



Kansas Insurance Department

Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance

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Insurance Department to hold public forum on proposed sale of Preferred Health Systems

TOPEKA, Kan. — The Kansas Insurance Department will host a public forum Monday, Dec. 14, in Wichita on the proposed sale of Preferred Health Systems Insurance Co. and Preferred Plus of Kansas Inc., to Coventry Health Care Inc.

The forum will be from 1 to 3 p.m. at the CAC Theatre on the Wichita State University campus. Visitor reserved parking will be available in Lot 7, which is one block north of 17th Street on Yale Avenue, immediately south of the Rhatigan Student Center.

Kansas Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger will preside at the forum and give opening comments. Representatives of Via Christi Health Systems Inc., Wichita, the parent company of Preferred Health Systems Insurance Co. and Preferred Plus of Kansas Inc., and Coventry Health Care Inc. will be given 15 minutes each to comment on the proposed transaction. After these comments, the public will have the opportunity to ask questions of the presenters.

The insurance department will also conduct a more formal fact-finding hearing from 1 to 3 p.m. Friday, Dec. 18, also at the CAC Theatre on the WSU campus. That hearing is also open to the public, and parking will be available in Lot 7 as before.

Coventry is based in Bethesda, Md., and operates in all 50 states. Coventry Health Care of Kansas Inc. has offices in Kansas City, Mo., and Wichita.

Preferred is the largest commercial insurer in the Wichita area. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas is second, and Coventry is third, according to media reports.

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The Kansas Insurance Department, established in 1871, assists and educates consumers, regulates and reviews companies and licenses agents selling insurance products in the state. More about the department is online at www.ksinsurance.org.