



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

## What's Inside

In the Spotlight - Launch of Academic Health Department ..... 2

In the Spotlight - Bureau of Health Promotion Recognizes Staff Accomplishments..... 3

Cowley County Health Center Board Will Direct Low-Cost Care Clinic..... 3

Just a Little Heart Attack ..... 4

The Governor's Public Health Conference – A Roadmap to Wellness ..... 4

Time for Public Health Week Planning is Now ..... 4

Accreditation Corner ..... 5

    NACCHO Releases New Accreditation & QI Resources for Local Health Departments..... 5

    Resource Center for CHA and CHIP..... 5

Funding Opportunities..... 5

    APHA's 2013 Get Ready Scholarship - Deadline Mar. 25 ..... 5

    Health Care Scholarship Application Period Open – Deadline Mar. 31 ..... 5

    Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Childhood Obesity Prevention - Deadline Apr. 11 ..... 6

    Run for Good - Deadline June 13..... 6

    RGK Foundation Awards Grants in Areas of Health/Medicine - Deadline June 14..... 6

    Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy - Deadline Sept. 25..... 6

    Baseball Tomorrow Fund - Deadline Oct. 1..... 6

Training and Conference Announcements..... 7

    TRAIN Adds New Courses and Gets a Face Enhancement ..... 7

    DHHS Offers Quick Health Online Training - Mar. 12 and 14..... 7

    Sharpened Focus on Mental Health First Aid..... 7

    Advancing Performance in Agencies, Systems and Communities..... 7

    Family Planning Program Adds Online Course to KS-TRAIN ..... 8

    KIDS Network Safe Slumber Online Training ..... 8

    USDA WIC Courses Posted to TRAIN ..... 8

    Public Health Accreditation Board Online Orientation Available on TRAIN ..... 8

News and Resources..... 9

    Lactose Intolerance ..... 9

    7 Steps to Rewiring for the Future ..... 9

    Advancing Healthy Housing: A Strategy for Action ..... 9

    Guide to Effectively Educating State and Local Policymakers ..... 9

    Disaster Apps and Mobile Webpages Redesigned..... 9

    Recommendations to Improve Prevention Policies in America ..... 9

    Pew Internet and American Life Project Report: Tracking for Health ..... 10

    Whooping Cough Vaccine for Pregnant Women Among New Recommendations ..... 10

    Introducing CDC's new iPad App ..... 10

    Omnibus HIPAA Rulemaking..... 10

    Free Low Vision Videos and Booklet..... 10

    Community Health Workers and Emergency Preparedness ..... 10

    Pay Now, Or Pay (More) Later: The Crying Need to Fund Community Prevention ..... 11

    Vaccination Strategies for Future Influenza Pandemics..... 11

    National and State-Specific Healthcare-Associated Infections Standardized Infection Ratio..... 11

    California's Tobacco Control Program..... 11

    America's Children and the Environment ..... 11

    Vital Signs: Smoking and Mental Illness ..... 11

    CDC Vital Signs Video Clips Available ..... 11

Have a Great Subject Line When E-Mailing a Reporter .....	12
Job Openings .....	12
Franklin County Health Department .....	12
Johnson County Health Department.....	12
Lawrence Douglas County Health Department .....	12
Lyon County Health Department.....	12
Phillips County Health Department.....	12
Riley County Health Department.....	12
Sedgwick County Health Department .....	12
Shawnee County Health Agency .....	12
Wyandotte County Health Department.....	12
Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters .....	13
Public Health Connections Information .....	13

### **In the Spotlight - Launch of Academic Health Department**

*by Karen Salisbury Henry, Assistant Director for Communications*

*Life Span Institute, University of Kansas*

*and Karrey Britt, Communications Coordinator*

*Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department*



FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT

The University of Kansas (KU) Work Group on Community Health and Development and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department have launched a new kind of partnership, called the Academic Health Department, the first in Kansas and one of only a few in the country. The KU Work Group is a longstanding partner with the Health Department, most recently in facilitating the recent Comprehensive Community Health Assessment, but the Academic Health Department takes the collaboration a step further.

