



## PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

January - 2015 Volume 15, Issue 1

### Bureau of Community Health Systems

Susan Mosier, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

#### Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment Appointed

*by the Governor's Office*

Dr. Susan Mosier has been selected by Governor Brownback to lead the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). She has served as the Director of the Division of Health care Finance since August 2014 and Medicaid Director at KDHE since March 2012. Prior to taking the role of Medicaid Director, she owned Mosier Eye Care in Manhattan. She also represented the 67th District in the Kansas House of Representatives from 2011 until March 2012, when she resigned the seat to become Medicaid Director.

#### KDHE Aid to Local Grant Application and Reporting Process is Moving!

*by Jane Shirley, Director, Center for Population Health and Local Public Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Aid to Local (ATL) application and reporting process is moving to an online system called Catalyst for the upcoming grant year. This new system will serve to improve the service that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) provides to local applicants and recipient organizations. Catalyst will also serve as the agency quality improvement and performance management system and will assist the agency in aligning all ATL grant activities and outputs. Roll out of the new ATL Catalyst system for KDHE partners is January 15, 2015.

Training on the new Catalyst system for the ATL grant process will be available via online courses through [KS-TRAIN](#) the first week of January, 2015, as well during two technical assistance webinars on January 29.

Benefits of Catalyst include:

- Single Point of Access
  - Local partners will be able to view and actively manage all of their ATL contractual relationships through one portal.
  - KDHE will manage, negotiate, award and receive progress reports from awardees through one portal.
- Standardization
  - Funding Opportunity Announcements will use standardized groupings that will help streamline technical assistance and management regardless of funding source.
  - Progress Reporting Guidance will be standardized to ease the burden of different reporting requirements across funding sources.
- Accessibility
  - Catalyst is web-based and uses cloud technology.
  - All you need is an internet connection so you can access it almost anywhere.

#### Regional Public Health Meetings

*by Teri Caudle, Public Health Nurse Specialist, Local Public Health Program Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Don't miss the opportunity to attend one of the upcoming regional public health meetings created to connect local health departments (LHD) with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. These meetings are designed for the local LHD administrator; however, any staff person interested in a particular topic is welcome to attend. Register for the meetings through [KS-TRAIN](#), Course ID # 1053041.

For the next round of regional meetings, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has partnered with the Kansas Health Institute to bring you a training from Denise McNerney with iBossWell, Inc. about the MacMillan Matrix and Matrix Map. These are great tools to learn for strategic planning and program sustainability. Additionally, AJ Wolf, the new State Training Coordinator for the Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories, will present an update on the Laboratory Information Management (LIM) System, explain expectations of the Clinical Laboratories and share pertinent information on KDHE's Bioterrorism and Chemical Terrorism programs.

The dates and locations are:

- January 8 – Chanute (SE)
- February 4 – Hutchinson (SC)
- February 19 – Oakley (NW)
- February 20 – Garden City (SW)
- March 4 – Beloit (NC)
- March 10 – Topeka (NE)

## 2013 Natality Report and 2013 Adolescent and Teenage Pregnancy Report



*by Greg Crawford, Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics*

The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics has prepared two new reports using 2013 birth outcomes data. The 2013 Natality Report, available at <http://www.kdheks.gov/phi/research.html>, contains select birth outcomes and characteristics for all race and ethnicity groups in Kansas. The report can be used to assess the extent of health disparities.

Each year, the Bureau prepares an extensive set of tables to report on trends in teen and adolescent pregnancies. Pregnancy rates among Kansas resident females aged 10-19 dropped by 13.2 percent from 2012 to 2013. Rates among females aged 10-17, 15-17 and 18-19 as individual age groups also dropped in 2013. To access the 2013 Adolescent and Teenage Pregnancy Report for Kansas go to <http://www.kdheks.gov/hci/teenpreg.html>.

