



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Nurses Keep Top Spot for Honesty and Ethics in Poll Ranking Professions ..... 2

In the Spotlight - Primary Care Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems ..... 2

In the Spotlight - Sedgwick County Health Department ..... 3

New Disease Surveillance System ..... 3

Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds - Spring 2012 ..... 4

Pharmacology Education Series ..... 4

Kansans Optimizing Health Program Training ..... 4

Public Health Prevention Service Fellowship Program ..... 5

Change to the Kansas Neonatal Screening Reports ..... 5

Calling All School Nurses ..... 5

New Assistant Director Announced for the Immunization Program ..... 6

New KU-MPH Program Concentrations ..... 6

KUMC’s Role in Serving the Health Care Needs for Kansas ..... 7

Sexual Violence, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence Widespread in the U.S. .... 8

Accreditation Readiness Activities for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment ..... 8

Accreditation Corner ..... 9

    Resources to Prepare for Accreditation now Available ..... 9

    Cultural and Linguistic Competence ..... 9

    Collaboration for Community Health Assessment and Improvement ..... 9

    Community Tool Box Module 1 On-line Course Now Live on KS-TRAIN ..... 10

Funding Opportunities ..... 10

    Immunize Kansas Kids ..... 10

    National Demonstration Initiative on Quality Improvement Practices ..... 10

    Policy Contest ..... 10

    Quality Improvement Award Program ..... 11

News and Resources ..... 11

    Local Health Department Administration Changes ..... 11

    State and Local Health Department Governance Classification System ..... 11

    The Role of County Commissioners/Local Boards of Health in Accreditation Efforts ..... 11

    Public Health Regional Cooperation: The Kansas Model ..... 11

    America’s Health Rankings Finds Preventable Chronic Disease on the Rise ..... 12

    NCI Launches Smoking Cessation Support for Teens ..... 12

    Younger Americans Face Greater Health Disparities ..... 12

    Healthy People 2020 Structured Evidence Queries ..... 12

    ASTHO Releases December 2011 Budget Cuts Research Impact Brief ..... 12

    First U.S. Cell-Based Flu Vaccine Plant Set for Dedication ..... 12

    Many Young Children Overdosing from Medicines at Home ..... 12

    NLM Announces Expansion of PubMed Health ..... 13

Job Openings ..... 13

    Butler County Health Department ..... 13

    Lawrence Douglas County Health Department ..... 13

    Lyon County Health Department ..... 13

    Reno County Health Department ..... 13

    Sedgwick County Health Department ..... 13

    Shawnee County Health Department ..... 13

    Wyandotte County Health Department ..... 13

Public Health Connections Information ..... 13

## Nurses Keep Top Spot for Honesty and Ethics in Poll Ranking Professions

by Adam Sachs

American Nursing Association



For the 12th year, nurses were voted the most trusted profession in America in Gallup's annual survey that ranks professions based on their honesty and ethical standards. Eighty-four percent of Americans rated nurses' honesty and ethical standards as "very high" or "high."

"The public's continued trust in nurses is well-placed, and reflects an appreciation for the many ways nurses provide expert care and advocacy," said American Nurses Association (ANA) President Karen A. Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. "Major national policy initiatives also show trust in nurses. The Affordable Care Act and the Future of Nursing recommendations call on nurses to take more leadership roles and collaborate fully with other professionals in providing essential health care to a growing number of people who will have greater access to services."

Since the profession's first appearance in the poll in 1999, nurses have received the highest ranking each year except in 2001, when firefighters ranked first.

Nurses consistently demonstrate honesty and high ethical standards in their everyday dealings with patients and their families. However, a recent high-profile legal case underscored the commitment nurses demonstrate to patient safety and quality. In 2009, two Texas nurses reported a physician at their hospital for unsafe practices. The nurses withstood intimidation and criminal charges, but held firm to their principles. Justice ultimately prevailed when the legal battles concluded in November. Four individuals involved with bringing charges against the nurses were either convicted or pled guilty to misuse of official information and retaliation. To read more click the ANA logo.

### In the Spotlight - Primary Care Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems

by Mindee Reece, Director

*Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Barbara Huske took the reins for the Primary Care Program and began her new job as Program Director on Mon., Dec. 5. Prior to her appointment, she served as the Primary Care Program's Workforce Coordinator for nine years. In that capacity, Barbara managed the National Health Service Corps, State Loan Repayment, J-1 Visa Waiver Review and Federal Designation of Shortage Areas sub-programs. During her time with the program, she also worked with the community-based Primary Care Clinic and Charitable Health Provider sub-programs.

