Health in the Media:

State bill for health-law hurdle fails
Panel rejects requiring legislative OK to carry out federal program
BY SARAH D. WIRE
Posted: March 10, 2011 6:14 a.m.
On a party-line vote Wednesday a Senate committee rejected a bill that would require state agencies to report on the cost of implementing the federal Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The bill would also prohibit agencies from implementing the law unless a specific state law allowed it.

Bill on obesity gets panel OK
It requires health plans to cover diagnosis, treatment
BY MICHAEL WICKLINE
Posted: March 10, 2011 5:57 a.m.
A bill to require state and public school employees’ health insurance plans to cover the diagnosis and treatment of morbid obesity won approval Tuesday in a state Senate committee.

March 8 Consortium Breakfast Meeting

Back Row: Ann Dixon, Lupita Rasheed, Willa Sanders
Speakers

- **Rick Collins**, Co-Chair, HIV/AIDS Task Force
  - Reviewed Task Force’s first report, which was issued in 2008
  - Explained second report, which is based on series of community forums that the Task Force hosted in each congressional district last summer
  - Emphasized the need for education, particularly in African American communities

- **Lupita Rasheed**, Co-Chair, HIV/AIDS Task Force
  - Discussed themes that emerged from the public forums
  - Emphasized the importance of education and increasing awareness in communities

- **Ann Dixon**, Arkansas HIV Community Advisory Board
  - Reviewed the purpose and work of CAB
  - Explained CAB’s current priorities
  - Shared her personal story and experience living with HIV/AIDS

- **Samantha Thomas**, Director of The Living Affected Corporation
  - Described her coalition which represents over 20 diverse groups and advocates for HIV/AIDS Issues
  - Explained the coalition’s current priorities
  - Reviewed purpose and work of The Living Affected Corporation

- **Kendal Booker**, Policy Consultant, AMHC
  - Rep Allen filed legislation to revise the language in Act 842 to reduce the rigidity of the standards required to constitute a quorum for the HIV Task Force
  - Rep Allen filed a shell interim study bill that provides for an “opt-out/opt-in HIV screening during routine primary care visits

Governor Mike Beebe and Legislators In Attendance

- Representative David Fielding
- Representative Frederick Love
- Representative Reginald Murdock
- Representative Efrem Elliott
- Senator Joyce Elliott

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

*Schedule To Date:*

- **March 15, 2011**: Legislative Black Caucus (State Capitol- Room 149)
- **March 22, 2011**: Colorectal Cancer (Capitol Café)
- **March 29, 2011**: Minority Health Consortium Appreciation Luncheon (State Capitol - Room 138)
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.

**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</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB709</td>
<td>Senator Irvine</td>
<td><strong>AN ACT TO CREATE THE HEALTHCARE REFORM ACCOUNTABILITY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB2167</td>
<td>Rep. Allen</td>
<td><strong>AN ACT TO AMEND THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE ARKANSAS HIV-AIDS MINORITY TASK FORCE</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB958</td>
<td>Senator Elliott</td>
<td><strong>AN ACT TO CREATE CULTURAL COMPETENCE INTERIM STUDY</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1604</td>
<td>Rep. Murdock</td>
<td><strong>AN ACT TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO TREATMENT FOR SICKLE-CELL ANEMIA IN ARKANSAS</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB2100</td>
<td>Rep. Allen</td>
<td><strong>AN ACT TO CREATE AN OPT-OUT HIV SCREENING PROGRAM</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1800</td>
<td>Rep. King</td>
<td><strong>TO ENACT THE AFFORDABLE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1801</td>
<td>Rep. King</td>
<td><strong>TO ENACT THE MANDATED HEALTH BENEFITS REVIEW ACT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB459</td>
<td>Senator Crumbly</td>
<td><strong>passed Senate Committee</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TO FOCUS STATE AGENCY ATTENTION ON MORTALITY DISPARITIES; TO DEFINE RED COUNTIES; AND TO CREATE PROGRAMS TO REMEDY MORTALITY DISPARITIES IN THIS STATE.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1308</td>
<td>Rep. Allen</td>
<td><strong>AN ACT TO CREATE THE MEDICAID GENERIC DRUG COMPETITION AND SAVINGS ACT</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HB1503</td>
<td>Rep. McCrory</td>
<td><strong>failed to pass in House</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>TO MAKE IT A VIOLATION FOR A MINOR TO POSSESS A TOBACCO PRODUCT OR CIGARETTE PAPERS.</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**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*  
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**  
*Rep. J. Taylor* **delivered to Governor**  
HONOR PERSONS WHO HAVE PROVIDED LIVING KIDNEY DONATIONS TO ARKANSANS IN NEED OF KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION.

**HB1317**  
*Rep. Tyler* **passed Act 179**  
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 Committee
TO REQUIRE CHILD-ONLY INDIVIDUAL HEALTH INSURANCE POLICIES AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

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.

SB345
Sen. Malone passed Senate
AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRESCRIPTION DRUG MONITORING PROGRAM.

- 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 HIV/AIDS Task Force**

**HIV/AIDS Task Force/Arkansas Public Policy Panel Capitol Advocacy Day**

- March 16, 2011 at State Capitol

**Arkansas Minority Health Commission’s 20th Year Anniversary Gala**

- Saturday, April 23, 2011 at the Peabody
Update from State Capitol

Delta Sigma Theta Day at the State Capitol

Idonia Trotter, Executive Director of Arkansas Minority Health Commission addresses Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at Delta Day on Monday, March 7, 2011 at the Capitol

Alpha Kappa Alpha Day at the State Capitol
Thursday, March 10, 2011