



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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Trust for America’s Health Report an Inaccurate Assessment of Kansas Emergency Preparedness

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



State of Kansas officials released a statement on Dec. 20, 2012, refuting a Trust for America’s Health (TFAH) report for its inaccurate assessment of the state’s emergency preparedness.

“The report does not provide an accurate and thorough picture of the state’s readiness to respond to health emergencies, disasters or terrorism,” said Governor Sam Brownback. “Kansas is no stranger to disasters and in recent years has responded to health emergencies including H1N1 pandemic and other disease outbreaks as well as tornados, floods, snow storms and ice storms.”

The Trust for America’s Health report ranked states in ten areas of preparedness, including vaccination rates for whooping cough, a climate change adaptation plan, a nurse licensure compact and a voluntary state accreditation program.

“This scorecard’s criteria are chosen by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the foundation changes the criteria, or indicators, each year it has published its report. Since 2006, Kansas’ score in the Trust for America’s Health report has fluctuated, even scoring 9 out of 10 one year. No matter the score, the report presents a skewed view of public health readiness, draws inaccurate conclusions and in no way indicates the actual preparedness level in Kansas,” said Robert Moser, M.D., Secretary and State Health Officer of Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

“Kansas has proven its ability to respond to emergencies many, many times including the deadly Harveyville tornado, Missouri River flooding in northeast Kansas and many deadly winter storms and tornados over the past several years,” said Maj. Gen. Lee Tafanelli, Kansas Adjutant General and director of Emergency Management.

“Kansas emergency preparedness involves numerous state agencies including Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Division of Emergency Management, Kansas Highway Patrol, Kansas Department of Agriculture, Kansas Department of Transportation and many others depending on the emergency,” noted Brownback. “Counties and cities, as well as individuals, play a significant role in our state’s overall preparedness and Kansans have frequently proven to be self-sufficient and resilient in times of disaster.”

“We always invite reasonable and rational critique of our emergency preparedness programs and are constantly looking for best practices for improving Kansas preparedness,” said Tafanelli.

Click the Kansas logo to view the complete news release and the Trust for America’s Health Report evaluation criteria.

Take Up the Governor’s Weight Loss Challenge

by the Office of Communication, KDHE



Kansas Governor Sam Brownback announced in Dec. a team weight loss challenge to encourage Kansans to get healthier and work together in reducing the state's obesity rate. The Governor’s Weight Loss Challenge for state employees will run from Jan. 15 to May 15, 2013. Over 150 state employee teams have taken up the Challenge.

“Nationwide – and in Kansas - more than 2/3 of adults and almost 1/3 of children are overweight or obese. My hope is that the Governor’s Weight Loss Challenge will encourage everyone to work together to make our state healthier,” Governor Brownback. The Governor invites non-state employee groups like businesses and municipalities to accept his weight loss challenge by recruiting their own teams and providing incentives for a team competition to run concurrent with the Governor’s Weight Loss Challenge for state employees.

Kansas Health and Environment Secretary Robert Moser, M.D., who is also the State Health Officer, said the obesity rate in Kansas is near the national average, adding that obesity among Kansas adults increased from 15 percent in 1995 to 30.1 percent from 1995 to 2010. Obesity is associated with health conditions and diseases like congestive heart failure, diabetes and cancer.

“Together, poor nutrition and physical inactivity is now considered the number two preventable cause of death, behind tobacco use,” Dr. Moser said. “There are many programs statewide that directly or indirectly

support obesity prevention and it's in our homes and local communities where the greatest work to combat obesity can be achieved. The Governor's Weight Loss Challenge can help Kansans kick start their exercise routine and new eating habits while taking part in ongoing state- and local-level fitness and nutrition programs."

