Health in the Media:

Pistols-on-campus bill misfires in House panel
8-8 vote falls 3 short as schools testify against it
BY ALISON SIDER, MICHAEL WICKLINE
Posted: March 4, 2011 6:09 a.m.
Legislation that would allow university staff and faculty members to carry concealed handguns on campuses failed to gain the approval of a House committee Thursday.

House narrowly passes age limit on herbal snuff
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Posted: March 3, 2011 3:59 p.m.
The Arkansas House has passed a bill that would ban the sale of so-called herbal snuff to minors, but defeated a bill that would have made it a violation for children to have tobacco or cigarette papers.

Judge stays block on health law
A federal judge in Florida on Thursday issued a stay of his earlier ruling overturning the health-care overhaul law, ensuring that in the 26 states that mounted the constitutional challenge, the law’s implementation can proceed while the Obama administration pursues an appeal.

Tax cuts fall short in panel votes
Back-to-school break, timber exemption don’t pass committee
BY MICHAEL WICKLINE
Posted: March 3, 2011 5:51 a.m.
Motions to recommend a couple of tax-cut bills fell short in a tax committee Wednesday.

Ark. House panel backs fluoride in water bill
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Posted: March 1, 2011 12:26 p.m.
A House committee has recommended requiring Arkansas cities with more than 5,000 residents to put fluoride in their water.

Initiative would drug-test elected, appointed officials
BY SARAH D. WIRE
Posted: March 1, 2011 5:41 a.m.
Elected and appointed officials in Arkansas would face random drug tests under a proposed initiated act filed by a group that supports legalizing the use of medical marijuana.
March 1 Consortium Breakfast Meeting


Rep. David Rainey addressing the attendees

**Speakers**

- **Germaine Johnson**, Sickle Cell Support Services
  - Defined and described sickle cell disease
  - Shared personal story and experience with sickle cell, including his difficult transition from adolescence to adulthood
  - Emphasized the goal of improving the quality of life for all sickle cell patients in Arkansas

- **David Deere**, Director, Partners for Inclusive Communities at UAMS
  - Explained the history of the Sickle Cell Task Force, highlighting the work of many diverse groups, including AFMC, ADH, AMHC, patients, Partners, and others
Described excellent services for children at Children’s Hospital, but the lack of coordinated, comprehensive services for adults

Praised legislative champions, including former Representative Rainey, Senator Elliot, Senator Whitaker, and Representative Wilkins

Primary recommendation from the Task Force: Set up an adult care clinic
  - Serve patients
  - Serve as education point for doctors working with sickle cell around the state

Other recommendations from the Task Force
  - Change Medicaid limitations for sickle cell patients (currently, they are limited to 6 visits per year and 4 medications per month)
  - Support education and general awareness
  - Establish a registry
  - Increase research in Arkansas
  - Provide professional training for health professionals
  - Test adolescents so that they know their status

**Representative Reginald Murdock**, Primary Sponsor for Sickle Cell Bill
  - Reviewed request for adult sickle cell clinic
  - Emphasized potential cost savings for the state’s Medicaid program (up to $1.8 million)
  - Explained adult care model
    - Central hub at UAMS
    - Spokes at AHECs and community health centers across the state
    - Will use telemedicine for patient care and training
  - Has filed a shell bill, but the language has not been finalized

**Representative Fredrick Love**
  - Described opportunities to use telemedicine to improve care through many UAMS initiatives
  - Explained that enacting all of these recommendations may take several years and supporters should prepare for a long “fight”
  - Said UAMS Chancellor Dr. Dan Rahn is very supportive

**Former Representative David Rainey**
  - Praised the leaders and supporters for moving this effort forward
  - Highlighted importance of pulling in many different people who will recognize the significance of this issues, not just “preaching to the choir”

**Senator Joyce Elliot**
  - Emphasized the importance of being diligent and systematic in these efforts
  - Recommended providing sickle cell disease and trait testing for college students
Legislators
- Representative Greg Leding
- Representative David Fielding
- Representative Frederick Love
- Representative Eddie Cheatham
- Representative Reginald Murdock
- Senator Joyce Elliot
- Former Representative David Rainey

**Consortium Legislative Breakfast Forum Schedule:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 8, 2011</td>
<td>HIV/AIDS (Capitol Café)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 15, 2011</td>
<td>Legislative Black Caucus (Capitol Café)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 22, 2011</td>
<td>TBA (Capitol Café)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 29, 2011</td>
<td>Minority Health Consortium Appreciation Luncheon (Room 138)</td>
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**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 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 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.

(ctrl+click to view full bills)

**SB459**
Senator Crumbly 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.

**HB1308**
Rep. Allen
AN ACT TO CREATE THE MEDICAID GENERIC DRUG COMPETITION AND SAVINGS ACT
HB1503
Rep. McCrary failed to pass House
TO MAKE IT A VIOLATION FOR A MINOR TO POSSESS A TOBACCO PRODUCT OR CIGARETTE PAPERS.

SB98
Senator D. Wyatt amended and re-referred to Senate Committee
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 House
AN ACT TO CREATE THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SB65
Senator J. Jeffress amended and re-referred to Senate Committee
AN ACT TO IMPROVE ENROLLMENT OF ARKANSAS CHILDREN IN THE ARKIDS FIRST A AND B MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

SB113 amended
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 delivered to Governor
Rep. D. Johnson
AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR CERTAIN WATER SYSTEMS TO MAINTAIN A LEVEL OF FLUORIDE TO PREVENT TOOTH DECAY.
SB77 amended  
Rep. J. Taylor  
HONOR PERSONS WHO HAVE PROVIDED LIVING KIDNEY DONATIONS TO ARKANSANS IN NEED OF KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION.

HB1317 delivered to Governor  
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 House  
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 amended  
Sen. Malone  
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM.

SB794  
Senator Pritchard  
TO AMEND ARKANSAS LAW CONCERNING TOBACCO TREATMENT, PREVENTION, AND CESSATION.

- 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.


**Update from our Members**

**News from Arkansas Cancer Coalition**

- Summit XII: Spotlight on Prevention
  - March 7 – 8, 2011 at Embassy Suites Hotel in Little Rock
  - [www.arkansascancercoalition.org](http://www.arkansascancercoalition.org) for more information

**News from HIV/AIDS Task Force**

- HIV/AIDS Task Force/Arkansas Public Policy Panel Capitol Advocacy Day
  - March 16, 2011 at State Capitol