the program (goal is >750)
- Highlighted 3 parts of the program
  - Community-based education
  - Education by a medical professional about colorectal cancer
  - Education about how to prevent heart disease

Delores Woods, Empowering Communities for Life, St. Francis County
- Described her work in St. Francis County
  - Recruits, educates, and offers screenings
  - Often goes door-to-door in rural areas
- Listed barriers to screening and education
  - Lack of transportation
  - Lack of money to purchase gas
  - Fear of using the services
  - Fear of being used as “guinea pigs”
  - Fear or finding cancer or heart disease
- Highlighted the positive outcomes of the program
  - Broken barriers or distrust
  - Increase access to health care services

Legislators
- Representative Efrem Elliot
- Representative David Fielding
- Representative Frederick Love
If you are interested in speaking at any committee meeting, please contact Legislative Bureau to request adding your name to the agenda.

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.

### Senate & House Public Health, Welfare and Labor Committee Meetings

**Schedule To Date:**

- **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.

- **SB709** *(click to view bill)*  
  Senator Irvine  
  AN ACT TO CREATE THE HEALTHCARE REFORM ACCOUNTABILITY

- **HB2167**  
  Rep. Allen *passed Senate Committee*  
  AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARKANSAS HIV-AIDS MINORITY TASK FORCE

- **SB958**  
  Senator Elliott *passed Senate floor*  
  AN ACT TO CREATE CULTURAL COMPETENCE INTERIM STUDY

- **HB1604**  
  Rep. Murdock *passed House floor*  
  AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA IN ARKANSAS

- **HB2100**  
  Rep. Allen  
  AN ACT TO CREATE AN OPT-OUT HIV SCREENING PROGRAM

- **HB1800**  
  Rep. King  
  TO ENACT THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT

- **HB1801**  
  Rep. King  
  TO ENACT THE MANDATED HEALTH BENEFITS REVIEW ACT

- **SB1004** *passed House committee*  
  Senator P. Malone  
  AN ACT TO RAISE THE AGE OF CHILDREN FOR WHOM SMOKING IS PROHIBITED IN MOTOR VEHICLES; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.
**SB459**  
*Senator Crumbly passed House Committee*
TO FOCUS STATE AGENCY ATTENTION ON MORTALITY DISPARITIES; TO DEFINE RED COUNTIES; AND TO CREATE PROGRAMS TO REMEDY MORTALITY DISPARITIES IN THIS STATE.

**HB1308**  
*Rep. Allen*
AN ACT TO CREATE THE MEDICAID GENERIC DRUG COMPETITION AND SAVINGS ACT

**HB1503**  
*Rep. McCrery failed to pass in House*
TO MAKE IT A VIOLATION FOR A MINOR TO POSSESS A TOBACCO PRODUCT OR CIGARETTE PAPERS.

**SB98**  
*Senator D. Wyatt*
AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES TO ENTER INTO COLLABORATIVE AGREEMENTS WITH AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**SB119**  
*Senator Chesterfield failed to pass in House*
AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

**SB65**  
*Senator J. Jeffress passes House Committee*
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** passed Act 268  
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** passed Act 269  
Rep. Hutchinson  
TO REQUIRE CHILD-ONLY INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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

**SB345** passed Act 304  
Sen. Malone  
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM.

---

- 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.
More than 100 youth from across the state came to Capitol for Arkansas’ annual Tobacco Free Kids Day on March 23rd.

Eight of those youth spent the last three days in Little Rock attending a youth leadership workshop where they gained and sharpened their advocacy skills and learned techniques to promote tobacco prevention programs at the local level.

Three of the youth testified in the House Rules Committee for SB 1004, the smoke-free cars bill sponsored by Senator Percy Malone.

One Youth testified using fact from the 2006 and 2010 U.S. Surgeon General Report that there is no safe level of exposure to Secondhand Smoke.

Katherine Donald, Genine Perez-Porch and a couple of others facilitate the three-day youth training.