



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



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FACTUAL INFORMATION REGARDING VACCINES, THIMEROSAL AND AUTISM

*submitted by Sue Bowden RN, BS
KDHE Immunization Program Director*



In an effort to educate the public through Kansas public health resources. I am sharing the following information. As public health professionals, you all can help counter the misinformation that aired during an ABC television drama, "Eli Stone."

The immunization program deals with issues related to vaccine safety and concern by parents about having their children vaccinated on a regular basis.

Caring, conscientious parents are vulnerable to the untruths and misperceptions continuously put forth in the media regarding immunizations, and are hesitant to have their children immunized based on this information. Immunizations are a true public health success story. Through the immunization work of public health professionals like you over the years, the work has been done so well that our job has been made harder. Parents no longer know the face (thankfully) of the horrible diseases that immunizations prevent so well. We now have the luxury of being more afraid of the vaccines themselves than the disease they prevent.

I urge you to please share the scientific, factual information that makes the information contained in the upcoming "Eli Stone" episode obviously blatantly incorrect, perpetuating the myth that autism is caused by mercury in vaccines. Please do what you can to prevent the adverse effect this episode will have on immunization rates of children and the potential for disease occurrence.

A feature was added to the spotlight section of CDC's vaccines Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/tv-show.htm>). CDC is also updating their autism site (www.cdc.gov/autism) and working to get a feature placed on CDC's home page (www.cdc.gov).



TOBACCO CONTROL PROGRAMS CUT ADULT SMOKING RATES NATIONWIDE



Greater investments in state tobacco control programs are independently and significantly associated with larger and more rapid declines in adult smoking prevalence, according to a study by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and RTI International, an independent nonprofit research institute based in Research Triangle Park, N.C. Researchers were able to quantify the link between comprehensive tobacco control

programs and a decrease in adult smoking — observing a decline in prevalence from 29.5 percent in 1985 to 18.6 percent in 2003.

“The Impact of Tobacco Control Programs on Adult Smoking,” is the first study of its kind to use multi-state survey data on smoking to examine the association between cumulative state tobacco control program spending and changes in adult smoking prevalence. Combining educational, clinical, regulatory, economic, and social strategies, these comprehensive programs encompass coordinated efforts to establish smoke-free policies and social norms, to promote and assist tobacco users to quit, and to prevent initiation of tobacco use.

The study, published in the February 2008 issue of the *American Journal of Public Health*, analyzed data from all 50 states and the District of Columbia and found that among individual states the declines in adult smoking prevalence were directly related to increases in a state's per person investments in tobacco control programs.

The full study is available at <http://www.ajph.org/>. You may also contact CDC's Office on Smoking and Health at (770) 488-5493 to obtain a copy of the study. The CDC media release about the study can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/od/oc/media/>. For more information about CDC's *Best Practices for Comprehensive Tobacco Control Programs-2007*, please visit CDC's Web site at www.cdc.gov/tobacco.



KANSAS STATEWIDE FARMWORKER HEALTH PROGRAM

submitted by Cyndi Treaster

Director, Farmworker, Immigrant & Refugee Health, KDHE

Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program (KSFHP) is a voucher program with case management and health promoter services that assists low-income farmworkers and their family members to access primary health care services throughout Kansas. This past year several of KSFHP staff left the program to marry, start a business or take a promotion. We are excited to report that we are now fully staffed again and have made some adjustments in our service regions. New members of our staff include:



- Shelly Schroller, administrative assistant - Shelly was hired in July 2007 and enters the data and completes the billing and payment process for KSFHP voucher payments.
- Lucia Gutierrez, regional case manager - Lucia started in August 2007 and supports providers in delivery of health services, processes client information and provides case management to farmworker families in the western region of the state. Contact Lucia at (620) 275-4970, (620) 428-1762 or e-mail lgutierrez@ummam.org.
- Kendra Baldrige, regional case manager - Kendra started in late December 2007 and supports providers in delivery of health services, processes client information and provides case management to farmworker families in the eastern region of the state. Contact Kendra at (785) 296-2671, (816) 590-7577 or e-mail her at kbalderidge@kdhe.state.ks.us.
- Patricia Fernandez, regional case manager – Pat has worked with KSFHP for several years but has recently been reassigned to the central area of the state to serve as a regional case manager. Contact Patricia at (785) 266-8983, (620) 617-7428 or e-mail at pfernandez@kdhe.state.ks.us.
- Helen Loewen and Tina Guenther continue to work as health promoters with the Low German speaking farmworker families located in the central and western area of the state.