"Barbara's long tenure and in-depth knowledge of all Primary Care Program areas made her the ideal candidate to replace Robert Stiles as Director," said Mindee Reece, BCHS Director/Division of Health Administrator. "She is an excellent leader and one of the most organized and dedicated employees I've known. I'm confident she will excel in her new role."

Prior to joining KDHE, Barbara held many positions during 25 years of work at the Dupont/Flexel, Inc. cellophane plant. Her last position there was as Human Resources Personnel Administrator. Barbara holds a bachelor's degree in Computer Information Systems from Washburn University and is a lifelong Topekan. She and her husband Irvan have four grown children, two sons and two daughters and six grandchildren. In her free time, Barbara enjoys reading and bowling.

Angela German has been employed as the new Primary Care Clinic Coordinator effective Tue., Dec. 26. She will replace Sonita Loyd, who is moving out of state for a new career opportunity. Angela has served as the Public Health Educator for the agency's Bureau of Environmental Health's Environmental Public Health Tracking Program since March 2010 and also as the Community Water Fluoridation Manager for the Bureau of Oral Health since Jan. 2011. Prior to joining KDHE, Angela worked in the dental field for nine years. She holds an associate's degree in Dental Hygiene from Collin County Community College in McKinney, Texas and a bachelor's degree in Health Education from Texas Woman's University in Denton, Texas.

A native Texan, Angela relocated to Kansas in 2008 and now considers herself a full-fledged Kansan. "I am looking forward to working closely and fostering relationships with the safety net clinics," Angela commented. "I will provide assistance in any way I can."

Angela and her husband Jeramiah live in Lawrence with her beloved bulldog, Tinkerbelle, and step-children Justice, Avery and Zoie. Her hobbies are traveling and spending time with family.



Angela German, Primary Care Clinic Coordinator, and Barbara Huske, Director Primary Care Program.

## In the Spotlight - Sedgwick County Health Department

by *Claudia Blackburn, Health Director*

*Sonja Armbruster, Community Health Assessment Coordinator*

*Ty Kane, Community Health Analyst*

*Sedgwick County Health Department*



Alyson Taylor, SCHD, presenting a QI project to the public focusing on WIC wait times.

In 2009, the Sedgwick County Health Department (SCHD) staff vetted the draft standards and measures developed by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Though it was not clear at the time, that vetting process kicked off a journey in a new direction for SCHD. This "spotlight" will highlight two important lessons learned.

**Documentation** - For most of the standards and measures, it was immediately obvious that work was being completed that would meet the expectations. However, documentation or proof and evidence was not immediately available. There are dozens of examples, like PHAB Domain 8's requirement, "Documented training/development activities in the past two years." SCHD staff are continuously participating in many kinds of professional development activities, but the documentation to show that participation rested with each individual, not in a comprehensive plan and tracking tool for the department. Across all PHAB Domains, these kinds of gaps in documentation are now being addressed, and without a doubt, SCHD is better for it.

**Quality Improvement (QI)** - During the vetting process, it was immediately clear that accreditation would require a formal plan for quality improvement and documentation of processes used to train staff and evidence of improvement strategies. This was the largest gap for the SCHD, and shortly after a strategy was developed to address those issues. The strategy included dedicating staff time, seeking grant support from the Sunflower Foundation for capacity building working with a consultant to provide training and assist in developing the plan, development of a Q-Team and development of new documentation strategies. As a result, everyone at SCHD has been trained in basic QI principles and nearly everyone has participated in QI projects. The experimentation with improving processes has yielded some failures (ideas for improvement that just did not work), some easy wins (realization that the software used to manage lab reports had a programming error and user error was not to blame). Notable improvements include reduced costs for client education materials, improved processes for managing interns and orienting new staff and improved understanding of client utilization of the WIC website for client education.



Becky Tuttle, SCHD, sharing new employee QI results.

The endeavor to learn more about voluntary national accreditation set in motion a host of changes that have raised expectations and result in improved internal processes and delivery of public health services in Sedgwick County.

