MU’s Center for Health Policy presents *IMPACT*, an e-newsletter about timely local, state and national health policy issues and initiatives. MU’s Center for Health Policy is dedicated to helping Missourians achieve better health care through objective analysis and in-depth understanding of key policy issues facing our state. For more information, please visit [http://healthpolicy.missouri.edu/](http://healthpolicy.missouri.edu/).

**Third Annual Missouri Health Policy Summit - Save the Date**

We are excited to announce our Third Annual Missouri Health Policy Summit. This year’s event, to be held on **October 28th in Jefferson City, Missouri**, will focus on health disparities and Medicaid. The keynote speaker in the morning will be former Surgeon General David Satcher, M.D., Interim President, National Center for Primary Care at Morehouse School of Medicine. Panelists will include state officials, service providers and local experts. Julie Rovner, Health Policy Correspondent for National Public Radio, will provide our luncheon keynote. Ms. Rovner will present an overview of current and future policy issues facing our nation’s health care. In the afternoon, the keynote speaker will be Former Director of Medicaid for Indiana Melanie Bella. Ms. Bella will discuss health care strategies other states have implemented or are considering. Panelists will include state agents and policy experts who will discuss in detail the specific issues and future plans facing Missouri’s Medicaid Program. For more information and registration details, go to: [http://healthpolicy.missouri.edu](http://healthpolicy.missouri.edu).

**The 11th Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute and Videoconference on Minority Health**

The Center will once again sponsor local telecasting of the Annual Summer Public Health Research Institute and Videoconference on Minority Health hosted by the University of North Carolina Minority Health Project. Please join us to view this informative and interactive four-day program. This four-day conference will highlight numerous issues in health disparities and minority health research. For more information go to: [http://healthpolicy.missouri.edu/events.htm](http://healthpolicy.missouri.edu/events.htm)

Viewing Locations: June 20-22, 2005, 12:30 - 2:30 p.m. Acuff Auditorium (MA217) and June 23, 2005, 12:30 -2:30 p.m. Academic Support Center (505 E. Stewart Rd.).

**Affordable Health Insurance Subject of Statewide Forums**

Public deliberation forums focusing on access and affordability of health insurance were held in 22 communities throughout the state of Missouri this spring. The deliberative process allowed participants to learn about the issue and discuss a variety of policy options. The groups weighed the pros and cons of each option, then looked for areas of consensus on the issue. The discussions were recorded, and a summary report of these meetings will be submitted to Governor Blunt and the state legislature. This initiative is part of the work the Center for Health Policy has been doing with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services funded by a State Planning Grant from the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration. In addition, MU Extension and the seven Area Health Education Centers collaborated on this statewide effort.

Several recurring key themes emerged from these meetings. Those themes were:

- Support of health promotion/disease prevention measures,
- Support of public health education for informed lifestyle choices,
- Basic health insurance coverage for everyone,
- Tax breaks and/or other incentives combined with a pooling mechanism for self-employed and small businesses,
- Care management system for the chronically ill, and
- Feasible solutions must be based on a public/private partnership.
Promoting Telehealth Services

Congressman Kenny Hulshof of Missouri (9th District) recently introduced legislation to improve the provision of telehealth services under the Medicare Program. HR 2807 would provide grants for the development of telehealth networks and for other purposes. While the proposed bill is not specifically aimed at the University of Missouri, the Missouri Telehealth Network is one of the most advanced in the nation and could substantially benefit if the legislation is enacted. More specific information concerning this bill can be found at: http://thomas.loc.gov/.

Summer Internships in Health Disparities

We are excited to announce several students from across campus have decided to join us this summer to further explore health disparities issues.

Alicia Barnes - Post Baccalaureate Fellow from the National Institutes of Health - College of Arts and Science
Emily Burns - Second Year Medical Student - School of Medicine
Emily Lange - Second Year Medical Student - School of Medicine
Hamid Turay - Second Year Medical Student - School of Medicine
Paula Williams - First Year Master's Student - Sinclair School of Nursing