In the Spotlight - Champion of Farmworker Health



*by Kendra Baldrige, Regional Case Manager
Pat Fernandez, Regional Case Manager
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (KSFHP) recently presented the 2012 Champion of Farmworker Health Award to Dr. Anita Murray-Clary, DDS of Pediatric Smiles Dental Clinic in Topeka. Dr. Murray-Clary has partnered with KSFHP to help children of farmworkers access needed dental services. Patricia Fernandez, a KSFHP case manager, nominated Dr. Murray-Clary for the award after seeing firsthand the excellent dental care that her clients were receiving. Patricia stated, "I recently had a client that needed immediate and extensive dental services. My client did not have dental insurance and the parents were unable to afford the care that their child needed. Through effective collaboration, my client's music teacher was able to solicit donations from other teachers, her church and the local ministerial alliance to supplement KSFHP funds and help pay for a majority of the dental work for this case. It's heart-warming to see a community come together and help a child in need. Finding providers that will work with our program to help uninsured farmworkers can be a challenge. We are grateful to Dr. Murray-Clary for her support to KSFHP and farmworker families to ensure quality dental care. Pediatric Smiles is a Champion of Farmworker Health."

KSFHP serves approximately 5,000 farmworkers and their dependents each year. It assists migrant and seasonal farmworkers in Kansas pay for primary care, dental services and pharmacy. KSFHP case managers and health promoters, located throughout the state, work to educate the farmworker population in Kansas on health care needs and resources. For more information about the program, including contact information, check out www.ksfhp.org, the facebook page at www.facebook.com/ksfhp, or call 785-296-6028.



Holding her award is Dr. Anita Murray-Clary surrounded by her co-workers and KSFHP staff.

Continuity of Care Top Priority for KanCare Transition

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



On Jan. 1, Kansas launched the state's new Medicaid program known as KanCare. As part of this huge endeavor, Governor Brownback's administration launched a, "Rapid Response Call," to assure that the state continues its efforts to ensure Kansans who depend upon Medicaid and Healthwave will receive all the care they need and have come to expect. Kansans with any questions or concerns about KanCare health plans, providers or services, may join the KanCare Rapid Response call held Mon. – Fri. at 9:00 a.m. CT at 1-877-247-8650 and use ID code 79687456.

"We continue to work diligently to improve the coordination and quality of care for Kansans on Medicaid and Healthwave. During this transition we are very aware of the accessibility concerns brought up by consumers, advocates and providers and we will continue to be responsive to those concerns," Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Medicaid Services Director Susan Mosier, M.D. said.

KanCare is Kansas' innovative new system to provide Medicaid services through an integrated care model that achieves measurable goals and focuses on wellness and care coordination. In addition to current program

benefits, KanCare also adds services such as heart and lung transplants, bariatric surgery and adult preventive dental care at no cost to the state.

Dr. Mosier stressed the state's, "KanCare Continuity of Care Plan," includes a number of protections the three managed-care organizations (MCOs) contracted by the state must meet in order to preserve KanCare consumers' existing health care services.

"The most important fact KanCare consumers and their families need to know is that their medical care and the services they receive will continue - uninterrupted - with the launch of KanCare, Jan. 1st," Dr. Mosier said. "We cannot stress this enough - the three MCOs must honor all existing plans of care, prior authorizations and established provider/member relationships - even if the established provider is not in the MCO network."

To read the complete article published on Dec. 27, click the Kansas government logo.

Buffalo Jones Elementary School Wins Nationwide 'Healthy School Makeover Contest



by Rachael Ballard

Public Relations for SPARK

Buffalo Jones Elementary School in Garden City, beat out 200 entries and received a majority of the 129,000 total public votes to be named the winner of the first Healthy School Makeover Contest.

SPARK™, provider of the world's most-researched and field-tested physical education program and a division of School Specialty, awarded Buffalo Jones Elementary School with the grand prize totaling up to \$45,000 in products and services from leading organizations. The contest was sponsored by SPARK, Sportime, American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD)/The National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), Healthy Kids Challenge, Skillastics, Healthy Lifestyle Choices, GenMove, The First Tee, Polar and the ANNIKA Foundation.

"I am just so thrilled for what this will mean for our kids," said Kerri Steelman, the Buffalo Jones Elementary School teacher who nominated the school for the contest. "I've talked to other teachers in other districts who say the SPARK program is the best equipment, programming and training they have ever used. The kids stay engaged and enthusiastic because everybody participates. It is incredible to think that it was a nationwide competition for a single \$45,000 grand prize and our school won."

Buffalo Jones Elementary serves approximately 350 students in grades Pre-K-4. The school will now have access to products and services to help educators promote wellness and healthy habits in students to improve their health and overall educational experience. A special event will be held at the school after the winter break to allow pro golfer Annika Sorenstam to present the school with their prize.