### **You Are the Key to Cancer Prevention: What Can You Do to Ensure Your Patients Get Fully Vaccinated?**

*by Stephanie Lambert-Barth, PMP, Kansas HPV Vaccination Project*

A provider's approach to discussing vaccines with a parent strongly influences whether or not they have their child vaccinated. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) suggests the following provider best practices for communicating with families about adolescent vaccines:

- Strongly recommend adolescent vaccines to parents of your 11 through 18 year old patients. Parents trust your opinion more than anyone else's when it comes to immunizations. Studies consistently show that provider recommendation is the strongest predictor of vaccination.
- Use every opportunity to vaccinate your adolescent patients. Ask about vaccination status when they come in for sick visits and sports physicals.
- Patient reminder and recall systems such as automated postcards, auto-dialer messages, phone calls, and text messages are effective tools for increasing office visits.
- Educate parents about the diseases that can be prevented by adolescent vaccines. Parents may know very little about pertussis, meningococcal disease, or HPV.
- Implement standing orders policies so that patients can receive vaccines without a physician examination or individual physician order.
- Schedule the next appointment before the family leaves the office for any needed remaining vaccine doses.

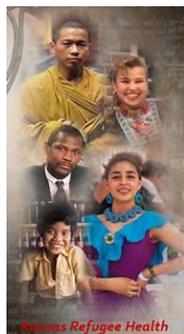


HPV is so common that most adults become infected at some point in their lives. The HPV vaccine is highly effective in preventing HPV infections that cause cancer. Improving vaccination coverage will reduce the burden of cancer and disease caused by HPV. View the [CDC's Tips and Time-savers for Talking with Parents about HPV Vaccine](#) for more information.

The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care is working with Kansas providers to increase adolescent vaccination rates. We can help connect you with tools and resources you need to address questions and concerns parents may have about vaccination. To learn more, visit [kfmc.org/immunizations](http://kfmc.org/immunizations) or contact Laura Sanchez, RN, at [lsanchez@kfmc.org](mailto:lsanchez@kfmc.org) or call 800-432-0770, ext. 339.

### **New Multilingual Resource for Informing Patients About Tuberculosis**

*by Cyndi Treaster, Director, Special Population Health  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



As one of the most common infectious disease in the world, tuberculosis (TB) remains an urgent public health problem. Each year immigrants and refugees from countries where tuberculosis is commonly found resettle in Kansas. While many of these individuals receive TB screening upon arrival, it remains difficult to find basic health information available in languages immigrants and refugees understand. As a result, the Kansas Tuberculosis Control Program and Special Population Health in the Bureau of Community Health Systems at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment have partnered to develop resources to meet this need. For this purpose, an educational flipchart originally developed by the Australian Respiratory Council entitled What is TB? has been converted into pdf format and translated into ten different languages: Arabic, Burmese, Farsi, French, HakaChin, Napali, Somali, Spanish, Swahili and Tigrinya. With the permission of the Australian Respiratory Council, refugee resettlement agencies, local public health departments and TB clinics will be able to utilize the electronic version as part of their community outreach and patient education efforts. Using simple language and colorful illustrations, What is TB? serves as an educational aid providing basic information of the ways in which TB can be contracted and spread to others. It goes on to illustrate how TB affects the body and what symptoms patients should be on the lookout for. Finally, What is TB? offers patients information on how to treat the disease, if contracted. To receive a copy of the CD, What is TB? please contact Antonette Goodman, [agoodman@kdheks.gov](mailto:agoodman@kdheks.gov).

## Health Homes for Chronic Conditions

*by Cristi Cain, Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The implementation of Health Homes for Chronic Conditions planned for January 2015 has been delayed until later in the year. This target population includes people who have asthma or diabetes, including pre-diabetes and metabolic syndrome, who are also at risk of developing hypertension, coronary heart disease, depression, substance use disorder and being overweight or obese. The overarching goal is to improve integrated care coordination and reduce health care costs.

The six core services are:

- Comprehensive Care Management
- Care Coordination
- Health Promotion
- Comprehensive Transitional Care
- Individual & Family Supports
- Referral to Community & Social Support Services

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment hopes your organization will consider signing on to be a Health Home Partner or subcontractor if you have not already done so. A current provider listing is available on the KanCare Health Homes [website](#).

