Arkansas News: Feb. 1 "Senate panel to discuss dangers of bath salt" by Rob Moritz-Arkansas News Bureau
http://arkansasnews.com/2011/02/01/senate-panel-to-discuss-dangers-of-bath-salts/

**Lawmaker backs drug testing for unemployment**
*By The Associated Press*
An Arkansas lawmaker is proposing that unemployment benefit recipients face mandatory drug testing.

**Federal judge strikes down health care overhaul**
*By The Associated Press*
PENSACOLA, Fla. — A federal judge in Florida says the Obama administration’s health care overhaul is unconstitutional, siding with 26 states that had sued to block it.

**Senate Republicans’ Health Law Repeal Fails**
News outlets reported on the Republican-sponsored repeal measure, which had been expected to fail.

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**February 2, 2011 Consortium Breakfast Meeting**

*Front row: Dr. Carolyn Dresler*
Minority Health Consortium in partnership with the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits (WCAAA) program hosted its third Legislative Breakfast on Tuesday, February 1, 2011 with approximately 45 in attendance.

Joyce Raynor, Executive Director of the Center for Healing Hearts and Spirits reminded attendees of the accomplishments that have been made over the last decade in providing underserved populations access to health education, prevention and treatment.

Representatives John Walker, Fred Love, Garry Smith, Greg Leding also shared their interest of improving the health and welfare of their constituents.

The breakfast provided yet another opportunity to educate attendees on Minority Health and the Economic Impact it has on all residents in the State of Arkansas.

Clinicians, health advocates, local coalitions, and other grassroots organizations shared the work they are doing in their communities and looked for an opportunity to work with their individual legislators on their respective priorities.

Dr. Carolyn Dresler, AR Department of Health Tobacco Prevention and Cessation Program provided statistics substantiating the correlation of substance abuse, mental illness, and tobacco use.

Senator Joyce Elliott addressed the economic impact that risky behaviors such as tobacco consumption, domestic and sexual violence has on all Arkansans and pledged her support to assist the consortium’s effort to ensure healthier lifestyles for all.

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.

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**Consortium Legislative Breakfast Forum Schedule:**

**Schedule To Date:**

- AARP of Arkansas – February 8, 2011 at Capitol Café
- Arkansas Department of Health/HHI – February 15, 2011 at Capitol Cafe
- Cancer Coalition – February 22, 2011 at Capitol Hill
  (*Denote change in location*)

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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 Fridays at 10 am in Rm 272

  *(Note: Satellite 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.

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**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.
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.

SB 65  
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 tabled  
Senator Bledsoe  
AN ACT TO PROHIBIT HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE POLICIES FROM OFFERING COVERAGE FOR ABORTIONS EXCEPT THROUGH A SEPARATE RIDER.

SB157 deferred  
B. Pritchard AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT APPLICANTS FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS TEST NEGATIVE FOR ILLEGAL DRUG USE.

SB 42 passed Senate committee  
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 passed Senate committee  
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 Senate Committee  
D. Johnson  
AN ACT TO CLARIFY THE LICENSURE PROCESS FOR DENTISTS AND REGISTERED DENTAL HYGIENISTS AND TO REMOVE OBSOLETE LANGUAGE REGARDING LICENSURE TESTING.

SB77 passed Senate Committee  
J. Taylor  
HONOR PERSONS WHO HAVE PROVIDED LIVING KIDNEY DONATIONS TO ARKANSANS IN NEED OF KIDNEY TRANSPLANTATION.

- 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 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>