"We hope to ultimately create a shared research agenda with the Health Department," said Vicki Collie-Akers, assistant research professor, who leads the KU effort, "to merge our goals with theirs." Collie-Akers will have an office at the Health Department.

Health Department Director Dan Partridge said the Academic Health Department would play a pivotal role in helping his agency evaluate and document the successes and failures of policies and systems that aim to improve community health. "A major focus will be to answer the question, 'How well are community-based efforts working to improve health?' We hope the answers will help inform future decisions promoting the health and vitality of Douglas County," he said.

The KU Work Group, a WHO (World Health Organization) Collaborating Center, has pioneered understanding the process of how communities create conditions that promote health. The Academic Health Department will also function like a teaching hospital for KU students in applied behavioral psychology, the Work Group's academic home, said Collie-Akers.

Short-term goals of the partnership include supporting the implementation and evaluation of Douglas County's first Community Health Plan that will position the Health Department for accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board, a national nonprofit agency.

The KU Work Group on Community Health and Development is one of the 12 centers of the University of Kansas Life Span Institute. They include:

[KU Work Group for Community Health and Development](#)

[The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department](#)

[The Community Toolbox](#)

[The Life Span Institute](#)

[Public Health Accreditation Board](#)

[Douglas County Community Health Assessment Report](#)

## In the Spotlight - Bureau of Health Promotion Recognizes Staff Accomplishments

*by the Office of Communications*

*Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



Ashley Muninger, was recently promoted to Program Manager of the Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Program (HDSPP) in the Bureau of Health Promotion, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Ashley previously worked as a public health educator for the HDSPP and the Diabetes Prevention and Control Program. Ashley helps facilitate the Chronic Disease Alliance of Kansas as they plan and implement statewide chronic disease interventions and develop a state chronic disease health plan. She also works in partnership with the Diabetes Program to implement the Kansas Quality of Care Project in over 60 Kansas clinics in an effort to improve the quality of care provided to patients with chronic disease. In addition to the HDSPP, Ashley coordinates the Sodium Reduction in Communities grant, one of five grants awarded nationwide by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to implement interventions aimed at reducing sodium intake, decreasing blood pressure and improving blood pressure control among Shawnee County residents.

Misty Lechner, was hired at KDHE in Nov. of 2009 as the Worksite Wellness Specialist overseeing Bureau of Health Promotion outreach to public and private worksite across the state to assist in implementation and evaluation of evidence-based worksite wellness initiatives. She recently has been promoted to Program Manager for the Kansas Arthritis Program where she will coordinate numerous statewide projects to prevent or manage arthritis and other chronic diseases. Those projects include: WorkWell Kansas, Walk with Ease, Chronic Disease Self Management Program and Tomando Control de su Salud.



Connie Meyer, began work in the Bureau of Health Promotion in 2009 as a survey interviewer for the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) Program. Soon after this she was promoted to Senior Administrative Assistant. While in that position she assisted the Diabetes, Arthritis, Cardiovascular and Physical Activity and Nutrition Programs. She also filled in for a vacant position that handled contracts for the Bureau. She was promoted recently to the position of Contract Specialist. The main focus of her work will be managing the large volume of contracts for all programs within the bureau.

## Cowley County Health Center Board Will Direct Low-Cost Care Clinic

*David Brazil, Administrator*

*City-Cowley County Health Department*

*from the Arkansas City Traveler*



Creation of a low-cost health care clinic took a major leap forward this week with the first-ever meeting of the Community Health Center of Cowley County Board of Directors. The newly formed board met Thurs. in the conference room at the Cowley First office to elect officers and conduct housekeeping issues. It also approved a \$40,000 maximum contract with a consulting firm, Ray and Associates, Inc., which will prepare an application for a \$650,000 annual grant to fund a low-cost clinic. Such a clinic would help to meet the needs of uninsured, underinsured and underserved, residents. Research has shown that Cowley County ranks toward the bottom of Kansas counties in the percentage of insured residents and has poor health indicators, such as high rates of smoking, diabetes, blood pressure and cancer mortality.