## New Disease Surveillance System

by *Susan Dickman, KS-EDSS Coordinator*

*Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE*



Epi-Trax powered by TriSano is the new disease surveillance system for the state of Kansas and is looking to go live on Mar. 5, 2012. Training on Epi-Trax begins on Wednesday, Jan. 4, 2012, here in Topeka at the Topeka-Shawnee County Library. Communicable disease nurses and staff from local health departments will attend day long training on the use of Epi-Trax which includes logging on, creating new cases, viewing laboratory information, managing contacts and TB case management. Epi-Trax

trainings will be held throughout the state at different locations such as Dodge City Community College in Dodge City; Northeast Educational Service Center in Oakley; Highland Community College in Highland; Greenbush Staff Development Center in Girard, and University of Kansas Medical Center in Wichita along with other areas in Kansas. Susan Dickman, KS-EDSS Coordinator in the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, is looking forward to getting out and meeting with the staff of local health department and training them on Epi-Trax. Registration for the "KDHE-BEPH: Epi-Trax Powered by TriSano Introducing Training" is available on [KS-TRAIN](#), course # 1030847. If you are staff at a local health department and would like to know more about Epi-Trax training, please call Susan at 785-296-7732, or email her at [sdickman@kdheks.gov](mailto:sdickman@kdheks.gov).

## Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds - Spring 2012

*by Mary Beth Warren, Statewide Director  
Area Health Education Center, University of Kansas*



The Kansas Association for Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and University of Kansas Medical Center's Department of Preventive Medicine and Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) are once again collaborating to make available the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds series. The spring 2012 series will occur live on Wed.'s from Jan. 18 to May 2, noon–1:00 P.M. via the internet utilizing the Adobe Connect webconferencing system.

Based upon feedback from participants in previous series, as well as current issues in public health, topics identified for the Spring 2012 series include: priorities of ATSDR; rabies update; 2011 heat related deaths; obesity prevention; microbiomes; poverty's effect on health and safety; healthy homes; toxic oil syndrome; use of BRFSS data and Environmental Protection Agency initiatives in the Midwest.

The fee for the entire spring series (a total of 14 sessions) will be \$100 per organization per computer and will include continuing education credit for physicians and nurses employed by your organization and attending at your location.

Your organization may enroll by e-mailing the AHEC office at [ksphgr@kumc.edu](mailto:ksphgr@kumc.edu) or calling 620-235-4040. If you have questions, please feel free to contact John Neuberger at 913-588-2745 or Mary Beth Warren at 620-235-4040.

## Pharmacology Education Series

*by Sherry Pryor, Senior Coordinator  
KUMC-AHEC*



Kansas University Medical Center (KUMC) Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) is pleased to announce a Pharmacology Series of one hour training via ITV or Codian (webcast) to be held at noon on Thurs. in Jan. and Feb. Sign up for the whole series or only for those that interest you. Click the KUMC-AHEC logo for further details.

Topics and Objectives are as follows:

- Jan. 19 – Antibiotics; Speaker: Mary Ryan, MSN,ARNP, NP-C, Private Practice, Kansas City Family Medical Center
- Jan. 26 - Pain Management; Speaker: Melanie Simpson, PhD, RN-BC, OCN, CHPN, Nurse Clinician Pain Management Team Coordinator, The University of Kansas Medical Center
- Feb. 2 - Type 2 Diabetes; Speaker: Shirley Dinkel, PhD, ARNP, ANP-C, FNP-C, CNS, Associate Professor, Washburn University School of Nursing
- Feb. 9 - What You Need to Know About Lipids in One Hour; Speaker: Jim Backes, PharmD, Associate Professor, Schools of Pharmacy and Medicine, Assistant Director, Atherosclerosis and LDL-Apheresis Center, The University of Kansas Medical Center
- Feb. 16 - Polypharmacy; Lisa Wells, PharmD, Medicine Shoppe
- Feb. 23 - Medication Tips & Health Literacy; Linda Radke, PharmD, BCPS, Salina Regional Health Center Pharmacy Clinical Coordinator

If you have questions about the course contact Sherry Pryor at 620-235-4040.

## Kansans Optimizing Health Program Training

*by Lisa Williams, Program Manager*

*Bureau of Health Promotion, Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) are pleased to offer the upcoming leader trainings in the [KOHP](#) (Kansans Optimizing Health Program) for the first half of 2012. Organizations and/or individuals interested in offering this 6-week program are invited to apply to send teams of two to the 4-day training. Applications must be received by the registration deadline associated with the training you are applying for. Applicants will be notified by e-mail when their application has been received by KDHE. Applicants accepted into the training will be screened and notified by e-mail near the registration deadline date. Hotel information and program location will be provided in the acceptance notification.