"The childhood obesity epidemic is a serious issue and will continue to be so until our society makes a concerted effort to change it," said Paul Rosengard, Executive Director at SPARK. "Buffalo Jones Elementary is taking a big step toward instilling the importance of lifelong wellness into its community. Schools need to emphasize the importance of quality physical education and educators and parents need to become advocates for their students' health and well-being."

Buffalo Jones Elementary school will now receive:

- **SPARK:** SPARK Curriculum and Training package, valued at more than \$10,000
- **Sportime:** Equipment package aligned with SPARK program, valued at up to \$9,000
- **Healthy Kids Challenge:** "Balance My Day," nutrition curriculum package and training, valued at \$2,400
- **AAHPERD/NASPE:** Customized Lets Move in School training package valued at \$4,500
- **Skillastics:** Two Let's Move in School Skillastics packages and training, valued at more than \$2,000
- **Healthy Lifestyle Choices:** HLC Curriculum and Training package, valued at \$5,500
- **GenMove:** Equipment, programming and training package valued at \$3,300
- **The First Tee:** The First Tee National School Program curriculum, training and equipment, valued at more than \$3,200
- **Polar:** Polar Active classroom pack, valued at \$3,300
- **ANNIKA Foundation:** Annika Sorenstam to present grand prize to winner

To view the Buffalo Jones Elementary School's winning video, click their logo above.

Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health

*by Jane Shirley, Director of Local Health Programs
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



Primary care and public health have critical roles in providing for the health and well-being of communities across the nation. Although they each share a common goal, historically they have operated independently of each other. However, new opportunities are emerging that could bring the two sectors together in ways that will yield substantial and lasting improvements in the health of individuals, communities and populations. Because of this potential, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Health Resources and Services Administration asked the IOM to examine the integration of primary care and public health. The resulting report, issued by the Institute of Medicine in March, 2012, provides some valuable assessments of current practice, developing opportunities and future initiatives. Both the report brief and links to the full report can be found by clicking in image above

In addition, the CDC Office for State, Tribal, Local and Territorial Support (OSTLTS) is undertaking a new primary care initiative to promote stronger linkages between public health and clinical medicine through partnerships with residency programs and other primary care educators. The goals are to:

- Increase the reach and involvement of physicians in national public health efforts
- Connect and foster relationships between physicians and local and state public health professionals.

For more information on this initiative, click the CDC logo above.



Health and Medical Professionals Receive Rapid Alerts Via KSHAN

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



It is crucial that health and medical professionals receive rapid alerts on disease outbreaks and health advisories to enhance patient care and prevent the spread of disease. That is why the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) encourage all Kansas health and medical professionals to become members of Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN). The KS-HAN is a secure, web-based notification system available for distribution of health alerts, dissemination of media releases and other communications that strengthen local and state preparedness. It is the primary communication tool for public health in Kansas.

“By receiving advance alerts about disease outbreaks through the KS-HAN, physicians and other healthcare providers will have crucial information for patient diagnosis, treatment and prevention. KS-HAN is a fast, easy and reliable way to be notified of developing illnesses impacting the work of Kansas health care providers,” said Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer.

For more information about KS-HAN contact the KS-HAN administrator at 785-296-3380. If you wish to participate in KS-HAN please email your name, employer, employer phone number, job title or description to: kshanadmin@kdheks.gov. Click the KS-HAN image on the right to learn more.



Kansas Partnership for Improving Community Health

by Greg Crawford, Director of Vital Statistics

Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE



The Kansas Partnership for Improving Community Health wants to invite you to submit a promising public health practice for the Kansas Health Matters website. The presentations at the fall 2012 Kansas Public Health Association conference clearly indicate there are many good projects under way in Kansas. Healthy Communities Institute, which maintains the KHM website, has a submission page and guidelines for submissions.

Click the Kansas Health Matters image to submit your organizations promising public health practices.

Nurses Shatter the Stereotype

by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation



New Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) video spotlights the many roles nurses play in improving health and health care. Often, when people hear the word "nurse," they picture a woman in scrubs by the bedside, administering medication, checking vital signs, or implementing or explaining a doctor's orders. Of course, this is only part of the picture. Nurses are women and men who help shape and improve the nation's health care system in myriad ways. For decades, RWJF has supported nurses at the bedside and nurse researchers, educators, administrators and other leaders in a wide range of settings from the cardiac suite to the classroom to the laboratory to the landing pad.