## Kansas Local Health Departments Linking to KHIN

*by Laura McCrary, Executive Director, Kansas Health Information Network, Inc.*

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment along with the Wyandotte, Morris and Reno County Health Departments are now in production with the Kansas Health Information Network (KHIN). This is KHIN's first connection with local health departments. It is particularly significant since Reno County uses the KIPHS Public Health Software. This connection demonstrates the ability to connect all of the public health departments that use the KIPHS software to KHIN. This connectivity is very important as the Kansas public health departments are a critical part of the health care structure in Kansas. Partners who assisted in the process include the Kansas Health Foundation who funded the work, Bruce Miyahara, who developed the model, the Informatics Corporation of America (ICS) team, the KIPHS team, the staff at the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Michelle Ponce from the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments and the staff at Reno County Health Department.



KHIN's mission is to improve health care quality, coordination and efficiency through the exchange of health information at the point of care utilizing a secure electronic network provided by a collaboration of health care organizations.

## Two More Hospitals Recognized by KHERF for New Food and Beverage Policies

*by Josh Mosier, Project Director, Healthy Kansas Hospitals*



The Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation (KHERF) recognizes Kiowa County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg and Newton Medical Center in Newton for putting new policies in place to provide healthier food and beverage options in the hospital cafeteria and throughout the facility.

The recent changes to food and beverage policies made at each facility are part of their participation in the Healthy Kansas Hospitals initiative. Changes made by Kiowa County Memorial Hospital include increasing the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables and limiting the availability of fried-food items and sugar-sweetened beverages. Newton Medical Center has posted nutritional facts for cafeteria menu items, increased their purchasing of fresh fruits and vegetables, and now offers a daily wellness entree.

Kiowa County Memorial Hospital is made up of 87 employees and serves the community of Greensburg and surrounding areas. Meanwhile, Newton Medical Center represents 3,199 annual patient discharges and 657 employees. To date, 63 hospitals have signed the Healthy Kansas Hospitals pledge. The initiative provides resources and technical assistance for facilities to enhance the offerings of healthier foods and beverages in their cafeterias and through vending and catering practices.

For more information click the Healthy Kansas Hospitals logo.

## Creating Food Policy Councils

*by Misty Lechner, Kansas Alliance for Wellness*

If your community is interested in pursuing a publically appointed food policy council, please contact [missy.lechner@heart.org](mailto:missy.lechner@heart.org) with the following information:

- Why your community is interested in a food policy council
- What progress have you made in your community in support of a healthier food system
- What activities your community has done to prepare for or explore a food policy council

Training and resources will be available to a handful of communities throughout the state in order to increase the number of local food policy councils in the state.



## Bureau of Oral Health Updates

*by Cathleen Taylor-Osborne, Director,  
Bureau of Oral Health, KDHE*



In October, the Kansas Bureau of Oral Health (BOH) was one of five states nationwide selected to participate in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Children's Oral Health Initiative. The goals of this initiative are to:

1. Increase by ten percentage points the proportion of Medicaid and CHIP children ages one-20 who receive a preventative dental service.
2. Increase by ten percentage points the proportion of Medicaid and CHIP children ages six-nine years old who receive a sealant on a permanent molar tooth.

The national baseline Goal #1 is 42 percent and Kansas is at 41 percent. The projected target for Goal #1 is 51 percent, with the target for Goal #2 to be determined. Through collaborations with Oral Health Kansas, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, the Kansas Dental Association (KDA), the Kansas Dental Hygiene Association (KDHA), the Kansas Action for Children, Head Start programs, representatives from Managed Care Organizations and the Division of Healthcare Finance, the BOH will be working with stakeholders across the state to achieve these target goals.

Are you an Extended Care Permit Registered Dental Hygienist and interested in participating with BOH and our children's outreach programs? We have a School Screening Program as well as a School Sealant Program, both now in their fifth year of implementation across the state. Please contact Jenni Ferguson, our Children's Program Manager, to find out how you can participate and improve the dental care and treatment of the children in Kansas. Please check the BOH website at [www.kdheks.gov/ohi](http://www.kdheks.gov/ohi) for information.

We are proud of the efforts in Salina to defeat an anti-community water fluoridation bill in the November elections. The BOH new Community Water Fluoridation (CWF) specialist, Pam Smith, is working with Oral Health Kansas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and community water facilities to educate and promote the positive effects of water fluoridation. If you are interested in participating in this effort, please visit our website for information.

## Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council Workgroups Underway

*by Cristi Cain, Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

As you may recall from the October 2014 issue of Public Health Connections, the Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council (KPHWDCC) is participating in the Kansas Health Foundation's Public Health Practice Program (PHPP). The PHPP is a program designed to strengthen the capacity and infrastructure of the Kansas public health system and to better position state and local health departments to achieve accreditation through the national Public Health Accreditation Board. A major area of focus that is funded through the PHPP is public health workforce development.

There are three KPHWDCC workgroups focused on developing and implementing workforce development initiatives that have been identified as areas of need: Introduction to Public Health, Core Public Health, and Environmental Public Health. Each workgroup meets regularly and they are quickly making progress toward creating opportunities for the workforce. More information on these developing opportunities will be shared in upcoming issues of Connections. If you would like further information, please contact Cristi Cain at [ccain@kdheks.gov](mailto:ccain@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-3641.

## Preparing for Disaster?

*by the Center for Community Support and Research,  
Wichita State University*



According to the CDC website, "When states are prepared to detect or respond rapidly to threats, communities are better protected." Preparedness saves lives and protects individuals in communities from further harm. In the public health arena, preparing for disasters and public health threats can mobilize large numbers of people to be educated and expertly cross-trained to successfully navigate the unexpected. Story after story of positive outcomes with this approach can be found. But, if we are so good at elevating the importance of preparing for calamities that may happen in our communities, why are we not better at preparing our own organizations internally for navigating the inevitable, and sometimes sudden, painful changes that occur.

None of us wants to be faced with not being prepared for an emergency event within our organizations. Critical and careful planning can help mitigate some of the likely challenges ahead. Wichita State University's Center for Community Support and Research (CCSR) is uniquely positioned to assist health departments, other city and county offices, and nonprofits create emergency plans as well as longer-term succession plans for key roles in your organization. For more information about how to partner with CCSR to design your organization's plans, call Sonja Armbruster at (316) 978-3843. Click the image to read the complete WSU article.

# Funding Opportunities

## EHR and Immunization Billing Funding for Local Public Health Pilot Projects - Due January 30

*by Jane Shirley, Director, Center for Population Health and Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is pleased to announce the launch of a new billing pilot program for Kansas local health departments. With funds secured through the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the KDHE Immunization Program will support the implementation of Practice Management Software and/or Electronic Health Records (PMS/EHR) systems in up to ten health departments in the state. The funds for this program are a continuation of the CDC Immunizations Billing Planning grant received in 2012.

Participating departments will be eligible for up to \$10,000. Several local health departments in Kansas have already implemented or are in the process of implementing Electronic Health Records. Those who have implemented them successfully have reported increased revenues and saved time for billing. The pilot program will include technical assistance to select the right system for your size and needs.

Deadline for applications to be submitted is January 30. Click on the KDHE icon for a project summary and application. Contact Aaron Davis with the Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research for more information, [aaron.davis@wichita.edu](mailto:aaron.davis@wichita.edu) or 316-978-5884.

## 2015 Midwest Affiliate Community Innovation Grants Announced - Due February 12

*from the American Heart Association*



The American Heart Association is requesting proposals for Community Innovation Grants for up to \$5000.00 in funding to improve the cardiovascular health of the communities served and to help achieve the American Heart Association's mission to build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke. The Association is particularly interested in novel, "high-risk, high-return" projects that engage those most at risk for cardiovascular diseases and stroke as well as hard-to-reach audiences and scalable projects that have the potential to be replicated in other markets along with plans for sustainability of the project beyond the funding period.

## Small Grant Funds to Promote Radon Awareness and Risk Reduction

*by Brian Hanson, Kansas Radon Program  
Engineering Extension, Kansas State University*



The Kansas Radon Program (KRP) is pleased to announce the availability of small grant funds to promote radon awareness and risk reduction. For the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program year of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, the KRP intends to award up to \$7,500 in small grant funding. Funding will be awarded via one of two funding categories. The first category will include up to four grants with suggested budgets of \$1,250. These mini grants include both a demonstration radon mitigation system installation and local/regional public awareness campaign. The four grants are targeted to include one per geographic quadrant of the state. The second category will include up to five grants with suggested budgets of \$500 for a total of \$2,500. These grants are targeted for local/regional public awareness activities. Proposals will be reviewed in the order by which they are received. All Kansas non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Potential applicants could include health departments, extension programs, schools and school groups. Please contact Brian Hanson at [bhanson@ksu.edu](mailto:bhanson@ksu.edu) for an invitation or click the image on the left.