Upcoming sessions include:

- Feb. 16, 17, 23 and 24 in Wichita
- April 12, 13, 19 and 20 in Dodge City
- April 12, 13, 19 and 20 in Kansas City



KS-HAN contains over 3,000 participants from local health departments, hospitals, emergency medical services, animal health, clinics, state agencies, private and public health laboratories and other first responders across the state.

In order to expand audiences we are enrolling school nurses, like you. During H1N1 the use of school nurses was vital in reporting influenza like symptoms and absences relating to H1N1. This was useful for gathering information on how communities were being affected and to see the migration of the illness across the state.

KS-HAN is an invitation-only system. An invitation code sent from the KS-HAN administrator is required prior to registration. To be considered for participation, email your name, employers, employer phone number, job title or description to [kshanadmin@kdheks.gov](mailto:kshanadmin@kdheks.gov).

The Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers, K-SERV, is a secure registration system and database for volunteers willing to respond to public health emergencies or other disasters in Kansas or other areas across the country. It can be utilized as a volunteer management system at the local and state levels.

During an event, a community may need to use K-SERV to get the assistance of volunteers to aid in response. K-SERV improves the efficiency of volunteer deployment and utilization by verifying in advance the credentials of volunteer healthcare professionals. This pre-registration and pre-verification of potential volunteers enhances the state's ability to quickly and efficiently send and receive appropriate health professionals as needed to assist with an emergency response.

If you are interested in volunteering to help Kansans, register today by clicking the K-SERV logo above. For more information, email [kservadmin@kdheks.gov](mailto:kservadmin@kdheks.gov).

### **New Assistant Director Announced for the Immunization Program**

*by Bureau of Community Health Systems*



The Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention Immunizations Program would like to congratulate Martha Froetschner on her promotion to Assistant Director of the Kansas Immunization Program. The department is very proud of her and fortunate to have her on its team. Froetschner has been serving as the VFC Program Manager for KDHE and has immunization and managerial experience through her previous years of service at the Shawnee County Health Agency.

### **New KU-MPH Program Concentrations**



*by Tanya Honderick, RN, MS, MPH, Assistant Director  
KU Master of Public Health Program  
and Secretary, Kansas Public Health Association  
and Ruth Wetta-Hall, RN, PhD, MPH, MSN, Site Director  
KU Master of Public Health Program  
and Director-at-Large, Kansas Public Health Association*

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) has a central function to unite public health professionals and advocates who work collaboratively to promote the health and wellbeing of all Kansans. In addition, KPHA has served as the intersection for public health practitioners and academia to collaborate across the state. In their role as public health educators and researchers, many University of Kansas (KU) faculty and staff have served on the KPHA board, working shoulder to shoulder with local and state practitioners.

The need to implement and sustain accreditation of public health organizations, as an indicator of quality, has been recognized by the national public health practice community; therefore, efforts have been underway this year to pursue accreditation in our state and local public health agencies. Many public health meetings across the state this year, including the KPHA annual conference in Sept., have focused on the implementation of quality improvement methods as a mechanism to document state and local efforts to meet accreditation standards. A recurring theme among all these meetings was an increasing need to strengthen the working relationship between public health practice and academia. As we look ahead to the New Year, the University of Kansas Master of Public Health (MPH) program is poised to become an even stronger contributor to the development of the Kansas public health workforce and a more crucial partner in local and state level initiatives.

In 2010, the KU-MPH program submitted its self-study report to the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) to document how the program meets accreditation requirements, hosted a site visit from CEPH, and achieved full accreditation through July 1, 2018. Furthermore, in fall 2010, the MPH program evolved to meet the state's workforce needs by offering concentrations in Epidemiology and Social and Behavioral Health. In an effort to continually improve the MPH program, three additional concentrations, Public Health Management, Environmental Health Sciences and Biostatistics, will be offered in spring 2012. At that time, the generalist pro-

gram will be discontinued. From this point forward, all KU-MPH students will elect to study in one of five concentration areas.

These concentrations were developed with public health practitioners from across the state in order for graduates to be fully prepared to meet the needs of employers and citizens of the state and region. Besides completing course work in the five core disciplines of public health, KU-MPH students must complete a course in data management, an epidemiology lab, concentration specific electives and an applied capstone experience. This is a prime opportunity for students, working closely with faculty experts, to support projects that impact accreditation activities. Program faculty and administrators are excited to speak to anyone interested in these new concentrations. Applications for fall admission to the program are due on Mar. 1, 2012. More information can be found on the KU-MPH website by clicking the KPHA logo above or by contacting Melissa Armstrong at 316-293-2695 or [marmstro@kumc.edu](mailto:marmstro@kumc.edu) and Tanya Honderick at 913-588-2720 or [thonderick@kumc.edu](mailto:thonderick@kumc.edu).