After two years of grassroots planning, hopes are high that a Federally Qualified Health Center may come to Cowley County in the near future. The initial idea is that it could be located at Strother Field. It could contract with local doctors, hire its own medical staff, or do both. The new organization will guide those decisions as the project develops, the board's president said. "This is a very exciting time, and very hopeful time, because we now have all the ducks in order to make an application for a federally qualified health clinic," Allen Polen said Friday. Other officers are Sharon Taylor, vice president; Curt Freeland, secretary; and Carol Hearne, treasurer.

Federally Qualified Health Centers have been around since for 45 years and have enjoyed bipartisan support, Polen said. There are several in Kansas. The project in Cowley County grew out of the county's Vision 20/20 strategic plan and included a \$80,000 federal planning grant that funded a survey of residents about their health care needs.

The City-Cowley County Health Department administered the planning grant, but is stepping away from the process with a functioning health center board. "This is what we've been targeting, to get to this point," Polen said. "Once we can make an application, we have some hope of actually doing it."

Money to pay Ray and Associates to prepare the grant application will come from \$30,000 provided by a consortium of health foundations in Kansas that see Cowley as having a good shot at creating a safety-net clinic, Polen said. Another \$10,000 was donated by individuals in the community.

A completed application is due in April and the grants would be awarded - probably sometime in the fall, Polen added. Other health center board members are Kounh Astrab, Bruce Blake, Paulin Conde, Joy Kennedy, Grace Nichols, David A. Seaton, Kathy Wohlgemuth, Jeff Wood and Judith Zaccaria.

### Just a Little Heart Attack

*from the American Heart Association Website*



Elizabeth Banks is known for her comedic acting style, but acknowledges there's nothing funny about a heart attack. However, humor is exactly the approach Banks took in the entertaining video she produced on the subject, [Just a Little Heart Attack](#). Everybody thinks about their dad having a heart attack, but nobody thinks about their mom having one. It never even occurred to Banks, whose mom and sisters have heart arrhythmias, to get her own heart checked. But now, she's made it her mission in life to fight heart disease in women.

### The Governor's Public Health Conference – A Roadmap to Wellness

*by Linda Frazee, Workforce Development Coordinator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

The 8th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference, "A Roadmap to Wellness," will be held on Apr. 29 - May 1 at the Double Tree by Hilton Wichita Airport in Wichita. Registration is now available on KS-TRAIN, course ID #1040965.

The Governor's Public Health Conference brings four prior public health conferences together, increasing the value and scope of opportunities for the entire public health audience. These include:

1. Maternal Child Health
2. Public Health Nursing – topics have expanded to the general public health workforce
3. The Center for Health Equity
4. Family Planning sessions - New for 2013



The Conference Planning Committee consists of representation from Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) programs related to these areas, Kansas Association of Local Health departments (KALHD) administration and local representation and Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA).

The registration fee has remained level for the past four years even though conference costs continue to rise and the goal is to break even. State programs often subsidize fees for sponsored plenary speakers when funds are available. Continuing Education credit is included and this will be the second year that Continuing Medical Education for physicians is offered on the pre-conference day. The Governor's Public Health Conference will continue to offer continuing education and information on best practices at the lowest cost possible to the public health workforce in Kansas.

### Time for Public Health Week Planning is Now



It's a good time to start planning for National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2013. It is scheduled for the first week in April and this year's theme is, "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money." Organized by the American Public Health Association, the week gives you the opportunity to champion your work and show that public health produces a significant return on investment (ROI). Daily themes cover health and safety in the home, school, workplace, while traveling and your community. A partner toolkit with talking points, suggested activities, sample news releases, social media content and more is [here](#).

## Accreditation Corner

### NACCHO Releases New Accreditation & QI Resources for Local Health Departments



The National Association of County and City Health Officials' (NACCHO) Accreditation and Quality Improvement (QI) Team is pleased to announce the official launch of the, "Roadmap to a Culture of Quality Improvement," (QI Roadmap) Website. Click the image on the left to learn more. With input from local health department (LHD) practitioners and extensive review of the literature, this resource was developed to provide LHDs with guidance on progressing through six phases or levels of QI maturity until a culture of quality can be reached and sustained.

