Kansas Insurance Department
Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance

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Kansas Insurance Department will have exchange planning meeting

TOPEKA, Kan. — Sandy Praeger, Commissioner of Insurance, will host a public meeting Thursday, Jan. 27, to continue the planning process for a Kansas health benefit exchange.

The scheduled two-hour meeting will begin at 10 a.m. in the Shawnee A Conference Room at the Maner Conference Center in Topeka.

"The health benefit exchange planning is part of the federal Affordable Care Act health reform law," Commissioner Praeger said. "It is scheduled to be an online process where health insurance consumers can compare similar insurance plans from many companies certified to do business in each state. It also will help determine eligibility of consumers for subsidy payments to purchase the insurance."

At the meeting, Commissioner Praeger will give opening remarks, followed by a presentation of specific information regarding the operational requirements for a Kansas exchange. Attendees will then have the opportunity to volunteer to participate in various working groups created to address specific issues related to the exchange.

"We want input from insurance industry representatives, non-profit health organizations and consumers," Commissioner Praeger said. "It's vital that we receive input from Kansans concerning how to make this a state-based activity."

The law calls for a state health exchange to be operational by 2014. If individual states decide not to operate an exchange, the federal government will, according to the law.

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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.