The New Year will likely be a busy and challenging one for all of us in public health, but collaboration and communication at all levels of the workforce and academia has never been better. There is an exciting energy around accreditation of the local and state health departments that will only improve the quality of life for us all. The University of Kansas Master of Public Health program and the Kansas Public Health Association are ready for the challenges that lay ahead.

### **KUMC's Role in Serving the Health Care Needs for Kansas**

*by Barbara F. Atkinson, Executive Vice Chancellor  
University of Kansas Medical Center*

The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) has a long history of serving Kansas by working with communities to improve health. This past summer, a team of alumni, health care providers, educators and key stakeholders were asked to take a short survey to learn how they see KUMC's role in serving the health care needs of the Kansas.



More than 1,200 Kansans from 91 counties responded with opinions on ways we can best serve the state. They are doctors, nurses, physical therapists, pharmacists, hospital administrators, public health officials, teachers, social workers, community leaders, students and more. Some are connected to KU Medical Center as alumni or faculty, but the majority of the respondents are simply invested in our success even though they don't have a direct connection to our institution. I am grateful to everyone who participated in the survey for their time and helpful feedback.

Their responses suggest that our top two priorities for serving Kansas should be enhancing student education and strengthening Kansas' health care workforce.

For student education, the most important activities include:

- ensuring student rotations in medically underserved communities;
- providing support to community colleges and K-12 students to encourage selecting medical and health careers; and
- ensuring opportunities for mid-career professionals to obtain advanced degrees.

To strengthen Kansas' health care workforce, the critical activities identified include:

- recruiting and retaining providers in health-care shortage areas;
- providing continuing education for health care professionals; and
- ensuring loan forgiveness programs for clinicians who practice in rural and underserved Kansas communities.

Other interests included community research and advancing access to health care. Top activities for community research include developing evidence-based plans to achieve and maintain healthy Kansas communities and conducting research to address clinical care and public health issues. Advancing health care access activities that were rated most valuable include providing specialty outreach clinics, enhancing access to cancer care clinical trials and providing free health screenings.

You often hear that taking surveys is a waste of time because they rarely result in change. Not this one. Thanks to these responses, we launched the Institute for Outreach and Community Engagement this fall and appointed David Cook, PhD, Associate Vice Chancellor for Outreach, to lead the effort. The Institute has updated its website, [outreach.kumc.edu](http://outreach.kumc.edu), to reflect the top priorities identified by the survey respondents and is working to expand the activities identified as most valuable to improving the lives of Kansans.

Our work to serve Kansas will never be finished. The Institute for Outreach & Community Engagement will continue identifying needs and supporting activities to ensure healthier communities in every Kansas county. We encourage you to contact the Institute to offer suggestions, spotlight health successes, partner with the

University, or start a conversation. You can reach them by email at [outreach@kumc.edu](mailto:outreach@kumc.edu) or by phone at 913-588-2695.

### Sexual Violence, Stalking and Intimate Partner Violence Widespread in the U.S.

*by Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



On average, 24 people per minute are victims of rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in the United States, according to new findings released today by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Over the course of a year, that equals more than 12 million women and men. Those numbers only tell part of the story - more than 1 million women are raped in a year, and over six million women and men are victims of stalking. These findings emphasize that sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence are major public health problems in the United States. In addition, they underscore the heavy toll that violence takes on Americans,

particularly women.

The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS) is one of CDC's newest public health surveillance systems and is designed to better describe and monitor the magnitude of sexual violence, stalking and intimate partner violence victimization in the United States. It is the first survey of its kind to provide simultaneous national and state-level prevalence estimates of violence for all states. Additionally, it provides data on several types of violence that have not previously been measured in a national population-based survey. The state-level estimates provide important information about the proportion of men and women with victimization histories currently residing in a state and such information can help states better understand the burden of violence in their populations.

"The health problems caused by violence remind us of the importance of prevention", said Howard Spivak, MD, Director of CDC's Injury Center Division of Violence Prevention. "In addition to intervening and providing services, prevention efforts need to start earlier in life, with the ultimate goal of preventing all of these types of violence before they start." When developing sound programs for prevention and intervention, it is critical to understand the conditions that increase risk for perpetration and victimization. NISVS provides data that can help inform policies and programs aimed at the specific needs of state and national organizations and also monitor and measure the effectiveness of these efforts. For more on this survey click the image above.

