Health in the Media:

**Senate OKs water-fluoridation bill**  
*By Michael Wickline, Sarah D. Wire*  
A bill that could lead to more Arkansans drinking fluoridated water cleared the Arkansas Senate on Thursday and was sent to the House of Representatives. The 25-7 vote on Senate Bill 359 came after its sponsor, Sen. David Johnson, D-Little Rock, told the Senate it would increase the percentage of Arkansans whose water systems are fluoridated from about 60 percent to more than 80 percent.

Learn how Water Fluoridation impacts Communities of Color, by Dr. Michelle Smith, Director of Arkansas Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities.

**Water Fluoridation Impact on African Americans and other Minorities**  
*By: Dr. Michelle Smith, Director of Department of Health’s Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities (ADH OMHHD)*

**Solid Foods Too Soon Could Lead to Childhood Obesity**  
There has been a lot of debate over the years when it comes to what age to start feeding a baby solid foods. Now, a new study finds that feeding an infant food too soon, could lead to obesity later in life.  

**Committee approves autism insurance coverage bill**  
*By The Associated Press*  
A House panel has approved a proposal to require most health insurance companies to cover diagnosis and treatment of autism.

**The Washington Post: In GOP-Led States, Health-Care Law Inspires Attacks And Accommodations**  
With battles over the president's signature health legislation underway in the courts and on Capitol Hill, a third line of attack is forming in the states: Practically every week, a Republican governor or lawmaker announces a new effort to kill the health-care law or undercut its implementation (2/21).
February 15 Consortium Breakfast Meeting


Front row: Dr. Creshelle Nash, Kathi Jones, Christine Patterson, Cornelya Dorbin, Willa Sanders

Cornelya Dorbin
Speakers

- **Cornelya Dorbin**, Executive Director, Arkansas Cancer Coalition
  - ACC’s mission is to reduce the burden of cancer, and ultimately to eliminate cancer.
  - ACC has 800 members and 300 partners across the state.
  - Majority of funding comes from state and federal grants, including the Arkansas Department of Health and Tobacco Settlement Funds.
  - On March 7 and 8, ACC is hosting the 12th Annual Cancer Summit at the Embassy Suites.

- **Kimberly Enoch**, Program Manager, MammoVan – Mobile Mammography Program, UAMS Cancer Control and Prevention
  - Focus on the 26 states without FDA approved mammography facilities.
  - Started with a mobile modular clinic in 2002.
  - Screened 1,527 women since February 2010.

- **Bob Altoff**, Vice President for Clinical Services, CARTI
  - CARTI is the largest radiation therapy center in the state and the only one that is accredited by the American College of Radiology.
  - CARTI has treated 80,000 patients in 35 years.
  - CARTI treats patients from all 75 counties at five different centers.
  - Patient Assistance Program provides low-income patients with housing or fuel vouchers to help with travel expenses.
    - This year, 140 patients will receive housing assistance and 305 will receive fuel vouchers.
    - Fuel vouchers are funded by ACC.
  - Last year, CARTI provided $7.5 million of services in uncompensated care.
  - CARTI also offers emotional counseling and nutritional support for patients.

- **Miriam Karanja**, Section Chief, Media and Health Communications, ADH – TPCP
  - Arkansas has made great strides in tobacco prevention and cessation.
  - Between 2007 and 2009, the state saved $56 million in hospitalizations because of stricter tobacco laws.
  - ADH is currently focusing on a testimonial campaign to protect all workers from second hand smoke.
    - Media – raise awareness about the lack of protection in restaurants and bars.
    - Education – working with grantees to implement community activities.
Legislators in attendance

- Senator Bill Pritchard (35)
- Representative Frederick Love (35)
- Representative Walls McCrary (15)
- Representative Tommy Baker (55)
- Representative Efrem Elliot (11)

Consortium Legislative Breakfast Forum Schedule:

Schedule To Date:
March 1, 2011: Sickle Cell at the Capitol Café
March 8, 2011: HIV/AIDS at the Capitol Café

- March dates are still available for any member that is interested in hosting a legislative breakfast forum.
- If you are interested in hosting a breakfast, please notify Pamela Hayes at pamela.hayes@arkansas.gov to schedule a date.

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
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
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 passed Senate
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 passed House Committee
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
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.

- 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

Next Quarterly Meeting: February 15, 2011

- 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