

Analysis

Tough selling job ahead for health agency

From "HEALTH," Page 1

the agency's board adopted them again last week.

The authority also is pushing for large increases in spending on health care programs, just as it did last year. The new package would phase in a \$243 million increase over four years, most of it to cover an expansion of Medicaid coverage for parents.

This year's elections appear unlikely to cause a dramatic shift in the Legislature's philosophical bent, and, barring a historic disaster for them, Republicans will retain their majorities.

Thus, the authority is likely to see passage of only parts of its package — mostly proposals not costing a lot of money. Those ideas are likely to be melded into legislation that makes significant changes, but not ones big enough to garner national attention.

"Health care reform at the state level is going to continue to be about building consensus for several steps each year," said Senate Majority Leader Derek Schmidt, an Independence Republican. "The policy authority has been more aggressive than the Legislature has been willing to be, and I think that's probably going to continue to be true."

The state created the authority in 2005 to review health care issues and make policy recommendations to the governor and Legislature. The authority also runs

some programs, including Medicaid, the joint state-federal program covering medical services for the needy.

The authority operates in a climate in which many Kansans view health care as a pressing issue, if not the most pressing one.

Health care costs continue to rise, and in August, the U.S. Census Bureau released figures suggesting that more Kansans are uninsured than in recent years. It reported that for 2006-07, an average of 12.5 percent of the state's residents were uninsured, compared with an average of 10.5 percent for 2004-05.

"The number of uninsured is rising, and the Health Policy Authority is advancing a plan that is addressing the uninsured and has a means for paying for health insurance for people of low income," said Marcia Nielsen, the authority's executive director.

The smoking ban remains part of the package because, as Nielsen has pointed out before, it's difficult to advocate improving Kansans' overall health without addressing the harm caused by secondhand smoke.

Gov. Kathleen Sebelius expects to push next year for health care legislation. She said during a news conference earlier this month that other states have showed the best results with expanding programs such as Medicaid.

"In a softening economy, one thing that's happening is that pri-

vate employers are either dropping coverage or not offering coverage," Sebelius said.

Of course, cost is the biggest obstacle to expanding state programs. The authority plans to extend Medicaid coverage to all poor parents whose household incomes are at or below the poverty level, or \$17,600 for a family of three. But after four years, Medicaid's budget would be \$233 million higher than today.

Those big costs would be offset by increasing tobacco taxes. The tax on a pack of cigarettes would rise by 75 cents, nearly double the rate today, from 79 cents now to \$1.54.

But last year's package contained an increase of 50 cents per pack, and legislators never seriously considered the idea. Sebelius has proposed such an increase since 2004, with no success.

Meanwhile, a smoking ban has foundered despite public health advocates' strong support. Legislators have resisted in the face of business opposition and concerns about taking away local control.

Legislators also have their own ideas about what should be part of a package.

For example, Rep. Jeff Colyer, an Overland Park surgeon who has emerged as a leader among House Republicans on health care, said lawmakers must address a shortage of nurses. And he advocates overhauling Medicaid.

Colyer argues that legislators

already have taken some important steps that need time to "percolate through the system." Among them were changes to give more Kansans an income tax deduction for their health care costs and to prevent people who leave their jobs from losing coverage for 18 months.

Finally, Colyer said, there are the policies Congress and the White House will pursue after a new president takes office in January 2009.

"It's probably going to have a pretty big impact on what we do," he said.

Nielsen argued that legislators shouldn't wait on the federal government when they can make significant improvements for Kansans. It's worth noting that Congress has been struggling with health care issues for two decades.

Schmidt said the authority has a difficult job, because if it gets too far ahead of the Legislature, it can be marginalized.

"I do think there's a lot of value in having them be the rabbit at the greyhound track," he said. "Somebody has to set a target that is more aggressive than what, as a practical matter, can get done each year, so that we have something to move toward."

EDITOR'S NOTE: Political Writer John Hanna has covered Kansas state government and politics since 1987.



**REDUCE
REUSE
RECYCLE**

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL COURT DEPARTMENT

FINANCIAL FREEDOM SENIOR FUNDING
CORPORATION, Plaintiff,

vs.

MARY E. DANIELS; S. J. DANIELS;
THE SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MARK MILLER
AS GUARDIAN AND CONSERVATOR
OF MARY E. DANIELS; THE KNOWN
and UNKNOWN HEIRS, executors,
administrators, devisees, trustees,
creditors, and assigns of any deceased
defendants; the unknown spouses of
any defendants; the unknown officers,
successors, trustees, creditors and assigns
of any defendants that are existing,
dissolved or dormant corporations; the
unknown executors, administrators,
devisees trustees, creditors, successors
and assigns of any defendants that are or
were partners or in partnership; and the
unknown guardians, conservators and
trustees of any defendants that are minors
or are under any legal disability and all
other person who are or may be concerned
of S.J. DANIELS and JOHN DOE/JANE
DOE (Occupant), et al.
Defendants.

Case No. 08 CV 11
Court No.
Title to Real Estate Involved

NOTICE OF SUIT

STATE OF KANSAS to the above named
Defendants and all other persons who are
or may be concerned:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a First
Amended Petition for Mortgage Foreclosure
has been filed in the District Court of Thomas
County, Kansas by Financial Freedom
Senior Funding Corporation, praying for
foreclosure of certain real property legally
described as follows:

ALL OF LOT SIX (6), BLOCK SIXTY-
TWO, SOUTH VIEW ADDITION TO
THE CITY OF COLBY, THOMAS
COUNTY, KANSAS, AS SHOWN BY
THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF,
("PROPERTY")

and for a judgment against Defendant Mary
E. Daniels and any other interested parties
and you are hereby required to plead to the
First Amended Petition for Foreclosure on or
before October 29, 2008 at Thomas County,
Kansas. If you fail to plead, judgment and
decree will be entered in due course upon
the request of plaintiff.