### Accreditation Readiness Activities for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

*Brenda Nickel, Director*

*Center for Performance Management (CPM), KDHE*



On Dec. 2, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) staff and key partners spent the day devoted to a work session designed to develop tools that assist KDHE in accreditation readiness activities. Brenda Nickel, Center for Performance Management Director, received a mini-grant provided by Bureau of Health Promotion, Kansas Department of Health and Environment as a participant in the July 2011 Evidenced-based Public Health Practice training. Mini-grant funding is through a grant from the St. Louis Prevention Research Center and provides a consultant with expertise to assist

grantees with proposed evidence-based projects.

Nickel consulted with Shirley Orr, Public Health Consultant and a Robert Wood Johnson Executive Nurse Fellow who is working with Kay Bender, President and CEO of the national Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) <http://www.phaboard.org/>. Orr and Nickel co-facilitated the work session with key KDHE staff and partners to develop communication resources to be used in providing education, training and development of expertise and capacity of KDHE to conduct PHAB accreditation readiness activities. Participants of the work session included:

- Aiko Allen, Director, Center for Health Equity / Accreditation Team Member, KDHE
- Nathan Bainbridge, Executive Policy Analyst, KDHE



- Greg Crawford, Chief, Vital Statistics and Data, Public Health Informatics, KDHE
- Linda Frazee, Public Health Workforce Specialist / Accreditation Team Member, KDHE
- Lori Haskett, Director, Injury Prevention and Disability Programs Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE
- Jamie Klenklen, MCH Administrative Consultant / Accreditation Team Member, KDHE
- Tatiana Lin, Senior Analyst, Kansas Health Institute
- Cait Purinton, Exercise & Training Coordinator, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE
- Jane Shirley, Director, Local Public Health Program, KDHE
- Brandon Skidmore, Deputy Director, Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE
- Jennifer Schwartz, Deputy State Epidemiologist, Infectious Disease Epidemiology Response, KDHE
- Cyndi Treaster, Director, Special Population Health, KDHE

Objectives for the work session included:

- Explain the relevance of CHA/SHA and CHIP/SHIP to the KDHE strategic organizational plan and opportunities to identify top health priorities for Kansas.
- Discuss the voluntary national accreditation process for public health departments.
- Develop factsheet/brief of key talking points and information to be used internally and externally with staff, stakeholders and policy makers.
- Create a timeline for the scope of work to be accomplished by KDHE to support CHA/SHA and CHIP/SHIP externally and internally with our key partners and stakeholders.

Over the next few weeks, the CPM Director will develop the final report and timeline from the work session to submit to the Bureau of Health Promotion and to begin developing resources to be used both internally and externally with partners working on community and state health assessment, health improvement planning and accreditation readiness activities.

The Center for Performance Management at the KDHE is funded through the National Public Health Improvement Initiative, a project through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to target quality improvement (QI) and performance management (PM) in the public health system across the United States to help health departments develop methods and tools for data driven decision making and effective program management. For more information, go to <http://www.cdc.gov/ostlts/nphii/index.html>

## Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Resources to Prepare for Accreditation now Available



The Public Health Performance Improvement (PHPI) Toolkit is an online collection of tools such as archived trainings, sample QI products, templates and related resources. What makes the PHPI toolkit unique is that all the products have been developed by your public health peers

through their own efforts to implement performance improvement activities and prepare for national voluntary accreditation. The toolkit is continuously updated with new additions from the work of National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) programs, members and national partner organizations. To learn more about this toolkit click the NNPHI logo above.

### Cultural and Linguistic Competence



The Agency for Health Care Research and Quality (AHRQ) Health Care Innovations Exchange website has a new webpage, Honing Cultural and Linguistic Competence featuring programs and tools for improving cultural and linguistic competence and reducing health care disparities. For more information click the AHRQ logo.

### Collaboration for Community Health Assessment and Improvement



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is pleased to announce the fifth call/webinar in its series on local health departments (LHD) performance improvement. This webinar will be held on Jan. 12,

2012 from 1-2 p.m. NACCHO is now able to provide these sessions as webinars and is pleased to fulfill participants' requests for a web component. The webinars are designed to respond to timely, common technical assistance (TA) requests related to accreditation, community health assessment and improvement planning processes, Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) and more. For more information about the webinars click the NACCHO logo.