A new video from RWJF illustrates that every day, in many ways, nurses shatter the stereotype. The video begins by posing the question: "What is a nurse?" After showing nurses in scrubs providing bedside care, it shows nurses planting trees, tap-dancing with older patients, reviewing research data, working with domestic violence service providers, teaching nutrition to children, conducting simulations and much more. Click the RWJF logo to view this video.

The Need for Tools to Assess Partnerships/Collaboration

by the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



PARTNER is a social network analysis tool designed to measure and monitor collaboration among people/organizations. The tool is free (sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation) and designed for use by collaboratives/coalitions to demonstrate how members are connected, how resources are leveraged and exchanged, the levels of trust and to link outcomes to the process of collaboration. The tool includes an online survey that you can administer to collect data and an analysis program that analyzes these data. By using the tool, you will be able to demonstrate to stakeholders, partners, evaluators and funders how your collaborative activity has changed over time and progress made in regard to how community members and organizations participate. Click the Partner logo to learn more.

Using PARTNER, you will be able to analyze relationships in three ways:

1. Create visuals (similar to the image to the right) to see who is connected to whom.
2. Assess network scores including metrics on the number and quality of relationships, the trust between partners, the value that each partner brings to the larger collaborative and assessments of the roles that each member of the collaborative play based on how they are connected to others.
3. Assess outcomes measures to indicate process and products achieved as a result of collaborating across sectors.

KDHE Sponsor's ESF 8 Network Updates e-News

*by Michael McNulty, Kansas ESF 8 Coordinator
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Preparedness Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment sponsors the Kansas Emergency Support Function (ESF) #8 Network Update e-News notices.

The purpose of [ESF #8](#) is to provide the mechanism for coordinated state assistance to supplement local resources in response to a public health and medical disaster, potential or actual incidents. Public health and medical services include responding to medical needs associated with the behavioral health needs of survivors and responders, medical needs of "at-risk" populations, and environmental health concerns associated with activities outlined in other portions of the Kansas Response Plan. The ESF 8 Network Update is intended to share information with local, state and federal preparedness partners about preparedness activities of interest to health and medical sector individuals and organizations.

If you are interested in receiving the Kansas ESF 8 Network Updates, please send an email with your name, email address and organization to ksef8@kdheks.gov.



2013 Local Public Health Department Regional Meetings

- * **North Central Region** - Mar. 26, June 25, Sept. 24 and Dec. 10, from 10-2 with locations to be announced (TBA)
- * **Northeast Region** - Mar. 21, June 27, Sept. 26 and Dec 19 from 10-2, Topeka, Curtis State Office Building
- * **Northwest Region** - Jan. 10, April 11, July 25, Oct. 10 and Jan. 9, 2014 from 10-2 at the Educational Service Center, 702 W 2nd Street, Oakley
- * **South Central Region** - Feb. 20, May 8, Aug. 21 and Nov. 6 from 10-2, Hutchinson, location TBA
- * **Southeast Region** - Jan. 3, Apr. 4, July 11, Oct. 3 and Jan. 2, 2014 from 10-2, Chanute, location TBA
- * **Southwest Region** - Feb. 15, May 17, Aug. 16 and Nov. 15 from 9-1, Garden City, location TBA

Click the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Community Health Systems logo to view the meeting calendar.

Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

WeKanQI Teams Complete Session: Four Unique Projects to Improve KDHE Services

by Brenda Nickel, Director

Center for Performance Management, KDHE



Members of the WeKanQI Teams met together for, "Session Two," of quality improvement (QI) training with [Public Health Foundation](#) QI facilitators, Jack Moran, PhD, Senior Quality Advisor, and Harry Lenderman, PhD, QI Consultant. This second session was preceded by initial training Oct. 16-17 and a mid-point technical assistance call with the training facilitators Nov. 16.

All teams applied to the [Center for Performance Management](#) to learn more about QI and put into practice QI tools that help to explore problems, collect information, and provide data useful in addressing simple and complex issues. Each team developed and refined an AIM statement, "a written, measurable and time-sensitive description of the accomplishments an improvement team expects to make from its improvement efforts," (Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention Presentation, 2012) that helps to discretely focus on the question, "what are we trying to achieve?" Using their experience, new knowledge and skills, and tools found in the new [Public Health Quality Improvement Encyclopedia](#) the teams are taking, "real work processes or issues," and working to improve them. Click the logo above to view the complete article.

