

# KCA COMMUNIQUE

July 2007

**KCA**  
1334 S. Topeka Blvd.  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785-233-0697  
www.kansaschiro.com

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**Board of Healing Arts Considers License Fee Increase.** Now that the Legislature has approved staffing increases for the Board of Healing Arts to process licenses and carry out other regulatory functions for Kansas DCs, MDs, DOs and others, new licensing fee rates are being proposed. On July 24, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. a public hearing will be held on the fee increases from \$230 to \$270 for annual license renewals. The increase will result in approximately \$383,000 in new revenues for the Board to cover the staffing costs.

Board members point out that the increase is necessary partly because of fee fund sweeps that have occurred in the past to the Board's fee accounts when they are built up. Fee fund sweeps are a controversial practice by the Governor and Legislature to claim excess fees from various boards and commissions who do not have budget authority to spend excess amounts. The problem comes because the Governor and Legislature have the power to withhold that expenditure authority, which they commonly do, and then to claim those excess fee amounts for the general state budget. Some professional associations have attempted to organize together in the past to bring legal action to block the fee fund sweeps, but have so far failed in Kansas to put together enough funding to cover initial legal costs. It is generally agreed among association attorneys that the sweeps represent an unconstitutional taxation of the professions.

**New Platinum Sponsor.** Congratulations and thanks go out to Dr. Paul Brackeen, Derby, for recruiting Schreck Financial Group, Wichita, as a Platinum sponsor for KCA this year. KCA members should ask their suppliers to support the profession at the Platinum, Gold or Silver level to receive discounted convention booth space, free product ads in the *Journal* and meal tickets for KCA events.

**New CMS-1500 Is Ready to Use.** If you have not already checked with your staff, be sure you have converted to the updated version of the Medicare claim form CMS-1500 (08-05) by now. Problems with the new form delayed full implementation this spring. Medicare will no longer accept the old form CMS-1500 (12-90).

**Interim Committee Members Chosen.** Members of a new legislative committee set up for the summer to study a variety of issues involving the Board of Healing Arts, including the composition of the Board itself, are being named. So far the Judiciary Interim Committee will include Rep. Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson, vice-chair, Rep. Lance Kinzer of Olathe, Rep. Marc Rhoades of Newton, Rep. Vern Swanson of Clay Center, Rep. Bill Light of Rolla, and Sen. Greta Goodwin of Winfield. Senate Republicans and House Democrats have not added in their members yet. KCA will be monitoring the Committee's work throughout the interim.

**Have You Marked Your Calendar?** Speakers and topics will be announced soon for the upcoming KCA Fall Convention in Topeka October 26-28, 2007. A golf event preceding the convention is being planned, as well as a surprise family event for non-golfers.

**KCA Legislative Team Visits with Senate President.**

KCA Legislative Committee Chair Dr. Travis Oller and KCA Executive Director John Kiefhaber attended a campaign reception for Senate President Stephen Morris of Hugoton recently. Sen. Morris announced at the event that he will be running for reelection in 2008, when all Senate seats are up, and for Senate President again as well. Dr. Oller and John were able to get some time with the Senator to express KCA support and to remind him of our work with him during the 2007 session.

**COCSA Endorses New Outcomes Measurement System.**

The Congress of Chiropractic State Associations is now promoting new approaches to the public evaluation of chiropractic care by entering into an agreement with Alternative Medicine Integration Group (AMI) of Highland Park, Illinois to study and report on value-based purchasing of chiropractic care by health care payors. COCSA President Dr. Jerry DeGrado said, "... we feel that this will provide a huge benefit to the states and especially to the profession by proving with sound clinical criteria and outcome statistics

that chiropractic care is appropriate and effective for both patients and payors."

The national association, made up of state chiropractic associations, sees its role as a clearinghouse for solutions to member problems and has declared that chiropractic benefit management strategies currently in use by the majority of insurance companies and managed care organizations are "failed models that are counterproductive to quality chiropractic care." In contrast to the more arbitrary economically driven care management methods used by other chiropractic management companies, AMI uses condition-specific clinical criteria and validated assessment tools to measure patient improvement and to evaluate provider performance using real-time data supplied directly from both the patient and the chiropractor.

The official kick-off of the new initiative, called "A New Outcome!", will be held at the COCSA convention in Nashville in November. A press release announcing the new project did not specify what public information or tools of analysis would be offered to state associations first.

**Regional Talk Names Possible New Medicare Contractor.**

In a recent regional conference call with doctors and association executives it was reported that the short list of the likely winners later this month for the Medicare Region 5 claims processing contract includes WPS of Wisconsin

and Pinnacle Medicare Services of Arkansas. Both contractors are known to chiropractic through their participation in last year's Medicare demonstration project for chiropractic services. The announcement of the contract winner is expected by the end of July. KCA representatives are scheduled to meet with Medicare officials in the Kansas City Regional Office at about that time to discuss what changes are to be expected with the new contractor.

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**Did You Know?** The total number of 300 games bowled in the United States in 1982 was 5,949. The total for 2006 was 56,212.

**Upcoming KCA Meeting Dates.** Call or e-mail KCA for times and locations of the following meetings:

- KC Metro District Meeting, August 8.
- North Central District Meeting, August 9.
- KCA Board Meeting, August 18.
- Sedgwick District Meeting, August 21.