### Community Tool Box Module 1 On-line Course Now Live on KS-TRAIN



Now on [KS-TRAIN](#), "Community Tool Box Module 1: Conducting Community Health Assessments and Community Health Improvement Curriculum," #1030284, provides practical guidance for conducting community health assessments. It is intended for staff from state and local health departments (including those seeking accreditation), hospital staff (considering new federal requirements for non-profit hospitals) and those in community benefit programs, non-profit organizations and community leaders/members. This module outlines steps for assessing community health, including how to engage community members, assure ownership, identify community assets and set priorities for improvement.

This module is the first in a series of four modules: 1) Conducting Community Health Assessments, 2) Developing a Strategic Plan for Community Health Improvement, 3) Implementing Strategic Plans for Community Health Improvement and 4) Evaluation and Performance Management.

## Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Immunize Kansas Kids



IMMUNIZE KANSAS KIDS

The "Quality Improvement Projects in the Area of Immunizations," is a call for proposals from the Immunize Kansas Kids (IKK) coalition, which supports innovative, collaborative and sustainable methods to increase age-appropriate immunization rates for Kansas children. IKK seeks to support local quality improvement activities to advance evidence-based immunization practices. Grants will be awarded to selected immunization providers to undertake local initiatives to improve the quality of immunization practices in Kansas. For more information, including how to apply click the IKK logo.

### National Demonstration Initiative on Quality Improvement Practices



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is pleased to announce the launch of a National Demonstration Initiative on Quality Improvement Practices in State Public Health Programs. The purpose of the National Demonstration Project is to increase state readiness for accreditation, demonstrate the value of accreditation/quality improvement to improve integration of services among state public health programs and use standard methodology to manage budgets in difficult times. The deadline for applications is 11:59 p.m. EDT, Jan. 9, 2012. Download the full Request For Application online by clicking the ASTHO logo or for further information contact Denise Pavletic at [dpavletic@astho.org](mailto:dpavletic@astho.org).

### Policy Contest



The American Public Health Association (APHA) is excited to announce a policy contest for health departments. U.S. health departments at all levels of government (state, territorial, local, tribal,) are encouraged to submit a proposal for an innovative policy approach to a critical public health problem, with a focus on reducing health inequities and building policy capacity. Between five and eight health departments will receive awards ranging from \$25,000 to \$40,000 to develop and implement their proposal. Health departments may apply on their own or in partnership with non-profits. A non-binding e-mail of intent is due Jan. 18 and applications are due Jan. 31, 2012. Awards are expected to be announced by the end of Feb. and awardees will have until Oct. 31, 2012 to use the funding. To learn more click the APHA logo above.

### Quality Improvement Award Program



As part of its new initiative, Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI), the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) will provide health departments with \$5,000 awards coupled with 15 hours of individualized quality improvement (QI)

assistance from an experienced QI Coach to conduct a QI project that results in measureable change. The purpose of this QI Award Program is to support health departments to become more proficient in the adoption and application of QI and to meet the accreditation standards and measures set by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#) (PHAB). Selected health departments will also be provided with additional opportunities such as educational webinars with QI experts and sponsored attendance at a national accreditation and QI-focused meeting (the "Open Forum" meeting). To learn more click the NNPHI logo.

## News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Local Health Department Administration Changes

County	Former Administrator	New Administrator/Director
Barber County	Heather Henke	Jerry McNamar
Montgomery County	Alison Kelley	Carolyn Muller, Acting
Ness County	Eva Peterson	Shelly Pavlu
Rawlins County	Pam Stuczynski	Karla Heble
Riley County	Chuck Murphy	Susie Kufahl
Sherman County	Jean Kosmatka	Donna Terry

### State and Local Health Department Governance Classification System



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has developed classifications for the different state and local health departments. Kansas local health units are primarily led by employees of local governments and the local governments retain authority over most fiscal decisions. To view this reference, click the ASTHO logo.

### The Role of County Commissioners/Local Boards of Health in Accreditation Efforts



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) has released its standards and measures for local health department accreditation. While many of these activities are handled at the departmental level, there are quite a few tasks necessary for the department's governing entity: the local board of health. The board of county commissioners also serves as the local board of health, except for a handful of consolidated departments (city-county/multi-county). To read more click the PHAB logo.