With the new staff we have made slight changes to our regions.

Above is a map showing regional case manager areas. KSFHP staff will be attending regional public health meetings and TB update meetings in 2008 to have the opportunity to meet you and share information about the program.





NEW REGIONAL CASE MANAGER FOR EASTERN KANSAS

Kendra Baldrige is the new regional case manager for Eastern Kansas in the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program. In this position, she will help low-income, uninsured farmworkers and their families access primary care services. Kendra graduated from the University of Kansas with a Bachelors of Arts in Sociology. She spent two years in the Peace Corps in El Salvador working on various community projects including health promotion, housing, and other issues. She has worked at non-profit organizations in both Kansas City and Lawrence with Latino immigrants. Kendra is bilingual in Spanish and English.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES NEW WEB SITE

*submitted by Shirley Orr
Director, Local Health, KDHE*

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department's first independent Web site officially launched Jan. 1. Ldchealth.org will include current public health news and information on the global, national and local levels as well as general information on the department's programs and services. To provide a better understanding of what the agency offers the community, stories of real people affected by the health department's services are also featured on the user friendly site.



Other ldchealth.org highlights include:

- Access to the latest health department news and press releases.
- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board meeting agendas and minutes
- Complete annual reports
- The history of the health department in Lawrence and Douglas County
- Helpful links and forms from everything to installing a septic system in rural Douglas County to obtaining the compliance history of a local child care facility.

In the coming month, more features will be added, such as photos, client interviews and interactive elements including a body mass index calculator.

"The mission of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is to prevent disease and protect and promote the health of the population of Lawrence and Douglas County," said Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department director. "This Web site is an important tool as we endeavor to improve our community's health status so that we may all live in a strong, vibrant community."

THE COMMUNITY TOOL BOX

The Community Tool Box is a terrific resource for the public health workforce. Finance is one area that many public health administrators say they would like to know more about. "Generating, Managing and Sustaining Financial Resources" is the topic of chapters 42 – 44. These chapters contain information on writing a grant application, planning for financial sustainability, preparing an annual budget, accounting basics, contracting for service and establishing a micro-grants program for your community. We hope you check out this great resource for yourself at: <http://ctb.ku.edu/en/tablecontents/>



FLUORIDE VARNISH APPLICATION EDUCATION PROGRAM

*submitted by Christie A. Steege
KAAP Executive Director*



Bright Smiles for Kansas Kids is a program that provides fluoride varnish application education for all pediatric healthcare providers (pediatricians, family physicians, physician assistants, nurses, etc.) The program focuses on children ages 0 – 3 and consists of:

- 1) A one-hour online education on KS Train (<https://ks.train.org>) offering FREE Category 1 CME and Nursing CE (course #1010214).
- 2) Upon completion of #1, a scheduled visit by the Kansas Department of Oral Health Outreach Coordinator to their office for a "hands on" demonstration.
- 3) A free tool kit to each healthcare provider that completes #1 and #2. The Toolkit

features 50 free fluoride varnish applications, 60 age-appropriate toothbrushes, brushes and other application supplies, information on Medicaid reimbursement, and options to ordering additional supplies.

The ultimate goal of Bright Smiles is to increase the number of pediatric healthcare providers who implement fluoride varnish as an integral part of a child's overall health.

For more information: Chris Steege at (913) 780-5649 or kansasaap@aol.com. Visit the Kansas American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) Web site click on the Bright Smiles logo.

BRIDGING THE GAP®

submitted by Cathy Anderson

Manager, Language & Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Service



Bridging the Gap is a five day training in medical and social services interpreting for bilingual interpreters. After attending all classes and passing a final exam, participants receive a certificate of completion in "Bridging the Gap." Participants receive a handbook, glossary and an interpreter's guide to common medications.

The next training will be held in Great Bend at the Central Kansas Medical Center, 3515 Broadway Street, on Feb. 18-22. The course runs from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. and is **free of charge through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment**. However, we do require that you do the following: Register online for Bridging the Gap through KS TRAIN: <http://ks.train.org> and complete the Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) application form attached to "Go To Step 2" of registration. Send your application to JVS, 1608 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108, or fax it to (816) 471-2930. For more information contact Cathy Anderson at (816) 471-2808 or check out the JVS Web site at

www.jvskc.org.

Room numbers to be announced on the first day of class. For information about location or directions in Great Bend, contact Sr. Elizabeth at (620) 786-6404.

NEW COURSE LISTING

*submitted by Debbie Nickels RN,C BSN
KS-TRAIN Administrator*

Open a new web-browser, add <http://ks.train.org>, log-in, click the course links. Included below are the steps to create an account for those person's who have not previously used the learning management system. Forgotten your ID and Password? Contact the helpdesk@kdhe.state.ks.us or call (785) 296-5655. Learners can also print out the new TRAIN Quick Guide by clicking the icon below.

Terrorism/Emergency Readiness

Kansas Courses:

1. [Ready, Willing and Able On-line Training \(#1010882\)](#)
2. [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds: Session #10 - Apr. 2nd "Waste Management Issues Post Natural Disasters" \(#1011119\)](#)
3. [Forensic Epidemiology: Joint Training for Law Enforcement and Public Health Officials on Investigative Responses to Bioterrorism \(#1010590\)](#)

National Courses:

2. [SOPHE's Emergency Preparedness and Response Webinar Series: Reaching Out to Vulnerable Populations During Public Health Emergencies](#)
3. [SOPHE Emergency Preparedness Response Series: The Health Educator's Role in Responding to Emergencies](#)



General Public Health

Kansas Course:

1. [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds: Session #6 - Feb. 27th "Health Reform in Kansas" \(#1011128\)](#)

National Courses:

1. [Dealing With Animals in Emergencies](#)
2. [Bridging Community Partners Through Drills & Exercises](#)

Infectious disease

National Course:

1. [Zoonosis, Preparedness, and Public Health](#)

Environmental

National Course:

1. [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds: Session #10 - Apr. 2nd "Waste Management Issues Post Natural Disasters" \(#1011119\)](#)

How to Create Your Own Learner Account on KS-TRAIN:

1. Log onto <http://ks.train.org>
2. Click "create account" on the left hand side of the screen beneath the "login" button.
3. Complete the learner account by filling out all the necessary profile information on the subsequent pages.
Required fields are indicated with a red asterisk (*).
4. Write down your User ID and Password in a secure place.

SAVE THE DATE! 3RD ANNUAL GOVERNOR'S PUBLIC HEALTH CONFERENCE

submitted by Governor's Public Health Conference Committee



This year's Governor's Public Health Conference "Public Health in Kansas: There's No Place Like Home!" Early Intervention Strategies for Healthy Families will be held in Wichita on April 29-30. A pre-conference for new MCH and Healthy Start Home Visitors or those wanting a refresher will be presented on April 28. This year's conference is sponsored by the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), KDHE Office of Local and Rural Health, KDHE Maternal and Child Health Program (MCH), and the Heartland Centers for Public Health Preparedness.

IMPORTANT EXHIBITOR INFORMATION

Don't miss your opportunity to exhibit at **The 3rd Annual Governor's Public Health Conference!** Approximately 300 Public Health Nurses, Maternal and Child Health Staff and Public Health Professionals throughout the state are expected to attend.

The conference will be held **April 28 - 30, 2008** at the Wichita Airport Hilton, located at 2098 Airport Road, Wichita, KS, 67209. Exhibits will be displayed on **Tuesday, April 29**. This year's theme is *Public Health in Kansas: "There's No Place Like Home."* exhibitor information is available on the Wichita State University Web site www.wichita.edu/conferences.

UPDATE FROM YOUR KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

submitted by Sonja Armbruster, KPHA President-Elect

Health Day at the Capitol and the Alliance of Health Advocates



Health will be one of the major topics of the Legislative Session this year. Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) and other groups are working intently to have an impact on legislation that will become law. Health Day at the Capitol will be Thursday, March 6. KPHA member, Linda DeCoursey. American Heart Association, is a co-chair, along with Corrie Edwards, Kansas Health Consumer Coalition. If you are interested in participating in Health Day at the Capitol and did not receive a flyer invitation, please email Linda at

Linda.Decoursey@heart.org. The Alliance of Health Advocates is growing. We have over 80 organizations represented, and continue to go over weekly legislative spread sheets. If you want to become involved in the Alliance of Health Advocates, email director@kpha.us.



Legislative Priorities

Policy development is a core function of public health, and this year, your association has published our top ten priorities for the 2008 legislative session. All members were invited to vote on these priorities at the last annual meeting. You are invited to check out the results on our website, <http://www.kpha.us/>.

2008 Annual Meeting

We know you are very busy, so we want to be sure you are marking your calendars for this year's annual KPHA meeting in Topeka at the Capitol Plaza, September 17-18.

ORIENTATION TO KAN BE HEALTHY



Registered nurses, not previously Child Health Assessment Nurse Provider (CHANP) certified are invited to attend the KAN Be Healthy Health Screening on Tuesday, March 18 from 1 – 5 p.m. (not required for ARNPs). The classroom style four-hour training session will be a review of the orientation training manual. There will be no equipment demonstrations provided. Other training options:

- ✚ Independent (home) self-study
- ✚ Classroom Style
- ✚ Web-based

Following the training sessions and successful completion of the quiz, the registered nurse will be “approved” to provide KAN Be Healthy screenings. All training options are identical.

Location is at Washburn University, Benton Hall, Room 407, 1700 SW College Blvd., Topeka. Registration fee is \$50 and deadline is March 15. This course is posted on KS-TRAIN, <http://ks.train.org>, #1002706.

For more information call (785) 670-1399 or visit our Web site for other training options at www.washburn.edu/ce/kbh/training/. The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services developed this orientation. Course contact is Joanne Ramberg, RN, at (785) 670-2615. Coordinated by the Washburn University, Division of Continuing Education, Topeka.

REGIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MEETINGS – 2008

Upcoming Regional Public Health Meetings and Billing Workshops.

- **Central Region:** Feb. 27 at the Reno County Health Department, 209 W. Second, Hutchinson, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please contact Jon Anderson at (785) 296-8435 if you have any questions.
- **North Central Region:** March 25, please contact Debbie Whitmer at (785) 827-9639 for meeting location and time.
- **Northeast Region:** March 13 at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Topeka, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Please contact Linda Frazier at (785) 296-3641 if you have any questions.
- **Northwest Region:** March 13, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the NW Educational Service Center, Oakley. Contact Georgette Schoenfeld, RN, Logan County Health Department, for a lunch reservation at (785) 672-4502. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at (785) 827-9639 if you have any questions.
- **Southeast Region:** Feb. 14, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. at the Southeast District Office, 1500 W. Seventh, Meadowlark Room, Chanute. Please contact Jon Anderson at (785) 296-8435 if you have any questions.
- **Southwest Region:** Feb. 15, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. at the Finney County Administration Building, 311 N. Ninth, Garden City. Please contact Debbie Whitmer at (785) 827-9639 if you have any questions.

BILLING WORKSHOPS - 2008

- **NE Billing Group** will meet on Feb. 7 at the Curtis State Office Building, 1000 SW Jackson, Flint Hills Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Topeka, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information, contact Linda Frazier at (785) 296-3641.
- **Billing Biddies** will meet on March 5 from 9 a.m. – noon. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at (785) 827-9639.
- **Billers Anonymous** will meet on Feb. 13 from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. For more information, contact Debbie Whitmer at (785) 827-9639.
- **Mission Impossible Group** will meet on Feb. 28 from 9 a.m. – noon, Reno County Health Department, Hutchinson. For more information, contact Jon Anderson at (785) 296-8435.
- **KUG's** meets from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m., Satanta District Hospital's education room (in basement). For more information, contact Michelle Miller at (620) 675-8191 or e-mail: mmiller@satantahospital.org.

- **Billers-R-U**s will meet Feb. 14 at the district office in Chanute, Meadowlark Room, 9 a.m. - noon. For more information, contact Jon Anderson at (785) 296-8435.

JOB OPENING AT SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

- Immunization Services Coordinator (2633).

For more information click the Sedgwick County Seal on the right, or contact Jeff Goetzinger, Human Resource Assistant, Sedgwick County Health Department at (316) 660-7333.



JOHNSON COUNTY JOB OPENINGS



The Johnson County Public Health Department, located in the Kansas City metro area is seeking applicants for the following position:

- Health Educator/Senior Wellness #100566

To review the job specifications click on the Johnson County logo on the left and scroll down the page. Interested applicants may send resume and cover letter to Stacy Barr, Recruiter; stacy.barr@jocogov.org or for complete details and to apply online, visit <http://hr.jocogov.org>; or fax resume to (913) 715-1419; or mail to: Johnson County Human Resources; 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600; Olathe, KS 66061. EOE

LOCAL HEALTH SECTION OFFICE OF LOCAL & RURAL HEALTH

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