



KHA's Capitol Comments
October 22, 2021

Special State Legislative Interim Meeting to Discuss 340B

This week, a special state legislative interim, chaired by Representative Susan Concannon (R-Beloit), met to discuss the federal 340B Drug Program. Kansas Hospital Association members appeared before the committee to highlight the importance of the program and what is at stake if the program is allowed to be eroded.

Presenting on behalf of health care providers were:

- Sarah Dodson, Ascension Via Christi Hospital Pittsburg, Inc., Pittsburg
- Tracy Gilmore, Labette Health, Parsons
- Representatives of the Community Care Network of Kansas, Topeka

Next, the committee received an overview and historical information from:

- Lisa Scholz, Sentry Data Systems
- William Von Oehsen, attorney for Powers, Pyles, Sutter & Verville.

The committee then received an update at the state and federal level from:

- Steven Anderson, Medicaid inspector general
- Jake Middlebrooks, legislative director for Congressman Jake LaTurner.

Finally, committee members heard testimony from Carolyn Ha, PhRMA, who raised questions about whether patients are receiving the benefits, and whether profits are being diverted for PBM's purposes. The conferee emphasized the need for increased transparency in 340B.

Mental Health Modernization Subcommittee on Telehealth Meets

The Mental Health Modernization Committee has broken into subcommittees, and the telehealth subcommittee met this week to talk about issues critical to telehealth.

Working through telehealth reform, including provisions around payment parity were:

- Jennifer Findley, KHA, Topeka
- Dennis Shelby, Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha

- Jason Grundstom, The University of Kansas Health System, Kansas City

The topics covered by each sub-committee and committee membership information can be found by visiting: [Mental Health Modernization Sub-committees](#).

The full Mental Health Modernization and Reform Committee meets next Thursday, Oct. 28, to hear a report from the working groups.

Upcoming Interims

Included is a list of upcoming interim committees slated to meet through October and November.

Oct. 25 – Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council

Oct. 25 – 26 Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

Oct. 26 – Legislative Coordinating Council

Oct. 27 – Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

Oct. 28 – Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health and Modernization Reform

Oct. 29 – Kansas Criminal Justice Reform Commission – Subcommittee on Research-Based Incentives

Oct. 29 – Special Committee on Government Overreach and Impact of COVID-19 Mandates

Oct. 30 – Special Committee on Government Overreach and Impact of COVID-19 Mandates

Nov. 1 – Special Committee on KS Mental Health Modernization and Reform – System Capacity and Transformation Subcommittee

Nov. 3 – Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform – Service and Workforce Working Group
Nov. 3-4 – Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight

Nov. 4 – Joint Committee on Information Technology

Nov. 4 – SPARK Executive Committee – Dodge City

Nov. 5 – Legislative Budget Committee

Nov. 9 – Special Committee on Child Support Enforcement and Collection

Nov. 10 – Kansas Senior Care Task Force

Nov. 10 – Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform – System Capacity and Transformation Working Group

Nov. 15 – Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform – Telehealth Working Group