Rural County Health Services Directories

by Teri Caudle, Public Health Nurse Specialist

Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



KANSAS RURAL HEALTH WORKS

Did you know that Kansas Rural Health Works (KRHW) has developed a useful resource for counties conducting community health assessments (CHA). They have composed a list of health services for your use called Rural County Health Services Directories. Directories were compiled for 98 Kansas counties classified as rural to help community residents identify locally-available services and providers. They also support the identification of health services "gaps" that may exist in the context of conducting community health needs assessment. K-State Research and Extension's Professor in Community Health Endowment and the Kansas Health Foundation supported and funded the project. You can access the directories on the Kansas Health Matters (KHM) website in the Community Health Needs Assessment Toolbox. KHM has links to other resources, tools and tips to support your community health improvement efforts. The toolbox was specifically designed for Kansas communities to collaboratively conduct community health needs assessments and improvement plans. Click the KRHW to learn more.

Quality Improvement in Public Health: It Works!



The American Public Health Association's (APHA), "Quality Improvement in Public Health: It Works!" provides stories of quality improvement (QI) successes in public health departments and offers resources to assist public health professionals apply QI to public health practice. Click the APHA logo to view this brochure.

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Mini-Grant Opportunities for Youth-Led Tobacco-Use Prevention Projects - Deadline Jan. 15



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) is providing approximately ten competitive grant awards of up to \$1000 this spring to assist in engaging youth groups in tobacco prevention and education. The grant project is part of TFKC's continuing support for a statewide youth movement to reduce youth use of tobacco products in communities across Kansas.

"Youth play a unique role that contributes to an effective and comprehensive tobacco control program. Engaging youth, thru mini-grants, to develop their own tobacco prevention messaging is a powerful tool to reduce initiation and the use of cigarettes and tobacco products," says Linda DeCoursey, Executive Director of Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition. "The TFKC competitive mini grants engage and empower youth groups to create their own projects that speak to the truth about tobacco use and how it affects their peers and communities."

Tobacco use, which still remains a leading cause of death and disease in Kansas, usually begins before the age of 18. With funding from the Kansas Health Foundation, TFKC's mini grant program offers funding of up to \$1000 for youth-led tobacco prevention projects that impact other teens at the community level. Youth from 12-17 within school, prevention, church and social groups, youth coalitions, youth sports and afterschool programs may apply for the funding by completing a short application.

Grant applications can be obtained by clicking the TFKC logo or by contacting Erica Anderson, at eanderson@tobaccofreekansas.org. The deadline for this round of applications is Jan. 15th, 2013 with award announcements made by Jan. 25th.

2013 Healthy Lifestyles - Deadline Jan. 16



The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City is accepting applications for the program Funding for Healthy Lifestyles. This program seeks to address the rapid rise in obesity rates to reduce this leading cause of preventable death. Grant applications should promote healthy lifestyles with a special emphasis in young people (0-25). Applications should address nutrition/healthy eating, fitness/active living and tobacco prevention among the uninsured and underserved.

Nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies are eligible to apply. A Letter of Intent is due by Jan. 16, with full proposal submission on Feb. 20. For more information and to apply for this funding click the Health Care Foundation logo.

Nonprofit organizations and state and local government agencies are eligible to apply. A Letter of Intent is due by Jan. 16, with full proposal submission on Feb. 20. For more information and to apply for this funding click the Health Care Foundation logo.

Get Ready for the 2013, "I'm Your Community Guide!" Contest - Deadline Jan. 31



The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is pleased to announce the 2013, "I'm Your Community Guide!" contest. In an effort to promote [The Community Guide](#), PHF is collecting stories from those who have used or are currently using "The Community Guide" to improve health in their community. The stories will help advance public health practice by exemplifying the value of implementing evidence-based strategies.

Click the PHF logo for the application.

PHF encourages all state, tribal, local and territorial health departments; community health coalitions; and other organizations to enter that have used or are currently using, "The Community Guide's," findings and recommendations to improve health in their communities.