"Your success and happiness lies in you. Resolve to keep happy, and your joy and you shall form an invincible host against difficulties." - Helen Keller

## Training and Conference Announcements

### ASTHO Hosts Series of 2015 Technical Assistance Calls - First Call is January 9

*from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials*



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is launching a four-part technical assistance call series to focus on key areas where states requested additional training and technical assistance in a summer 2014 survey. The first call in the series, [Primary Care and Public Health: Linking Public Health and Advanced Primary Care to Improve Outcomes](#), will be held on January 9, 2015 from noon - 1:00 p.m., on the topic of how to improve the quality of care, control costs, and expand use of the patient-centered medical home model. Future call topics include: understanding how to estimate return on investment, data sharing opportunities and challenges, and governance and financing models for sustained community health improvement.

### Farm to School Regional Workshops Begin - January 16



The Kansas State Department of Education invites you to a Farm to School Regional Networking and Training Workshop in your region. The agenda will feature outstanding learning and networking opportunities including: Get to Know Your Farmer and School Food Service; Food Safety; Chef Demonstrations; Procurement of Local Foods; Nutrition Education; Networking and Developing Supply Chain Relationships. Click the Farm to School Program logo for more information.

The following Farm to School Program Workshops will be held:

January 16 - Hutchinson

January 23 - Manhattan

February 6 - Oakley

February 20 - Girard

### NWETC Hosting Management and Process Improvement Webinars in January

*from the Northwest Environmental Training Center*

The Northwest Environmental Training Center will be conducting management and process improvement webinars for the environmental workforce. The first six hour webinar series, January 20 - 22, 2015 will be Lean and Six Sigma for Environmental Professionals: [Introduction to Process Improvement](#). Lean and Six Sigma are proven techniques for process improvement that many companies and organizations have used for decades to save money, increase customer satisfaction, engage employees, and become a more sustainable business or organization. Environmental organizations are getting on board to address their own inefficiencies, and they are finding success reducing the environmental impact of the organizations they work with by speaking the same process improvement language.



The second webinar series, Lean and Six Sigma for Environmental Professionals: [Tools for Process Improvement](#), will be conducted, January 27 - 29, 2015. This six-hour webinar builds on concepts introduced in Lean and Six Sigma for Environmental Professionals: Introduction to Process Improvement. In these sessions, details about the most common process improvement tools and techniques will be reviewed. Specific techniques include: 5S, process mapping, kanban, standard work, the 5 Whys, fishbone diagrams, histograms, common vs. special cause variation, error proofing, control charts, measurement studies and more.

### CDC Announces New Diabetes Education Online Course for Clinicians

*from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*



In honor of American Diabetes Awareness month, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Learning Connection featured a new, one hour web-based course for clinicians, Preventing Adverse Drug Events: Individualizing Glycemic Targets Using Health Literacy Strategies, Course ID 1053294 on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. This interactive e-Learning lesson teaches health care providers how to:

- Apply health literacy strategies to provide personalized care for patients with diabetes and to help them understand and act on information to prevent hypoglycemia
  - Apply current, evidence-based guidelines for individualizing glycemic target goals
  - Adopt the teach back method and shared decision-making in the health care setting
- Continuing education credits are available for physicians, nurses, and pharmacists.

## Online Course Available - Modified Health Care Protocols for Hospitals During Disasters

*by the Preparedness Program, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment worked with a panel of experts to revise the existing modified health care protocols originally created in 2009 and most recently reviewed in 2013. The University of Kansas Medical Center conducted live trainings across Kansas the summer and fall of 2014 on the modifications to the health care protocols. A recording from one of the live events has been posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID # 1054103.

The goal of this online education opportunity is to raise awareness of modified health care protocols and ensure they are integrated into preparedness plans.