Respectfully submitted,
MARTIN, LEIGH, LAWS & FRITZLEN, P.C.

Beverly M. Weber KS # 20570
Emily W. Hess KS # 23035
MARTIN, LEIGH, LAWS & FRITZLEN, P.C.
1044 Main St., Suite 900
Kansas City, MO 64105
Telephone: (816) 221-1430
Facsimile: (816) 221-1044
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF

MARTIN, LEIGH, LAWS & FRITZLEN, P.C.
IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT
AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL
BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

(Published in The Colby Free Press
September 17, 24; October 1, 2008)

Public Notice

ORDINANCE NO. 1443

AN ORDINANCE ANNEXING LOT
ONE (1), BOSSELMAN ADDITION,
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS TO
THE CITY OF COLBY, KANSAS,
IN CONFORMITY WITH THE
PROVISIONS OF K.S.A. 12-520.

WHEREAS, all of the owners of the
land described below and subject to
this ordinance have petitioned the City
of Colby, Kansas (governing body) for
annexation;and

WHEREAS, pursuant to K.S.A. 12-
520 and K.S.A. 12-520a, the proposed
annexation may be considered and
approved by the governing body without
resolution, notice and public hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY
THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE CITY OF
COLBY, KANSAS:

SECTION 1. The following described
property is hereby annexed to the City of
Colby, Kansas:

Lot One (1), Bosselman Addition,
Thomas County, Kansas

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall take
effect and be in force from and after its
passage and publication in the official city
newspaper.

PASSED BY THE GOVERNING BODY
AND SIGNED BY THE MAYOR this 16th
day of September, 2008.

(S) K. G. Bieber, Mayor

ATTEST:
(S) Joni L. Ketchum, City Clerk

(SEAL)

(Published in the Colby Free Press
September 24, 2008)

(Published in the Colby Free Press
September 24, October 1, 8, 2008)

Public Notice

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF
THOMAS COUNTY, KANSAS
CIVIL DEPARTMENT

First Horizon Home Loans, a division of
First Tennessee Bank National Association
Plaintiff,

vs.

Michael Eschen and
Tiffany J. Eschen, et al.
Defendants.

Case No. 08CV18
Court Number:
Pursuant to K.S.A. Chapter 60

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of an Order of Sale
issued to me by the Clerk of the District
Court of Thomas County, Kansas, the
undersigned Sheriff of Thomas County,
Kansas, will offer for sale at public auction
and sell to the highest bidder for cash in
hand, at the Front Door of the Courthouse at
Colby, Thomas County, Kansas, on October
16, 2008, at 10:00 AM, the following real
estate:

All of Lot Seven (7), Block Five (5),
Pleasant Valley Addition to the
City of Colby, Thomas County,
Kansas, as shown by the recorded
Plat thereof, commonly known as
970 E. 6th Street, Colby, KS 67701
(the "Property")

to satisfy the judgment in the above-
entitled case. The sale is to be made
without appraisal and subject to the
redemption period as provided by law, and
further subject to the approval of the Court.
For more information, visit www.Southlaw.
com.

Michael Baughn, Sheriff
Thomas County, Kansas

SOUTH & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Joe Baca (KS #21707)
6363 College Boulevard, Suite 100
Overland Park, Kansas 66211
(913) 663-7600
(913) 663-7899 (Fax)
Attorneys For Plaintiff (87019)

(Published in the Colby Free Press
September 24, October 1, 8, 2008)


**Classifieds
work!
Call
462-3963
to place
yours.**



LANDOWNERS

Before you sign anything, consult an attorney. I have the relevant legal experience and the advantage of being a landowner in a recently completed wind farm. I've seen it all from start to finish. Let me use my knowledge and experience to help guide you through this complex process.

CHERYL TILLBERG MURRAY
ATTORNEY AT LAW
SALINA, KANSAS
(785) 577-6935



**HEAR YE,
HEAR YE....**

The *Colby Free Press* has established the following guidelines for items appearing on the Family Page.

WEDDINGS - All weddings, including picture, will be published **FREE of charge** if received within four months of the event. It is suggested that couples visit with their photographer to assure a picture is available within that time frame. Pictures will run 2 cols. wide. Wedding information coming to our attention after that period of time, will be given to our advertising department and the couple can make arrangements to purchase space for this purpose. **We urge you to take advantage of the four-month FREE insertion.**

ENGAGEMENTS - There is also **NO CHARGE** for this service. Pictures will run 1 col. wide. Please limit information to what is necessary for the announcement.

ANNIVERSARIES - We encourage anniversaries, accompanied by pictures, for those special occasions of **25 years and more**, at no charge. Pictures will run 1 col. wide. We will make every effort to get your information into the paper as close to that date as possible. We would ask that you submit your information to us well in advance of your special anniversary to assure timely publication.

CARDS OF THANKS - There will be a **SMALL CHARGE** to have Cards of Thanks placed. That charge is **10¢ per word**. No limit. We will bill you for this, however, there will be a **\$3.00 additional billing charge** if the thank you is not paid within **10 days** of the date the ad is placed.

CARD SHOWERS - Notices of card showers will continue to be offered **FREE of charge**. They will all appear in an appropriate column on the Family Page as space allows.



**COLBY
FREE PRESS**

**155 W. 5th
Colby
785-462-3963**

Public notices are printed to provide important information to the citizens, and let them know what is happening in their community. - Editor