### Resource Center for CHA and CHIP



The Resource Center for Community Health Assessments (CHA) and Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP) provides practical, customizable tools and resources to support local health departments (LHDs) and their partners in completing CHA and CHIP processes. The initial version of this resource center is being populated primarily with the following:

- Existing items that have been deemed high-quality; and
- Items being developed by LHD CHA/CHIP demonstration sites to complete CHAs and CHIPs for accreditation preparation. Click the image on the left to learn more.

## Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### APHA's 2013 Get Ready Scholarship - Deadline Mar. 25



To raise awareness about emergency preparedness, American Public Health Association (APHA) is offering its annual Get Ready Scholarship that is designed to encourage high school and college students to focus on the importance of emergency preparedness. The deadline for submissions is Mar. 25. To learn more about this scholarship offer click on the APHA logo.

### Health Care Scholarship Application Period Open – Deadline Mar. 31



The Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation (KHERF) is currently accepting applications for the twelfth annual Health Care Scholarship. Any Kansan who is currently enrolled or planning to enroll in a Kansas school accredited by an appropriate state licensing health career board is eligible to apply. Priority will be given to professions experiencing shortages in Kansas, individuals seeking new degrees or certifications, demonstrated leaders and committed Kansans. For more details, click the KHERF

logo.

Thirty health care scholarships are being offered for the 2013-2014 academic year in the following categories:

- Nursing Scholarships - \$800 minimum from KHERF
- Graduate Scholarships - \$800 minimum from KHERF
- Nursing or Allied Health Education Faculty Scholarships - \$800 minimum from KHERF
- Other Health Scholarships - \$800 min. (KHERF)
- Kansas Association of Health Care Executives Scholarships - \$500 minimum from the Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association
- Kansas Hospital Human Resources Association Scholarships - \$500 minimum from the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives
- Health Information Technology Scholarships - \$500 minimum from KHERF, the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care and Kansas Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society

Applications must be postmarked no later than Mar. 31.

Original, photocopied and electronic applications are acceptable. You may find an application on the [KHERF](#) Web site. If you have any questions or need further information, contact Susan Cunningham at [scunningham@kha-net.org](mailto:scunningham@kha-net.org) or 785-233-7436.

#### **Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Childhood Obesity Prevention - Deadline Apr. 11**



The National Institute of Food and Agriculture is providing funding to end obesity among children, the number one nutrition-related problem in the U.S. Food is an integral part of the process that leads to obesity and USDA has a unique responsibility for the food system in the United States. The Childhood Obesity Program supports the long-term outcome of reducing the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children and adolescents 2-19 years. To learn more or to submit a grant application click on the Grants.gov logo.

#### **Run for Good - Deadline June 13**



The Saucony Run For Good Foundation is committed to improving the lives of children by helping to prevent and reduce childhood obesity. They act to inform the public about its cause and prevention and provide funding to optimize the impact and success of community organizations that promote running and healthy lifestyle programs for youth.

Program participants are 18 years of age or younger, have 501 (c) (3) status and can demonstrate their program positively impacts the lives of participants through their increased participation in running. The Run for Good charter is to fight childhood obesity so those programs that specifically target that epidemic get the most attention. Public schools *are* eligible for this grant. To learn more click the image above.

#### **RGK Foundation Awards Grants in Areas of Health/Medicine - Deadline June 14**



Ronya and George Kozmetsky (RGK) Foundation's current interests include the Health/Medicine programs that promote the health and well-being of children, programs that promote access to health services and Foundation-initiated programs focusing on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). All applicants must complete an electronic Letter of Inquiry from the Web site as the first step. RGK Foundation will entertain one electronic Letter of Inquiry (LOI) per organization in a twelve-month period. Organizations that submit unsolicited proposals will receive notification directing them to submit an electronic Letter of Inquiry via the Web site. To learn more click on the image of the Kozmetskys.