This educational activity is intended for hospital executives, public health executives, chiefs of staff, chief medical officers, chief nursing officers, physicians and nurses, (trauma, pulmonary/critical care, emergency medicine, infectious disease professionals), emergency medical services personnel, EMS directors/medical directors, risk managers, pharmacists, and others in positions to respond to catastrophic events or major disease outbreaks.

Learning objectives include:

1. Describe disaster and public health emergency scenarios in which modified protocols of care might be considered for use in acute care hospitals
2. Present information on modified health care protocols for use during disasters to their professional colleagues
3. Explain why it is important to be aware that modified health care protocols are in place to assist in the event of an overwhelming catastrophe or pandemic
4. Help ensure that modified health care protocols for potential use during disasters are considered for inclusion in hospital preparedness plans.

## Kansas TRAIN Hosts Public Health Orientation for Student Nurses

*by the Local Public Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Local Public Health Program has compiled a short list of suggested sources on [KS-TRAIN](#) which could be offered to [nursing students](#) during their rotation at local health departments. This training can be used in conjunction with the [Quick Start Guide to Public Health](#) which is located on the Local Public Health Program webpage.

## Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City Training Videos for Volunteers in Disasters

*by the Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City*

The [Medical Reserve Corps of Greater Kansas City](#) (MRCKC), in partnership with the KS-TRAIN team, has developed five online modules using the MRCKC volunteer training videos which are posted to TRAIN. The videos were developed to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency guidelines for disaster shelters. The guidelines mandate the integration of functional needs individuals into the general population within a disaster shelter; the videos address this and other issues.

Recognizing that most volunteers lacked the knowledge and skills to care for these individuals, particularly in a disaster situation, the MRCKC nursing committee adopted the concept of utilizing short just-in-time training videos to assist non-medical volunteers in caring for functional needs individuals. MRCKC received the support of the Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross and the committee. Research was conducted and procedures were written utilizing best practices to validate the subject matter. Kansas learners can access the MRCKC volunteer training modules at <http://ks.train.org>. For all other learners, go to [www.train.org](http://www.train.org).

MRCKC Training Videos for Volunteers in Disaster Shelters-The Basics, Course ID 1049068

MRCKC Training Videos for Volunteers in Disaster Shelters-Medical Equipment, Course ID 1049316

MRCKC Training Videos for Volunteers in Disaster Shelters-Physical Care Course, ID 1049317

MRCKC Training Videos for Volunteers in Disaster Shelters-Psychological Course, ID 1049318

MRCKC Training Videos for Volunteers in Disaster Shelters-Miscellaneous Course, ID 1049319

## One Health Modules Posted to KS-TRAIN

*by Kansas State University*



One Health Kansas is offering the following noncredit modules and opportunities for physicians, advanced practice nurses, nurses, EMS, social workers and adult home care administrators. Human health providers must take all five modules to receive five continuing education hours.

Cost of the five modules is \$110, or \$22 per module. The One Health Modules, Course ID #1054723 on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> include the following topics: One Health, Influenza, Zoonotic Tick-borne Disease, West Nile Virus and Shiga Toxin-Producing *E.coli*.

## New e-Learning Course: Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

*by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Learning Connections*

The interactive e-learning module, Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks, Course ID, #1051682 on [KS-TRAIN](#), provides training on how to use a systems approach in foodborne illness outbreak environmental assessments. The free course will help prepare individuals to serve on a team that investigates foodborne illness outbreaks in restaurants and other food service venues. Course participants acquire in-depth skills and knowledge necessary to:



- Investigate foodborne illness outbreaks as a member of a larger outbreak response team;
- Identify an outbreak's environmental causes; and
- Recommend appropriate control measures.

## Updated Packaging and Shipping Courses Available on KS-TRAIN

*by the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories*

On November 26, 2014, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials 2014, Course ID #1048174 expired on KS-TRAIN. An updated Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials, two course training, is available on TRAIN for compliance with the federal law and to meet Kansas Health Environmental Laboratories shipping requirements.