The submission period for this year's contest began in Oct. and entries will be accepted through Jan. 31.

AmeriCorps State and National Grants - Deadline Feb. 6



AmeriCorps awards grants to organizations to implement programs that utilize AmeriCorps members to engage in evidence-based interventions to strengthen communities. In the 2012 competition the Corporation for National Community Service expects to invest a significant amount of available funding to programs working in disaster services, economic opportunity, education, environmental stewardship, healthy futures and veterans and military families. See the AmeriCorps [program guidance](#) for complete details.

Training and Conference Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Enroll Your Organization in the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Spring 2013 Series

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 2013 series will occur live on Wed.'s from Jan. 16 to Apr. 24, 12:00–1:00 P.M. via the internet utilizing the Adobe Connect webconferencing system.

Topics for the spring series will include: Evolving epidemiology of cardiovascular disease; Social demography and population health; Update on legislative issues for Kansas; American Indian health issues; Lexie's Law; Comprehensive HIV care for the underserved; and Preparedness grant alignment and regional preparedness healthcare coalitions.

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 or calling at 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. Click the KU Medical Center logo.

Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Summit - Jan. 31 and Feb. 1

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Health Promotion will hold the annual Chronic Disease Risk Reduction Summit Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 in Wichita. Don't miss your chance to be a part of the Chronic Disease Risk Reduction program. Summit attendees will learn about the State Fiscal Year 2014 Chronic Disease Risk Reduction funding opportunity as well as strategies that support tobacco use prevention, physical activity and nutrition initiatives. Registration is now available on [KS-TRAIN](#), course # 1040285.

12th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference - Feb. 7-9



The theme of the conference is, "Building Safe, Healthy, Equitable and Prosperous Communities." The conference features information on how the built environment shapes our daily habits and affects our health. If you are interested in topics such as how to build communities suitable for the growing aging population, expanding the availability of healthy food options and promoting a more active lifestyle among local residents, you will not want to miss this conference. This conference will be held on

Feb. 7-9, Kansas City, MO. Click the image on the left for the conference brochure.

Health Literacy: A Prescription for Patient Engagement - Feb 12



The Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City will host, "Health Literacy: A Prescription for Patient Engagement," on Feb. 12, from 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center in Kansas City, MO. More details will be available soon. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ruth Murphey Parker of the Emory University School of Medicine. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Roundtable on Health Literacy and a member of the committee that produced the landmark IOM Report, "Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion." Click the logo above for more information.

More details will be available soon. The keynote speaker will be Dr. Ruth Murphey Parker of the Emory University School of Medicine. She is a member of the Institute of Medicine's (IOM's) Roundtable on Health Literacy and a member of the committee that produced the landmark IOM Report, "Health Literacy: A Prescription to End Confusion." Click the logo above for more information.

Save the Date - 2013 Governor's Public Health Conference

The 8th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference, "A Roadmap to Wellness," will be held on Apr. 29 – May 1 at the Double Tree by Hilton Wichita Airport in Wichita.

APHA 2013 Annual Meeting and Exposition: Think Global, Act Local Abstracts Due in Feb.



The American Public Health Association (APHA) invites abstract submissions for the 2013 Annual Meeting and Exposition to be held Nov. 2-6 in Boston. The deadline for submission of abstracts is the second week of February with date variations depending on the Section, Special Primary Interest Group, Caucus or Forum to which you wish to submit. Click the APHA logo to learn more.

New On-line Course - Interpreting Basics

*by Cyndi Treaster, Special Population Health Director
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



A new resource is now available on the Train website, [Interpreting Basics: An Introduction to Healthcare and Social Services Interpreting \(1037207\)](#). This training

was developed by Cathy Anderson, Manager of Language and Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Services, Kansas City, MO, with the support of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Rural and Special Population Health Programs. This two part course is intended to introduce potential community interpreters to basic interpreting concepts and the Interpreters' Code of Ethics. It specifically discusses confidentiality as the most important rule of interpreting. Individuals who want to become interpreters are encouraged to continue developing their skills and to seek out continued interpreting education. Individuals that successfully complete this training and the post-test will receive a certificate of completion. If you have questions about this training, please contact Cyndi Treaster at 785-296-8113 or ctreaster@kdheks.gov.