#### **Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy - Deadline Sept. 25**



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)/Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality/National Institutes of Health invites applications to develop research on health literacy in general areas that include, but are not limited to, the following: Nature and Scope, Lifespan and Cultural Differences, Mediators and Moderators of Health Literacy: Protective and Risk Factors, Impacts and Consequences of Limited Health Literacy, Education and Training, Health Systems Interventions and Methodology and Research Technology Development.

Deadline is Sept. 25 and should be noted that some steps in the application process can take several weeks to complete. For more information click the HHS logo.

#### **Baseball Tomorrow Fund - Deadline Oct. 1**



The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball (MLB) and the Major League Baseball Players Association (MLBPA.) The fund awards grants to organizations involved in the operation of youth baseball and softball programs and facilities. The Kansas City Royals will fund new program, tangible items, one-time capital expenses or special supplies or purchases. The average amount for grant is \$5,000. To learn more click the Royals logo.

# Training and Conferences Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

## TRAIN Adds New Courses and Gets a Face Enhancement

*by Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Unable to attend the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, Wed. webinar sessions? The below archived sessions for the spring are now posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. Login and navigate to the 'Course Search' link, browse by Kansas and search by alpha order; or add the course number to the 'Course ID' field in the upper right hand corner of the TRAIN homepage. The fall 2012 archived webcasts are also posted to TRAIN for viewing.

- Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, Spring 2013, Jan. 23, "Public Health and Medicine: Medicaid Expansion in Kansas and the Affordable Care Act (ACA)" ARCHIVED WEBCAST (1041830)
- Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, Spring 2013, Jan. 30, "Building Public Health Infrastructure and Capacity for Disability Challenges and Opportunities" ARCHIVED WEBCAST(1040558)
- Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, Spring 2013, Feb. 6, "Population Health Stratification: Using National Data to Further Understand Grouped Health Behaviors" ARCHIVED WEBCAST (1042276)
- Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, Spring 2013, Feb. 13, "Integrating Primary Care and Public Health" ARCHIVED WEBCAST (1040559)

Did you notice that KS-TRAIN has a new look? On Wed., Feb. 13, TRAIN launched a new look to the login page and home page. This enhancement was developed and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to modernize the formatting and navigation of the learning management system for all 28 affiliate TRAIN websites. The new look is a work in progress as each affiliate site will need tailoring. See attached PDF to learn more on how to navigate the "[New Face of TRAIN](#)".

## DHHS Offers Quick Health Online Training - Mar. 12 and 14



The U.S. Department of Health Human Services (DHHS) Office on Women's Health will offer training for its online information system, a system that contains data on demographics, mortality, reproductive and maternal health, disease incidence and access to care. For more information, contact Joyce Riley-Townser [joyce.townser@hhs.gov](mailto:joyce.townser@hhs.gov) regional women's health coordinator.

Quick Health Data Online 101 training schedule:

- Tues., Mar 12, 4-5 pm ET - Basis training
- Thurs., Mar 14, 12-1 pm ET - focus on mapping

To access the training sessions click the DHHS logo, then click on the, "Free Training Available!" and register for date and time.

## Sharpened Focus on Mental Health First Aid



Interest in Mental Health First Aid was heightened this month with its inclusion in the President's comprehensive plan to protect communities from gun violence. Launched nearly two years ago, Mental Health First Aid is an evidence-based interactive 12-hour course designed to teach people a five-step process to assess a situation, select and implement appropriate interventions and help a person in crisis or who may be developing the signs and symptoms of mental illness. Participants also learn about risk factors and warning signs of specific illnesses. There's also a Youth Course for those working with teens. To learn more click the Mental Health First Aid logo.

## Advancing Performance in Agencies, Systems and Communities



The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) invites you for the 11th Annual Public Health Improvement Training (PHIT): Advancing Performance in Agencies, Systems and Communities to be held on Apr. 23-24 in Atlanta, GA. The PHIT will provide opportunities for training in performance improvement topics including Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) accreditation; National Public Health Performance Standards (NPHPS); quality improvement; state and community health assessment and improvement planning; and performance manage-

ment. Registration deadline is March 28 at 3:00 p.m. For more information or to register for this conference click the NNPHI logo.