1. [Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials, What the Laboratorian Should Know 2014](#), Course ID #1052318, is now available on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. This scenario-based course includes case studies on different specimen types including a case study focusing on Ebola.
2. The second required course is [KHEL: Preparing Clinical Specimens Related to Chemical or Biological Exposure Using Evidence Control Measures](#), Course ID #1050287. This is an intermediate-level, 45 minute training, which includes an overview of regulations and procedures associated with evidentiary control measures taken when shipping clinical specimens to Kansas Department of Health and Environmental Laboratories after a known or unknown chemical exposure event has occurred. This course is offered to ensure all laboratory staff across Kansas receive the full training needed to fully support their responsibilities as sentinel laboratory staff members.

## Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Archived on KS-TRAIN

*by Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator, Local Public Health Program*

*Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



Recent Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds for the Fall 2014 session have been archived on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. Archived courses include:

- Aug. 27, "Quality Improvement: Implementing Evidence-Based Practice" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1053272
- Sept. 3, "Learning from Experience While Looking Toward PHAB 1.5" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1053259
- Sept. 10, "Primary and Secondary Data Sources for Public Health Practice" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1053264
- Sept. 17, "The Health Challenge: Mental Health Disparities and Overall Health Equality" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID # 1053484
- Sept. 24, "Cultural Sensitivity and Health Equity: Preparing to Meet the PHAB Standards" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1054351
- Oct. 8, "You Have Red Spots Like Me! Measles Transmission Throughout History and Today" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1053745
- Oct. 15, "Public Health Law 101 - Promoting a Health Kansas" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1053487
- Oct. 22, "The Value of Advocacy - Public Health's Return on Investment" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1053857
- Oct. 29, "Human Trafficking in Healthcare" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1054003
- Nov. 5, "Promoting HEALTH: Health Equity and Access Through Listening and Teaching in a Holistic Approach" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1054083
- Nov. 12, "Epidemiologic Profile of E-Cigarette Use in Kansas" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1054718
- Dec. 3, "Cost Analyses for Public Health Interventions" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID # 1054719
- Dec. 10, "Marijuana: An Emerging Public Health Concern" Archived WEBCAST, Course ID #1054722

## News and Resources



### Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. The next call will be January 27. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

### A Practical Playbook for Public Health and Health Care

The Practical Playbook was developed by the de Beaumont Foundation, Duke Community and Family Medicine, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The playbook provides guidance, tools, and resources to improve collaborations between primary care and public health by guiding users through the stages of integrated population health improvement. Throughout each stage, the Practical Playbook provides helpful resources to support local, state and regional public health professionals and primary care groups. Learn more about how the playbook can support efforts to improve population health and reduce health care costs.



### Ads Released on Progress to Reduce Youth Smoking

American Legacy Foundation's (ALF) tobacco counter-marketing truth campaign released two ads that discuss national progress on youth smoking reduction. The ads are part of ALF's "Finish It" campaign and applauds CVS' [tobacco divestment](#) and Florida's decline in youth smoking rates from 15.7 percent in 2005 to 7.5 percent in 2014.



### Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act Memo Released



The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services has issued a [memo](#) on compliance with Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act requirements for hospitals. The memo advises every hospital with an emergency department to provide an appropriate medical screening examination for all individuals with suspected Ebola. Hospitals should be able to provide isolation and treatment to the patient until a diagnosis is determined.

### State-Level Diabetes Data and Trends Available from CDC

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Division of Diabetes Translation recently launched an interactive online [diabetes atlas](#) that displays state-level diabetes data and trends. The atlas includes customizable maps and graphics of diabetes surveillance data, an interactive application to view state-specific trends by age and sex, and downloadable maps, charts, and data tables that can be used in grant applications, reports, articles, and publications. Additional information about diabetes prevention and control is available on CDC's diabetes [website](#).



### Calorie Information to be Listed on Menus



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently [announced](#) its finalized rules requiring that calorie information be listed on menus and menu boards in chain restaurants and similar retail food establishments with 20 or more locations. The rules also cover food in vending machines, food sold at amusement parks, and certain prepared foods in supermarkets. The new rules are required by the Affordable Care Act. During this process, FDA reviewed more than 1,100 comments from stakeholders and consumers, and in response narrowed the types of foods covered under the final rule to focus on restaurant-type food. Restaurants will have one year to post calorie information and vending machine operators will have two years to do so.

