



NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Health agencies to host legislative forum Jan. 10

(Lawrence, KS) — There will be a public forum with local state legislators from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. Jan. 10 at the Community Health Facility, 200 Maine, in conference rooms A and B on the second floor.

Hosts will be the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, Douglas County Visiting Nurses Association and Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center. The forum will begin with remarks from agency leaders, followed by comments from the legislative panel. There also will be a question-and-answer session for the audience.

Dan Partridge, Health Department director, will talk about changes in state lab testing and the Community Health Assessment. Cynthia Lewis, VNA chief executive officer, will discuss Medicaid expansion. David Johnson, CEO of Bert Nash, will speak about community mental health needs in the wake of the Newtown, Conn., tragedy. All of the agency leaders will discuss KanCare, the state's new system for Medicaid beneficiaries, and how the loss of state funding is affecting the health of Kansans. Moderator will be Ken McGovern, Douglas County sheriff.

State legislators who have been invited to participate include: Sens. Marci Francisco and Tom Holland, and Reps. John Wilson, Barbara Ballard, Tom Sloan and Paul Davis. The 2013 Kansas legislative session begins Jan. 14.

The forum is open to the public and light refreshments will be served.