Community Health Assessment On-line Trainings Available

*by Sara Roberts, Director of Rural Health
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Office of Rural Health

Two new Community Toolbox Modules have been added to the Community Health Assessment training library on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. These short online trainings provide practical guidance for conducting community health assessments, developing the community health improvement plan and appropriate evidenced based interventions. The modules are intended for staff from state and local health departments, including those seeking accreditation, hospital staff who are considering new federal requirements for non-profit hospitals and those in community benefit programs, non-profit organizations and community leaders/members.

You can complete each module at one seating and to pick and choose what you would like to complete from the course library. Click the Office of Rural Health logo to login to KS-TRAIN.

- [Community Facilitator 101 Training \(1030875\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 1: Assuring Engagement in Community Health Improvement Efforts \(1033673\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 2: Identifying Community Health Needs and Assets \(1033674\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 3: Conducting Community Health Assessments \(1033675\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 4: Setting Community Priorities Based on Identified Issues \(1034102\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 5: Developing a Logic Model for Community Health Improvement \(1034103\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 6: Developing a Strategic Plan for Community Health Improvement \(1034104\)](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 7: Developing an Intervention \(1034994\) NEW](#)
- [Community Toolbox Module 8: Assuring Collaboration During Implementation \(1034996\) NEW](#)

Healthy Habits for Kansas Kids Professional Education

by Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Looking for information and inspiration when working with Kansas children and their obesity challenges? There are four, one-hour online modules sponsored by the Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics on KS-TRAIN at, <http://ks.train.org>, that address obesity in Kansas kids:

Module 1 – # 1015996 Obesity in Kansas Children

Module 2 – # 1016561 Negotiating Behavior

Module 3 – # 1016562 Assessment & Treatment of Child Obesity

Module 4 – # 1016563 Preventing Childhood Obesity



Each module can be completed at your convenience, at work or on your home computer, through the KS Train web site. Healthy Habits offers free continuing nurses and dietician education credit.

For more tools that focus on the health needs of Kansas children go to, [Obesity: Sound Advice on Healthy Living](#); [Obesity – Drink Smart](#) and [FuelUP to Play60](#).

CDC Learning Connection Update

*by Quashawnda T Berry, MA, Health Education Specialist
Educational Design and Accreditation Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*

This month the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) spotlights, [Clinician Outreach Communication Activity \(COCA\)](#), which assists clinicians deliver optimal care to patients by providing them with the most current and reliable information on emerging health threats, pandemics, natural disasters and terrorism. This month's Spotlight features examples of web-based [learning products](#) and [resources](#) related to emergency preparedness and emerging health threats, a few of which are listed below.

[Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction](#) Continuing Education [CE] Presents the importance of risk reduction for adverse health effects associated with disasters and how applying the basic tenets of preventive medicine and public health can result in a more humane and cost-effective approach to emergency management.

[Influenza Prevention and Control for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs](#) [CE] Presents sub-specialist and primary care pediatrician collaborations for influenza prevention and control strategies to improve care for high-risk children.

[Planning for the Whole Community: Addressing Access and Functional Needs Before, During and After Disasters](#) [CE] Discusses how clinicians can work within their communities to integrate and coordinate emergency preparedness, response and recovery efforts for children and adults with disabilities and others with access and functional needs before, during and after a disaster.

The CDC Learning Connection also provides easy access to the most comprehensive catalogue of public health learning products in the nation via, [CDC TRAIN](#), an affiliate of [KS-TRAIN](#). CDC TRAIN is pleased to welcome the Harvard School of Public Health Preparedness and Emergency Response Learning Center (H-PERLC), as a new course provider. As a recipient of CDC funding, H-PERLC has a unique opportunity to list courses on CDC TRAIN, some of which are listed below.

[Case Study: The Great Springfield Tornado](#), Course ID 1037637

[CHEMPACK Response Procedures for Nerve Agent Incidents \(Module 2\)](#), Course ID 1037631

[Emergency Planning for Local Public Health](#), Course ID 1037309

[Logistics & Maintenance of the CHEMPACK Containers \(Module 3\)](#), Course ID 1037632

[Public Communication of Risk in 21st Century: Promises and Challenges](#), Course ID 1037639

[Review of Current Doctrine Regarding After Action Reporting](#), Course ID 1037636

[Using Exercises to Enhance and Measure Preparedness](#), Course ID 1037635

[What Did We Learn From the 2009 H1N1 Pandemic About Public Health Emergency Preparedness Systems? \(Part 1\)](#), Course ID 1037634

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



Health, United States, 2011: In Brief

The U.S. Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the National Center for Health Statistics has developed an interactive website for the, "Health, United States, 2011: In Brief," report. This website allows users to view, create and export charts and tables by incorporating additional data from the full report and link to related web pages. Brief tutorial videos guide users through the features of the website. Click the image on the left to view this interactive report.