### The War on Sitting

**SITTING IS KILLING YOU** You've already heard that sitting is the new smoking. Now, scientists reveal exactly how it hurts the body—and novel ways to undo the damage, without clocking hours at the gym. You might want to stand up for this. Click the image to read the Time article.

### Cigarette Smoking in U.S. Adults Reported in the MMWR

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report [Current Cigarette Smoking Among Adults—United States, 2005–2013](#), cigarette smoking among U.S. adults declined from 20.9 percent in 2005 to 17.8 percent in 2013, a reduction from 45.1 million smokers in 2005 to 42.1 million in 2013. This is the lowest prevalence of adult smoking since the CDC's National Health Interview Survey began keeping such records in 1965. However, cigarette smoking remains particularly high among at-risk groups, including lesbian, gay, and bisexual adults. These disparities underscore the importance of enhanced implementation and outreach strategies to prevent and reduce tobacco use among these groups, as well as expanded questions on surveillance tools to better capture data on sub-populations with the greatest burden of tobacco use.

Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)

### Why the ER Doctor Asks Patients What's Happening At Home



National Public Radio recently shared an article written by an ER physician, Dr. Laura Wen, on why certain questions are asked of patients when they come into her hospital. She stated that, "If you could spend a day in the ER hearing patients like I do, I think you'd see in a way that you might not have before that health doesn't exist in a vacuum. Doctors and nurses need to understand where our patients live, work and play. We need to connect with and really listen to our patients. It's these deeply personal conversations that allow us to diagnose and treat the real causes of our patients' ills." To read the complete article, click on NPR logo.

### Vaccine Facts Policy Project Creates Immunization Information Database

The Vaccine Facts and Policy Project has created a comprehensive [database](#) of United States immunization information that users can search by jurisdiction or topic. The project is the result of a partnership between George Washington University's Milken Institute School of Public Health, the Association of Immunization Managers, and the Immunization Action Coalition. The data is divided into five major topic areas related to immunization law and policy: demographics and rates, fiscal environment, law and policy, strategies and initiatives, and the structure of immunization programs.



### Job Postings

Applications are being accepted for the positions listed below.

#### Butler County Health Department

- [Part-time APRN—Community Nurse](#)

#### Finney County Health Department

- [Staff Registered Nurse](#)
- [Advanced Practical Registered Nurse](#)
- [Records Clerk](#)

#### Flint Hills Community Health Center

- [Family Medicine Doctor \(MD/DO\) or Nurse Practitioner \(APRN\)](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\) or Medical Assistant \(MAs\)](#)
- [Behavioral Health Specialist \(Social Worker\) - Emporia](#)
- [Behavioral Health Specialist \(Social Worker\) - Eureka](#)
- [Access Specialist Manager - Emporia](#)
- [Business Office Specialist—Emporia](#)

#### Franklin County Health Department

- [Registered Nurse Supervisor \(Public Health\)](#)

#### Reno County Health Department

- [Interpreter/Clerk](#)
- [Certified Nurse Aide Licensed](#)
- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\)/Physician Assistant Part-Time 24 hrs](#)
- [Public Health Nurse—Grant Funded](#)

### **Riley County Health Department**

- [Healthy Start Home Visitor](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)
- [Raising Riley RIGHT Child Care Facilitator](#)
- [Raising Riley RIGHT Literacy Facilitator](#)

### **Sedgwick County Health Department**

- [Director of Health Department](#)
- [WIC Registered Dietician/Public Health Nurse](#)
- [Mobile Immunization Nurse](#)

### **Shawnee County Health Agency**

- [Registered Nurse \(Primary Care-Women's Health\)](#)
- [Registered Nurse \(MCH-BBHF\)](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(Primary Care-Women's Health-Float\)](#)
- [Mid-Level Practitioner \(Primary Care\)](#)
- [Social Worker, MSW](#)

### **Wyandotte County Health Department**

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)

### **Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters**

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[Health Homes Herald](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

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

[What's Happening Wednesday \(Immunization\)](#)

#### **Public Health Connections Information**

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, e-mail [bchs@kdheks.gov](mailto:bchs@kdheks.gov).

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[http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public\\_health\\_connections.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm)

Send your public health news to

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