

Town hall meeting scheduled to help youth with special health needs

As part of the “Systems in Sync” grant for Kansas’ youth with special health care needs, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment will host eight regional town hall meetings in February.

The purpose of the meetings is to gather feedback on the needs of youth with special health care needs, their families, and the professionals who work in the field, as well as provide information about the grant project.

Information gathered during the town hall meetings will provide project staff with decision tools to guide the grant project and important feedback for our state about the needs of each community.

Town Hall Meeting Schedule
All meetings begin at 4:30 p.m. (Mountain Time)

Tuesday, Feb. 2 - Colby, Colby Community Building, 285 E. 5th St.
Wednesday, Feb. 3 - Hays, Sternberg Museum, 3000 Sternberg Dr.
Friday, Feb. 8 - Garden City, Center for Independent Living, 1802 E. Spruce St.
Saturday, Feb. 9 - Liberal, Liberal Memorial Library, 519 N. Kansas
Friday, Feb. 15 - Wichita, Independent Living Resource Center, 3033 W. 2nd Street North
Saturday, Feb. 16 - Independence, SRS Center, 200 Arco Place
Friday, Feb. 22 - Kansas City, KS, Roeland Park Community Center, 4850 Rosewood Dr.
Sunday, Feb. 24 - Topeka, Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Ave.

“Systems in Sync” is a three-year grant awarded to Kansas Department of Health and Environment Children and Youth Special Health Care Needs in partnership with the University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities. The objective of the grant is to ensure that Kansas’ youth with special health care needs and their families receive culturally competent, uninterrupted, age-appropriate services that meet their needs and promote healthy, productive and independent adult lives.

For more information on the meetings, or if accommodations or translation services are needed to attend, please contact Heather Moore, Project Coordinator, at (785) 296-4747 or by e-mail at hmoore@kdheks.gov.

Commissioners review investigator position, costs

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ties, but not going out and investigating cases for other law enforcement offices.

She said there are three cases where the investigator has been handling the cases including one at the request of the Attorney General’s office.

The commissioners went into a closed door session with Pianalto, Selby and Butts to discuss the specifics of his duties and specifics of his case load for 30 minutes.

When the meeting reopened Strnad asked Pianalto if he felt it would be better for him to be in the attorney’s office.

Pianalto said he felt it would be better for the people if Selby had a full time investigator to serve the community as a whole.

Strnad asked Butts if he felt he needs a deputy with investigative training to work with his department.

Butts said that is what he is thinking, but agrees Selby probably does need an investigator to assist her office.

Commissioner Max Linin asked if Butts has a deputy who could be trained and if that would solve

the situation or if he needs another body.

Butts said he has one officer per shift and does not have the manpower to take one off duty. If I had two or three on a shift it would be much easier he said.

Strnad asked if the efforts would work if the budget could be stretched to have an investigator in the county attorney’s office and an investigator for the sheriff’s office.

Thomas said he felt they had heard both sides of the issue

Strnad said now it comes down to economics.

The problem the commissioners were wrestling with was if there was a way to stretch the county attorney’s budget to include an investigator position.

The county attorney’s office appears to be about \$20,000 short of having enough in the budget to cover the investigator’s salary.

That does not include the vehicle, radio and gas expenses that would have to be added to the attorney’s budget, Butts said.

The commissioners decided to wait and hold a special meeting with the auditors at 1 p.m. on Friday as they have several financial issues to discuss including the investigator.

State receives revised Sunflower plant filing

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has received a revised permit application from Sunflower Electric for construction of an 895 megawatt coal-fired electrical generating unit in Holcomb.

The coal-fired power plant project has been revised several times as it started with a plan for three 600 megawatt plants, and that was pared down to two plants last year. However, the state would not approve the permit and the state legislature

got into the act coming up with a compromise to allow one larger plant to be built.

After the legislature approved the plan for one plant the state health department told Sunflower Electric the company would have to submit a new application for the plant permit.

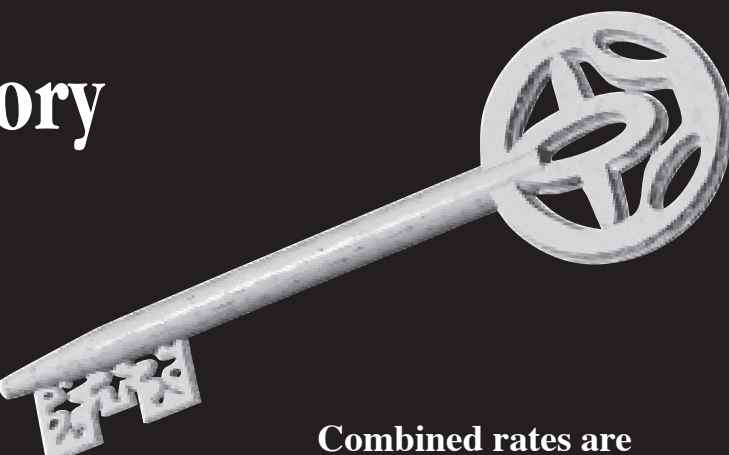
Staff in the state Bureau of Air is currently reviewing the permit application to ensure the details meet Kansas air quality requirements.

The review will take anywhere from three to six months, depending on any additional information submitted by Sunflower Electric. A review period of this length or longer is typical for the permitting process.

During this time, KDHE staff, along with Sunflower Electric, will also be coordinating with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to address any federal requirements.

Upon completion of a thorough review, the permit will be drafted and made available for public comment through a series of public hearings and solicitation of written comments. More information on the public comment process will be forthcoming.

After the public comment period, KDHE will address any concerns and make revisions as necessary to prepare the permit for final issuance.



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