### Public Health Regional Cooperation: The Kansas Model



The notion of cooperation across political jurisdictions is not a new concept, especially in a state like Kansas. Long have local leaders looked across borders to solve challenges and address changing needs. The field of public health is no different.

For years, almost all local health departments have engaged in regional cooperation for bioterrorism preparedness. Given changing realities (decreased financial support from higher levels of government, increased standards of service expectation via assessments such as accreditation and so forth), it has become important to examine the notion of regional cooperation for public health on a broader scale. To read the complete article click the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) logo.

### America's Health Rankings Finds Preventable Chronic Disease on the Rise



United Health Foundation

The United Health Foundation's 2011 America's Health Rankings finds that troubling increases in obesity, diabetes and children in poverty are offsetting improvements in smoking cessation, preventable hospitalizations and cardiovascular deaths. For the fifth year in a row, Vermont was ranked the healthiest state. Click on the foundation's logo above to learn more.

### NCI Launches Smoking Cessation Support for Teens



The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has launched an initiative, Smoke-freeTXT, a free text message cessation service that provides 24/7 encouragement, advice and tips to teens trying to quit smoking. Once they sign up, teens receive text messages timed according to their selected quit date. Following their quit date, they will continue receiving texts for up to six weeks — a critical piece of the SmokefreeTXT service, as research shows that cessation support continues to be important beyond the first few weeks of quitting. Teens can sign up online at [teen.smokefree.gov](http://teen.smokefree.gov) or text QUIT to iQUIT (47848). To learn more click on the NCI logo.

### Younger Americans Face Greater Health Disparities



The gap between the least healthy and most healthy people has increased substantially among young American adults. The study also found that health disparity trends tend to increase as people move into middle age and then decline as they reach old age. To read the report click the HealthDay logo.

### Healthy People 2020 Structured Evidence Queries



The National Library of Medicine (NLM) has worked together with the Public Health Partners (PHP) to develop this pre-formulated search strategies for selected [Healthy People 2020](#) topic areas. This site provides information and evidence-based strategies related to the Healthy People 2020 objectives easier to find. To learn more click the NLM logo.

### ASTHO Releases December 2011 Budget Cuts Research Impact Brief



ASTHO's December 2011 update of the Budget Cuts Impact Research Brief, reports that state and territorial health agencies continue to experience budget cuts and job losses, resulting in the reduction or elimination of critical public health programs and services. This data, along with the data compiled from the 2007 State Public Health Baseline Survey has been used to calculate job losses. This work was used to support the inclusion of the Prevention and Wellness funding in the economic stimulus package.

Click the image above to learn more.

### First U.S. Cell-Based Flu Vaccine Plant Set for Dedication



The first U.S. facility to use a faster and more flexible technology to make influenza vaccine was dedicated as part of an initiative that could provide vaccine supplies sooner in an influenza pandemic. The plant in Holly Springs, N.C., can create vaccine using cultured animal cells instead of the conventional process of using fertilized eggs. The facility is a public-private partnership of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics, Inc. of Cambridge, Mass. To learn more about this plant click on the HHS logo.

### Many Young Children Overdosing from Medicines at Home



To inform parents and caregivers about safe medication storage and what to do in case of an emergency, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Consumer Healthcare Products Association Education Foundation and a coalition of partners are launching an educational program, Up and Away and Out of Sight, encouraging parents to follow a few simple steps to protect children. To learn more about this program click the CDC logo.



### NLM Announces Expansion of PubMed Health

The National Library of Medicine (NLM), the world's largest medical library and a component of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), announces the expansion of the information available from PubMed Health, which provides integrated access to clinical effectiveness reviews. Click the NIH logo to learn more about this resource.

### Job Openings

#### Butler County Health Department

The Butler County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Community Health Nurse](#)



#### Lawrence Douglas County Health Department

The Lawrence Douglas County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Community Health Specialist](#)



#### Lyon County Health Department

The Lyon County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Dental Hygienist](#)
- [LPN](#)



#### Reno County Health Department

The Reno County Health Department is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Director](#)
- [Healthy Start Home Visitor](#)
- [Public Health ARNP](#)
- [LPN](#)



#### Sedgwick County Health Department

The Sedgwick County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Registered Dietitian](#)



#### Shawnee County Health Department

The Shawnee County Health Agency is taking applications for the following position:

- [Physician](#)



#### Wyandotte County Health Department

The Wyandotte County Health Department is taking applications for the following position:

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)



#### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at [pbehnke@kdheks.gov](mailto:pbehnke@kdheks.gov)

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Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)