Six Functions of Public Health Governance



The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) has connected with board of health members and elected officials from across the country to inform, guide and help them fulfill their public

health responsibilities in their states and communities. Driven by a mission to strengthen and improve public health governance, NALBOH worked with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and other national partners to identify, review and develop the following model of six functions of public health governance. To review the six functions of public health governance click the NALBOH logo.

LawAtlas: Policy Surveillance Portal



This is a gateway to key laws aimed at improving our health or access to health care. It includes interactive maps, policy surveillance reports and downloadable data. Click the LawAtlas logo to learn more.

Diabetes Interactive Atlases



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website now contains an interactive atlases that allow users to view data and trends for diagnosed diabetes (new and existing cases), obesity and leisure-time physical inactivity at national, state and county levels. Click the CDC logo to use this interactive atlas.

Make KanQuit! Smoking Your 2013 Resolution



If your New Year's resolution is to quit smoking, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), KanQuit! Program can help. We understand that quitting is about more than just not smoking. When you join the program, a Quit Coach® will help you become an expert in living without tobacco using, "The 4 Essential Practices to Quit For Life," principles based on 25 years of research and experience helping people quit tobacco.

KDHE offers free cessation support and information online. Click the KanQuit logo or call toll-free at 1-800-784-8669. The best way to protect your loved ones and your pets from secondhand smoke is to quit.

Budget Cuts Continue to Affect the Health of Americans



According to new data from the Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) Budget Cuts Survey, more than 46,000 state and local public health jobs have been lost since July 2008. This represents nearly 21 percent of the total state and local health department workforce. Federal, state and local government budget cuts are jeopardizing a decade of significant gains made by state and territorial health agencies (S/THAs). Critical S/THA programs and services have been cut or reduced, staff positions have been eliminated and many staff have been laid off or furloughed. ASTHO has been following this trend since 2008, when it initiated a longitudinal study to investigate the impact of budget cuts on S/THAs and the people they serve. Click the ASTHO logo to view the December 2012 update of the Budget Cuts Impact Research Brief reports the results of the ninth round of the Budget Cuts Survey.

Health Equity Reports by State and Territory

The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials has developed a web page to collect state and territory-produced health equity reports. Reports from Alabama, Maryland, North Carolina, Utah, Vermont and Virginia are now available [online](#). The reports give examples of state public health departments' health equity approaches by highlighting data, identifying progress and providing tools and resources to put the focus on health equity and health disparities.

Lifestyle Changes Key to Weight Loss in New Year



Jan. is the time of year when gyms get flooded with new and returning members ready to try Zumba or spin classes, and dieters start filling their grocery carts with fruits and vegetables instead of chips and cookies," Alenka Ravnik-List, diabetes program coordinator at the Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York City, said in a HealthDay news release. "But unfortunately, too often people with good intentions will fail." Small steps can help people finally achieve that elusive resolution to change their lifestyle and lose weight. Click the Medline Plus logo to read the complete article.

Job Openings Finney County

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

- [APRN Employee Clinic](#)
- [Charge Nurse-Registered Nurse](#)



Ford County Health Department

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

- [Registered Nurse](#)



Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment is taking applications for the following position:

- [Immunization Nurse](#)



Reno County Health Department

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

- [Home Health Aide](#)



Riley County Health Department

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

- [Nursing Supervisor](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Breastfeeding Peer Counselor \(WIC\) Part Time](#)
- [Registered Dietician - WIC](#)
- [Women, Infant & Child/Immunization Action Plan \(WIC/IAP\) Nurse](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

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

- [Dietitian Supervisor](#)
- [Medical Technologist](#)



Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

[ZIPS Newsletter - Bureau of Family Health/Children and Families](#)

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov or

Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov