



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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## 7th Annual Spring Public Health Conference



The *7th Annual Spring Public Health Conference*, "Challenge of Change: Developing an Equitable Public Health System," is now open for registration thru KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course number 1031980. Preconference date is Mon. April 23 with the General Conference, April 24-25.

The *7th Annual Spring Public Health Conference* focuses on the national health reform and state initiatives work to reduce health disparities and improve individual and population health. Kansans are moving forward with hope and expectations for a healthy future. Governor Brownback's Road Map for Kansas emphasizes this hope and a renewed sense of purpose through developing and enhancing partnerships that inspire ingenuity, energy and progressive thinking. Both private and public health programs will find guidance for improving health in the Healthy People 2020 objectives, the Maternal and Child Health Five-Year Needs Assessment priorities, and public health accreditation principles, standards and quality improvement initiatives.

The conference keynote address on April 24 will provide a cabinet level perspective on the collaborative work underway in Kansas to address health issues. Secretaries from Aging, SRS and Health and Environment will discuss the relationships and initiatives that have been successful to date in the development of a systematic approach to improving the health of Kansans.

Three Preconference learning opportunities will be provided on April 23 including, Option 1, "Maternal Child Health (MCH) Introduction". This first option is for new staff entering the field of public health or the MCH program, as well as any seasoned MCH staff in need of a refresher. A broad overview will be provided of the systems framework of public health and the MCH services provided to families from a life course perspective within the [10 Essential Public Health Services](#).

The "Framework for Public Health Practice", Preconference Option 2, is designed for local health administrators, local health officers, public health professionals and medical consultants. This learning option will provide an overview of Kansas local public health and how it operates within the larger governmental public health system.

Pre-conference Option 3 learning opportunity, "What to do when your Child Gets Sick? Promoting Parent Health Literacy," begins the afternoon of April 23. This session is designed for the public health workforce involved with parents of young children and their health. Participants will receive training in a Kansas Head Start Association parent health literacy program and use of a key resource, "What to Do When Your Child Gets Sick?" This publication covers the management of more than 50 common childhood illnesses, injuries and health problems from birth through eight years of age.

To view the conference brochure click the conference logo, or click the KS-TRAIN logo to download the TRAIN conference registration instructions.

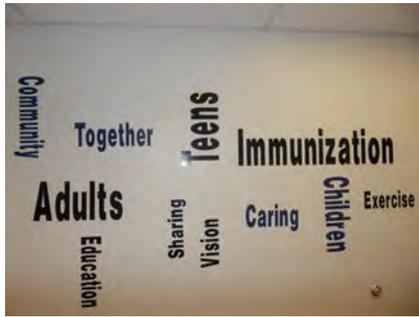


### In the Spotlight - Lincoln County Health Department Celebrates 35 Years



*by LaDonna Reinert, Administrator  
Lincoln County Health Department*

On Thurs., Jan. 26, the Lincoln County Health Department held their 35th Anniversary Open House. In the April 5, 1977 election, Lincoln County voters approved one mil levy for the purpose of establishing a county health department. Some of the duties of a health nurse would be to: conduct monthly immunization clinics, provide group health education, make home visits to all ages and other duties. The estimated budget for the first year including salaries for a nurse and a clerk was \$17,000. The health department was located behind the courthouse in a building not much bigger than a large garden shed. In Jan. of 1992 the health department moved to 123 N 4th Street. This limestone building was to be the home of the health department for 10 years. In late 2000 the county was awarded a Community Development Block Grant. The health department moved into new building Jan. 2002. Low staff turnover and long time employees are key to the health department's success. Judy Coats

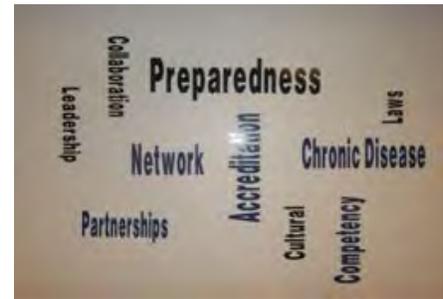


has been employed for 22 years, Ladonna 16 years, Judy Larsen 15 years, Sherry Pickering 8 years, and Tina, Lisa and Sheri Suelter 5 years.

As with any small health department everyone wears many hats. Services provided to the 3,300 residents include: Immunizations (we are the only provider), Kan-B-Healthy screenings, daycare and school physicals, school flu shot clinics, dental screenings and fluoride varnish, Family Planning, Early Detection Works, allergy shots, other adult injections, blood pressure clinics, foot care clinics, non-Medicare home health services, urine drug screening and community education

programs. Behind the scenes we do disease investigation, emergency preparedness, collaborate with elected officials and partners and many more activities.

Two new logos were designed and a fresh coat of paint in the waiting room welcomed open house visitors. The logo on the wall is also being used for letterhead, faxes and other paper documents. A complementing shield design will be used for marketing, health department shirts and jackets. The other wall designs were designed by staff after reading the Jan. 2012 Public Health Connections. Thanks for the idea.



### In the Spotlight - Barber County Health Department



*by Jerry McNamar, Administrator  
Barber County Health Department*

"We are in a race between cooperation and catastrophe, let not the threat outrun our response." - Sam Nunn

Experience to meet the challenge is the best way to describe the staff at the Barber County Health Department. Originating in 1979 the five person staff has 73 years of combined service in Public Health. Marilyn Vierthaler, RN heads up the Epidemiology, Food Stamp and Love & Logic Programs. Anita Poland specializes in Family Practice, Immunizations and WIC. Joyce Bell takes care of records, reception and foot care while Pam Rickard is the glue that holds it all together as grant coordinator and administrative assistant. Jerry McNamar, MPH, RS is the new Administrator/Health Officer but has been associated with public health in Barber County and the South Central (SC) Coalition as Public Health Sanitarian for 22 years. He will oversee Public Health Preparedness and Environmental Health Programs. The overarching goal of, "Improving the quality of rural life through better rural health," is challenged by persistent threats of increased poverty, lack of health insurance and no access locally to oral healthcare. New this year are the public and environmental health risks associated with the rapid expansion of oil exploration in South Central Kansas.

Public health law and county sanitary codes will be put to the test as Barber County experiences its share of the oil boom. A prediction of five thousand workers will be moving to the eight counties along the Kansas/Oklahoma boarder. With the main office in Medicine Lodge, Barber County Public Health also operates a part-time satellite office in Kiowa. An explanation of programs and essential information is planned to assist these newcomers. Cooperation with our partners in the SC Coalition and state associations is providing added support in planning to meet this challenge. 2012 will be a learning experience for us all and one which we will tell stories about in the future.



## In the Spotlight - Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program

*by Shelley V. Bearman, Public Health Educator  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



In 2000, the Pew Environmental Health Commission identified a lack of basic information needed to link environmental hazards and chronic diseases. As part of this effort, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funded state partners to develop a set of nationally consistent environmental and health measures. The Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking (KEPHT) Program website includes national environmental and health measures and other health data for Kansas.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment/Bureau of Environmental Health (KDHE/BEH) is in the forefront of analyzing information from statewide disease registry for cancer to determine if exposure to environmental contaminants may be contributing to higher rates of these chronic diseases. This website provides an opportunity to more closely examine the possible links between environmental exposure and chronic diseases statewide and locally. By making these data available in one place; hazard, exposure and health data may be used to help communities make healthy choices as well as evaluate the effectiveness of public health actions.

The KEPHT website provides information on the following health data in Kansas residents:

- Cancer incidence data
- Childhood Lead Poisoning
- Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Environmental public health tracking will be adding more surveillance data including: air quality, asthma, birth defects, cancer, climate change, heart attack, reproductive and birth outcomes and radon data sets. These data sets can be used to detect unusual trends in health, exposures and hazards and we hope you will check back often as new data becomes available.

It is important to note the KDHE has safeguards in place to protect private health information. To protect privacy, data may be presented to the public in confidentiality guidelines followed through the grouping of data (i.e., data aggregation) and/or cell suppression due to a low number of cases.

For more information on the Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program click the KEPHT logo above or contact Shelley Bearman at 785-368-7154 or [sbearman@kdheks.gov](mailto:sbearman@kdheks.gov).

## Calling One and All - Join the Monthly Public Health Conference Call

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



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

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) invites all local public health agencies, interested hospitals and public health regional coordinators to participate every fourth Tue. of each month at 10:00 a.m. in a statewide public health conference call. Secretary Moser will lead off these conversations with an update on news from KDHE and other timely statewide public health developments. In addition, staff from the Disease

Surveillance and Local Public Health sections will participate in each call. Other "briefings" will be delivered by a variety of KDHE programs and sections when they have news or recent developments to share.

To join: call 866-620-7326/Conference Code: 5381244974. During each call, questions may be forwarded to [msteele@kdheks.gov](mailto:msteele@kdheks.gov). Every attempt will be made to answer all questions during the call; or follow-up provided as needed. Notes will be taken and posted following the calls on the KDHE, BCHS website. Click the Public Health logo above to link to the future call notes page.

## Screening for Elevated Lead Levels Among Burmese Refugee Children

*by Cyndi Treaster, Director*

*Vulnerable Populations, Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



Refugee and immigrant children are at increased risk for elevated lead levels that may impact neurological development and/or changes in behavior. Lead exposure may occur prior to locating to the United States as in some areas of the world where immigrants arrive from have lead exposures including lead containing gasoline combustion, industrial emissions, ammunition manufacturing and use, burning of fossil fuels and waste and lead containing traditional remedies, foods, ceramics and utensils. While exposure to many of these contaminants will end upon arrival to the U.S.

immigrant children may also have a potential of exposure due to residence in high-risk areas and substandard housing. Families may also continue to use traditional remedies, foods, ceramics and utensils from their home country.



Recently the New York State Department of Health, Center for Environmental Health lab tested a product called Thanakha. It was found to contain lead amounts ranging from 12 to 17mcg/g. The Federal Drug Administration was alerted to this and has launched a consumer complaint investigation. Up to this point the product has not caused any elevated blood lead level in any Burmese children or women in New York state. Thanakha is a cosmetic product used in the Burmese refugee community and is widely used by women and children. One can find both boy and girl children wearing it on a daily basis from babyhood on, mainly on the cheeks but sometimes over the entire face. It is reported that resettled Burmese refugees are still using Thanakha and that there are many different brands of this product available.

Health providers will want to be aware of potential risks of this product as well as other traditional remedies or items. Remember that all refugee children from six months to 16 years of age should be screened for elevated blood lead levels at the time of arrival to the United States. An elevated blood lead level in a child is a result of >10mg/dL with a venous blood draw. A finger stick test can be administered as a screening tool as well and any elevated results will be reported to the State of Kansas and addressed at that time. Children younger than six years should undergo clinical nutritional assessment and those between age six months to six years should be rescreened for lead level from three-six months after permanent residence. If elevated lead levels are identified, environmental risks should be assessed in a culturally sensitive manner with the family. Further information can be found at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by clicking the CDC logo above. For further questions you may contact the State Refugee Health Coordinator at [ctreaster@kdheks.gov](mailto:ctreaster@kdheks.gov) or the Kansas Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Prevention Program at 866-865-3233 or visiting their website by clicking on the Kansas Healthy Homes logo.



### Kansas Youth Fighting Tobacco Use Through Grant Projects

*by Erica Anderson, Program Coordinator  
Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition*



**TOBACCO FREE KANSAS  
COALITION**

During the spring semester, 16 youth groups across Kansas will develop tobacco prevention education and media initiatives to help other young people avoid experimentation and use of deadly tobacco products. The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition, Inc. (TFKC) provided mini-grants of up to \$1,000 to promote a statewide youth movement that will help reduce prevalence of smoking and smokeless tobacco by teens in Kansas. Click the TFKC logo to view a map listing all sixteen grantees.

### We KAN QI: Quality Improvement Proposal

*by Sylvia Ford, RN, BSN, CIC, Intern and Graduate Nursing Student*



On Jan. 25, The Center for Performance Management (CPM) submitted a Quality Improvement (QI) proposal to the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) with the expectation of participating in a new initiative entitled Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI). To obtain more information about

this initiative, click the NNPHI logo. This program is funded through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). If awarded, this program initiative will provide support for the agency to become more proficient in the adoption and application of QI in order to meet the accreditation standards and measures set by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). One of the main goals of the We KAN QI proposal is to create a core group of staff across agency Divisions that possess the ability to serve as innovators who will implement QI strategies throughout the agency.

In the next eight months there will be a series of educational quick tips that will be provided to introduce the agency to basic QI tools, strategies and techniques. Remember WE KAN QI!

Staff from the Bureau of Community Health Systems helped to develop the proposal. Applicants for the QI Award will be notified if their project is selected by Mar. 2. Click to learn more about the [QI Award Project](#).

## What to do with Household Hazardous Waste

*by the Kansas Green Team*

Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) is the material left over when you're finished with a product containing hazardous substances. Some of the more common products that result in HHW include:

- Insecticides, pesticides and herbicides
- Paint, paint strippers, paint thinners and turpentine
- Photographic chemicals
- Antifreeze, motor oil, batteries, gasoline, car wax and polish
- Oven cleaners, furniture polish, mothballs, spot removers, drain cleaners and silver polish



The proper disposal of HHW is a major environmental and health issue for every Kansan. HHW should not be simply dumped down the sink inside or the storm drain outside – wastewater treatment plants are not designed to handle it. Most of our homes contain many chemical-based household products used for cleaning, painting or maintaining our houses and yards. Maybe it's the forgotten drain cleaner under the sink. Perhaps it's the motor oil or lawn chemicals stored in the garage. It could even be the old paint in the basement left over from that remodeling project a few years back. While these materials can be safe when used correctly and stored appropriately, improper use, storage and disposal of HHW pose a number of risks and dangers.

Hazardous products cause poisonings, severe burns, illness, blindness and even death if misused. When HHW ends up in household trash or is poured down sinks or storm drains, it not only endangers our health and safety, but it also poses risks for our communities, wildlife and the environment. While small amounts of HHW in your home may seem like a minor concern, when millions of other homes across Kansas are using similar products, it becomes a major issue if all those hazardous materials are improperly handled, stored or discarded. By properly storing and disposing of HHW, we can help ensure the safety of our homes and environment.

How can I dispose of it? Most Kansas communities have access to HHW collection programs, which allow materials to be recycled or properly disposed. In addition to holding one-day collection events and establishing permanent collection facilities, many Kansas counties have regional programs. With this approach, the participating counties typically share joint ownership of a mobile trailer used for temporary collection events. The HHW is then transported back to a permitted facility until it can be properly disposed. Although it is legal to dispose of HHW in the trash, KDHE encourages participation in these HHW collection programs instead. If you choose to put it in the trash, please ensure it is properly sealed to avoid exposure or release of the chemical.



Visit Kansas Recycles by clicking the recycle can to find a HHW facility near you.

How can I reduce it? Read labels carefully. Avoid buying products with labels containing the words: danger, warning, flammable, explosive, corrosive, caustic, toxic or poison. Use safer products whenever possible. There are a number of recipes available to make your own [safer alternatives](#). Buy only as much as you need for the job at hand. Share what you can't use or don't need any more with a friend or neighbor. Recycle what can be recycled in your area, such as motor oil and auto batteries.

## Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Available in 2012

*by Cait Purinton, MEP, Exercise & Training Coordinator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



There are many opportunities coming up in 2012 for exercise design and development training in the emergency preparedness program.

The Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) Training Course is identified on the work plans if you do not already have someone HSEEP-trained at your agency. The course number in KS-TRAIN has been updated to #1030674. This three-day course provides background information on HSEEP, including the resources, tools, and guidance for following HSEEP princi-

ples and managing an exercise program.

- March 7-9: Topeka
- April 17-19: Hays
- July 24-26: Salina
- Nov. 13-15 Garden City

If you are interested in learning more about the design and conduct of exercises, the Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM) and KDHE are hosting courses on how to design discussion-based exercises and operations-based exercises. These design courses are new in 2012. These courses are not required on the work plans, but they are a great opportunity if you're interested in becoming more involved in exercise design.

"Exercise Design for Discussion-Based Exercises" is now on KS-TRAIN, #1031128. The three-day HSEEP Training Course is a pre-requisite for this class. In this course, you will design, conduct and evaluate a Tabletop Exercise (TTX).

- March 20-22: Geary County
- July 9-11: Seward County
- Sept. 4-6: Great Bend
- Nov. 5-7: Hays

"Exercise Design for Operations-Based Exercises" is on KS-TRAIN, #1027830. The three-day HSEEP Training Course and the Exercise Design for Discussion-Based Exercises are pre-requisites for this course. In this course, you will design, conduct, and evaluate a Functional Exercise (FE) with operating Simulation Cells.

- May 22-24: Topeka
- August 21-23: Topeka
- Oct. 9-11: Topeka

For more information contact Cait Purinton at [cpurinton@kdheks.gov](mailto:cpurinton@kdheks.gov) or Michael Paz-Torres [michael.paz@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.paz@us.army.mil) at KDEM if you have any questions.

### Upcoming Catholic Health Association Webinar



Community health needs assessments often result in identification of a substantial number of service gaps and health care problems. Financial and other resource limitations demand that we set priorities among assessed community health needs in order to focus resources on where they will do the most good and be most effective. This program on Apr. 3, led by public health professor and Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Board member Leslie Beitsch, will describe established methods and tools for setting priorities for community health improvement. Because this webinar focuses on [Community Benefit](#), it is recommended for agencies participating in Community Benefit activities with their local hospitals. For more information, click the Catholic Health Association logo.

### One Health Conference - Tickborne Diseases and Rabies

*by Jodi Freifeld, DVM, MBA, Curriculum Coordinator  
One Health Kansas, Kansas State University*



One Health Kansas in partnership with Oklahoma State University's Center for Veterinary Health Sciences and the Oklahoma State Department of Health will be hosting a One Health Conference on April 5, 2012 in Tulsa, OK. This event is an inaugural regional educational effort dedicated to improving the health of both people and animals. The close co-existence of people and animals has created an environment of confluence in many areas including their health issues. Approximately 60 percent of human diseases are due to multi-host pathogens characterized by their movement across species lines and over the last 30 years approximately 75 percent of the newly emerging human infectious diseases have been zoonotic. One Health Education Initiatives serve to increase awareness of the health issues created by this confluence and ultimately improve animal and human health. The One Health Conference is a regional educational effort dedicated to enhancing this awareness and strengthening collaboration among all health professionals, especially the veterinary and human medical professions to optimize the health of people and animals.

Registration is required but there is no fee to attend. The target audience includes human health providers, veterinary care providers and public health professionals. 7.0 hours of CME for physicians and 7.0 hours continuing education for veterinarians is being offered. Click the image above for registration information regarding the conference.

## Kansans Optimizing Health Program Training



*by Lisa Williams, Program Manager  
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*

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

Upcoming sessions are:

- April 12, 13, 19 and 20 in Dodge City
- April 12, 13, 19 and 20 in Kansas City
- April 25 and 26, May 2 and 3 in Salina

Please click the KOHP logo for registration information about the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program.

## NNPHI Public Health Agency, Systems, & Community Health Improvement Training

*by Lil Johnson, NNPHI*



On behalf of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) partnership, the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is pleased to announce the 10th Annual Training.

This training, sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and its NPHPSP and accreditation partners, is scheduled for May 8 - 9 in Atlanta, Georgia. This year's training offers opportunities to learn about public health agency accreditation, systems performance standards, quality improvement, health assessment and improvement planning and how all of these support an overall public health improvement strategy. Special attention will be given to preparing for Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation and implementing the newly re-engineered NPHPSP tools. Information and conference details are available by clicking the NNPHI logo. Contact Lil Johnson at [ljohnson@nnphi.org](mailto:ljohnson@nnphi.org) with questions.

## Bridging the Gap™ in Kansas, 2012 - Bilingual Interpreter Training

*by Cathy Anderson, Manager*

*Language and Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)*

Bridging the Gap is a forty-hour training program for beginning and intermediate medical/social service bilingual interpreters. The course offers participants a thorough grounding in the Interpreter's Code of Ethics, the roles of interpreting, cultural competency and much more. The course is presented by Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) and taught by Raul O. Guerrero. Participants will take a final exam on the last day of class. A certificate of completion is awarded based on five-day attendance and a passing score on the final exam.

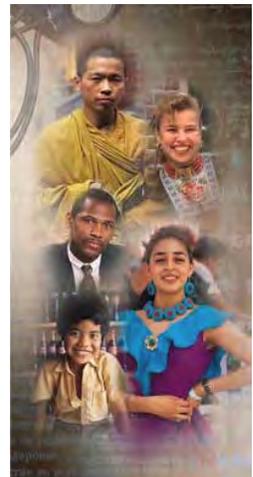
In 2012, this course will be offered in:

- Wichita at Wesley Medical Center, Apr. 9-13 from 8-5 P.M.
- Garden City at the Fennup Center for Conservation and Education, Lee Richardson Zoo, Apr. 23-27 from 8-5 P.M.

The course is sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and is offered free of charge.

All participants must submit a JVS application, JVS survey and apply online through <http://ks.train.org> course #1023672. Cathy Anderson, the manager of Language and Cultural Services, will speak with you before you can enter the class. Applicants will be asked to join a list of voluntary interpreters through K-SERV. Volunteer interpreters may be called on to volunteer their services in case of a state emergency, such as a natural disaster or weather emergency. If you have questions about the program, please contact Cathy at 816-471-2808, ext. 1124 or [canders@jvskc.org](mailto:canders@jvskc.org).

Bridging the Gap is an example of a course that fulfills the interpreter training requirement for applying to the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) to become a certified interpreter. In addition to other requirements, an applicant must have forty hours of medical interpreter training to qualify to take the exams to become credentialed through CCHI. For more information on the application process and a description of



the two exams required for becoming certified, click the image above. Feel free to contact Cathy Anderson, (contact info above) a commissioner with CCHI, who can answer your questions about applying for the certification tests.

### 2012 Kansas Conference on Poverty

*by the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs*



2012 Kansas Conference on Poverty will be held on July 25-27 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita and is coordinated by the Kansas Association of Community Action Programs. To learn more click the Hope logo.

The Kansas Conference on Poverty is an event that engages policy makers, government employees, social and human service agencies and employees, advocates, volunteers, low-income citizens from around the region and you, in intensive learning, training and planning on poverty issues. Best practices and models for policies and programs that really work, are shared as well as concrete examples of how people can become engaged as anti-poverty advocates. Registration will open in April. Download an application today to be a presenter, sponsor or vendor.

As you make your plans to join us, know that you'll be in the best of all possible company. The Kansas Community Action Network and the 2012 Conference Steering Committee are honored to announce this year's principle keynote speaker: Deborah Weinstein, Executive Director for the Coalition on Human Needs.

### Epidemiology Training for Local Health Departments, Module 2, Online Course

*by the KALHD and the BCHS, KDHE*



The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) have re-tooled the content from the Nov. 16, 2011, live event "KALHD-KDHE: Epidemiology Training for Local Health Departments, Module 2," into an online course for KS-TRAIN found at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID 1031581. The three hour course includes: video, activities and a post assessment.

All local public health staff members who require disease investigation, reporting and surveillance education are encouraged to enroll in the course as part of the Epidemiology Training Plan through KS-TRAIN. The course completion data will be used for preparedness performance capability tracking purposes. Click the KALHD logo to download the Training Plan enrollment instructions and Epidemiology Training for Local Health Departments Guidance document.

For questions concerning the KALHD Epidemiology in Practice preparedness grant requirements contact Michelle Ponce, Executive Director, KALHD at [mponce@kansascounties.org](mailto:mponce@kansascounties.org) or 785-271-8391.

## Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Free Access to the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice



Quality Improvement (QI) is the focus of the Jan.-Feb. 2012 issue of the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice. In the issue, readers will find:

- A series of case studies, describing how local public health agencies are implementing QI.
- Key factors leading to the success of these initiatives and how they can be sustained.
- Articles detailing QI learning collaborative and the national progress of local health departments in this area.

Because of the generous support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, this entire issue is available for free download online by clicking the logo above. NACCHO encourages all LHDs working to improve the performance of their agency to review this valuable free resource.



### Public Health Foundation's Future of Public Health Award



The Public Health Foundation (PHF) has launched a national award program to promote use of QI to influence positive outcomes in Winnable Battles. The Future of Public Health Award (FPHA) is a unique opportunity for state, Tribal, local and territorial health departments to receive onsite technical assistance to build capacity in QI and advance programs to improve outcomes in Winnable Battles. Award recipients will receive up to three days of on-site technical assistance and training from an expert in QI tools and methods, resource material on best-practices, and much more. Applications for the 2012 awards are being accepted through Mar. 16. For eligibility requirements and additional information, click the PHF logo.

### PHF Accreditation Preparation



The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is working closely with state, tribal, local, and territorial health departments to help them implement Quality Improvement (QI) Tools and Techniques (Domain 9) and assess Workforce Development (Domain 8). To learn more click the PHAB logo.

### Kansas Health Matters



The new *Kansas Health Matters* website is now available to anyone interested in identifying health concerns in their community and wants to seek actionable information for community health improvement in Kansas using county, regional and state health indicators. In addition, the site provides tools and resources for community health assessment, community health improvement using evidence based and promising practices, as well as providing health news. The "information system can be used to promote transparency, best practice sharing, collaboration and civic engagement . . . [providing] a community tracking, collaborative-building system has tools available for performance measures that are linked to public health interventions that improve health outcomes" (HCI, 2012, no page number).

Currently, only three states have implemented this system: Hawaii, Arizona and Kansas. Specific features unique to Kansas include:

- [211 Kansas Online](#)
- A "[Community Health Needs Assessment Toolbox](#)" developed specifically for Kansas University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development (The Community Toolbox)
- "[Ask the Expert](#)" Feature that allows users to submit a question which will then be answered by one of the designated "experts" that include local and state health department staff, as well as others with experience in conducting health assessments and planning. So far, the "experts" include: Brandon Skidmore (KDHE), Cindy Samuelson (KHA), Ghazala Perveen (KDHE), Gianfranco Pezzino (KHI), Greg Crawford (KDHE), John Leatherman (KSU), Michelle Ponce (KALHD), Paula Clayton (KDHE), Renee Hanrahan (Via Christi Health System), and Ty Kane (Wichita-Sedgwick County Health Department).

### KanPICH Collaboration

This new tool was selected by the Kansas Partnership for Improving Community Health (KanPICH) after reviewing information systems to assist communities and users in accessing reliable, evidence-based information. The KanPICH is comprised of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA), the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), and the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU). Other partners include University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development and the United Way of the Plains.

The information system for *Kansas Health Matters* was designed by the Healthy Communities Institute, a California-based team of health care information technology experts who have created the nationwide Healthy Communities Network. The project is supported through a Kansas Health Foundation grant award of \$163,000 to the KDHE.

### Getting the Word Out

The KHI and the KDHE are working together with partners to communicate and market this new system so communities, researchers, policymakers and individuals can begin to look at the health of their communities throughout 2012. To "kick off" the new system, a presentation to a special joint meeting of the House Health and Human Services Committee and Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee was provided on Jan. 25 in Topeka by Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary, KDHE, Dr. Bob St. Peter, President and CEO of KHI, and Chad Austin, vice president of the Kansas Hospital Association. To read more about the website, go to:

[KHI News Service](#)

[KDHE News Release](#)

### Learn More About It!

Using the system is the best way to begin to learn about the tools, resources, and data available. To help familiarize you with the new system an hour-long webcast training is available for free through [KS-TRAIN](#) course #1031471. In addition, there will be two breakout sessions offered at the 2012 Governor's Public Health Conference at the Wichita Marriott titled, "When "Kansas Health Matters": Resources for Your Public Health Practice." Information about the April 23 – 25 conference can be found at [7th Annual Spring Public Health Conference \(1031980\)](#).

## Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



### Future of Public Health Award - Deadline March 16

The Public Health Foundation (PHF) has launched a national award program to promote use of quality improvement (QI) to influence positive outcomes in Winnable Battles.

The Future of Public Health Award (FPHA) is a unique opportunity for state, tribal, local and territorial health departments to receive onsite technical assistance to build capacity in QI and advance programs to improve outcomes in Winnable Battles. Award recipients will receive up to three days of on-site technical assistance and training from an expert in QI tools and methods, resource material on best-practices, and much more. Applications for the 2012 awards are being accepted through Mar. 16. For eligibility requirements and additional information, visit their website by clicking the PHF logo.

### Community Health Assessment Mini-Grants – Deadline March 16

The Rural Health Program, KDHE is pleased to announce the 2012 Kansas Rural Community Health Assessment mini-grant opportunity to support rural communities in engaging their local residents to assess their community health needs. Small grant awards (no more than 12) up to \$4,000 each will be given to eligible rural communities to use for activities such as meeting expenses, travel, or initial technical assistance. Rural communities served by a critical access hospital are eligible for these mini-grant awards. Grant recipients must engage both the hospital and the local health department in the community health assessment process. For more details about this grant opportunity and the application form, see the [2012 Community Engagement and Health Assessment Mini Grant](#). The application deadline is March 16, 2012.

### APHA Get Ready Scholarship - Deadline March 26



To raise awareness about emergency preparedness, American Public Health Association (APHA) is offering its fourth annual Get Ready Scholarship. The scholarship is a component of APHA's Get Ready campaign, which works to help Americans prepare themselves, their families and their communities for all disasters and hazards, including pandemic flu, infectious disease, natural disasters and other emergencies.

Six scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded:

- Two scholarships for high school seniors
- Two scholarships for college undergraduates
- Two scholarships for graduate students

Winning students will also receive a free one-year membership in APHA. Click the scholarship logo for more information on the Get Ready Scholarships.

### QI Contest: Submit Your Story of Measurable Improvement - Deadline March 30



To showcase the quality improvement (QI) work of local health departments (LHDs) and encourage peer information exchange, the National Organization of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) has developed a database of [Stories of Measurable Improvement in Public Health](#) resulting from QI in LHDs. The database is searchable by state, topic area or QI tool and technique used.

If you have a story about a measurable improvement in your health department, now is the time to share it! Did you reduce clinic wait times, streamline a paperwork process, in-

crease community engagement or otherwise achieve a measurable improvement through QI? If so, as part of our 2012 goal to interact more with you, from Feb. 13th through March 30th, submit your stories to the database to be entered into a contest! Submitting a story is simple: just complete the brief online form by clicking the image to the left.

Contest details:

- All submitters will receive a NACCHO resources pack to help with your accreditation preparation and quality improvement work.
- Eight randomly selected submitters will receive the NACCHO resources pack AND a printed copy of [Michigan's Quality Improvement Guidebook](#), a comprehensive guide for local public health departments conducting quality improvement.
- One grand prize winner will receive a NACCHO resources pack, the Michigan QI Guidebook, and a NACCHO travel mug. The winner's story will also be featured in an April issue of *accreditNATION*.

Please note that while submitting more than one story increases your odds of receiving the MI QI Guidebook, individuals who submit more than one story will not receive multiple resource packs.

Remember, the deadline for submission into this contest is Friday, March 30th - so [tell us about your QI efforts](#) today.

### Fuel Up to Play 60 Grants - Deadline June 1

**Sponsor: National Football League**



Fuel Up to Play 60 awards grants to schools enrolled in their wellness program that may be used for a variety of activities and tools. Examples of these programs include food-service materials and equipment, nutrition and physical education materials, student and staff incentives, staff development and overall Fuel Up to Play 60 program implementation. Awards of up to \$4,000 will be granted to selected applicants. K-12 schools enrolled in the Play 60 wellness program are eligible to apply. Click the Fuel Up to Play 60 logo to learn more.

## News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Quad Council Public Health Nurse Competencies



The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations is comprised of the Association of Community Health Nurse Educators (ACHNE), the Association of State and Territorial, Directors of Nursing (ASTDN), the American Public Health Association Public Health Nursing Section (APHA) and the American Nurses Association's Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (ANA). The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations was founded in the early 1980's to address priorities for public health nursing education, practice, leadership and research and as the voice for public health nursing. The Quad Council PHN competencies are now available by clicking the ASTDN logo above.

### Let's Move!



The *Let's Move!* Communities on the Move Video Challenge invites faith-based, community, and other non-profit organizations working with children to create short videos (one to three minutes long) highlighting their participation in *Let's Move!* and efforts to reverse the trend of childhood obesity. Participating organizations are encouraged to create videos that showcase programs related to *Let's Move Faith and Communities* that are creative, effective, sustainable, replicable and inspirational. Videos should focus on at least one, *Let's Move Faith and Communities* focus area of activity, including efforts to promote healthy eating, physical activity and access to healthy, affordable food for children. To learn more click the Let's Move! logo.

## National Infant Immunization Week



This year, National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) will be held April 21-28. NIIW is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities. Since 1994, NIIW has served as a call to action for parents, caregivers, and healthcare providers to ensure that infants are fully immunized against 14 vaccine-preventable diseases.

CDC has a variety of resources available for [planning](#) and [promoting](#) NIIW-related events. In addition, you are encouraged to [submit information](#) about your NIIW-related event(s) on an online form.

## CHA Learning Opportunity



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is conducting a series of conference calls to address a variety of topics related to Performance Improvement. The Jan. session focused on strategies to engage hospitals for successful collaboration on community health assessment and community health improvement activities.

Click the image on the left to go to the recording of this informative and helpful conference call.

## NLM Tox Town Web Site Adds US Southwest Neighborhood



The U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM) has a new U.S. Southwest scene that is now part of the landscape of Tox Town that presents information about commonly-encountered toxic substances and their possible health risks. It includes environmental hazards associated with dust storms, and oil and gas fields.

## Health Statistical Reports

Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce, a collaboration of U.S. government agencies, public health organizations and health sciences libraries, provides reports, analyses and summaries of health statistics. To view this information click the logo on the left.



## Job Openings

### Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD)

The KALHD Assistant Director is a management level position with significant responsibility for day-to-day operations of the organization, providing staff support for association meetings, facilitating communication and project management. The position requires someone able and willing to take initiative and carry out responsibilities with moderate oversight.



### Reno County Health Department

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

- [Child Care Licensing Evaluator/Educator](#)
- [Public Health Nurse I](#)



### Riley County Health Department

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

- [Public Health ARNP](#)



### Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Registered Dietitian](#)



## Shawnee County Health Department

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

- [Child Care Licensing Surveyor](#)
- [Clinical Medical Assistant](#)
- [Physician](#)
- [Registered Nurse - MCH-Outreach](#)
- [Registered Nurse - Primary Care/Women's Health](#)



### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

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

Previous issues of Public Health Connections maybe found at

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