### Family Planning Program Adds Online Course to KS-TRAIN

*by Gail Chalman, Family Planning Clinical Coordinator  
Bureau of Family Health, KDHE*



"KDHE: Bureau of Family Human Trafficking," Course ID 1037505 is an archived webinar, available on [KS-Train](#) that defines and provides tools for identifying victims of Human Trafficking. Participants will better understand the extent of the human trafficking issue in the Midwest. This webinar was presented by Sarah Grenzeback, National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Click on the Polaris Project logo to learn more about Human Trafficking.

### KIDS Network Safe Slumber Online Training



The KIDS Network online course, [Safe Slumber: Creating a Safe Sleep Environment 2012 \(1033033\)](#) has been completed by 2,495 learners since it was activated in April of 2012. Click the KIDS Network logo to download the course registration information to share with Kansas child care providers. The two hour online course meets the Kansas Child Care Regulations training requirements. Other online courses posted to KS-TRAIN that meet the Kansas Child Care Program online course requirements are:

[JOCO: Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care \(1033520\)](#) and [Healthy Futures-Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings-Child Care Providers \(1025817\)](#)

### USDA WIC Courses Posted to TRAIN

In a cooperative effort between Virginia TRAIN and the United States Department of Agriculture six online courses for educating the WIC workforce have been posted to [TRAIN](#).

1. [Communicating with Participants](#) - 1040958
2. [Counseling Skills](#) - 1040959
3. [Feeding Infants: Nourishing Attitudes and Techniques](#) - 1040961
4. [Reaching Participants Through WIC](#) - 1040960
5. [Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment \(VENA\)](#) - 1040962
6. [WIC 101](#) - 1040957
7. [WIC Breastfeeding Basic](#) - 1041073

### Public Health Accreditation Board Online Orientation Available on TRAIN

*by the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



Welcome to the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) online orientation to public health department accreditation. The purpose of this orientation is to give you a solid overview of public health department accreditation. Whether you are an applicant or someone with an interest in learning more about national public health department accreditation, this series of modules will give you an overview of the PHAB accreditation process.

The information and material is covered in four modules, along with opening and evaluation modules via KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>.

- [A General Overview of Public Health Accreditation](#) 1030973
- [An Introduction to the PHAB Accreditation Process](#) 1030975
- [The Nuts and Bolts of the PHAB Accreditation Process](#) 1030976
- [Understanding the PHAB Standards and Measures and Documentation Requirements](#) 1030978

The four modules will each take 30 to 45 minutes to complete. You may review them all in one sitting, which should take about two hours, or you may review each of the modules individually. While you may complete the modules in any order desired, we suggest that you complete them in sequence as the information presented in a module builds upon the previous module. Once you have completed the four modules, you will be directed to an evaluation that must be finished and submitted prior to receiving credit for the orientation. The evaluation will help PHAB understand if the orientation is presenting you with the information you need.

# News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

## Lactose Intolerance



The Midwest Dairy Council has some new resources, including videos, to help teach about lactose intolerance. These resources can be found at by clicking on the Midwest Dairy Association logo. For recipe ideas, check out National Dairy Council's recipe collection on AllRecipes, click on their logo. Visit these sites and explore these resources as a great way to teach about keeping dairy in the diet while being lactose intolerant. As a bonus, the "Dairy Dreamin'" handout and new videos are available in both English and Spanish and are available to order, free of charge. You can get the order form at [Midwest Dairy Association](#).



## 7 Steps to Rewiring for the Future



The American Public Health Association (APHA) has recently released report on, "The New Public Health: Rewiring for the Future." This document captures key messages from the 2012 APHA Midyear Meeting along with sharing key recommendations for positioning public health for the future. To learn more click the APHA logo.

## Advancing Healthy Housing: A Strategy for Action



The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the White House Council on Environmental Quality have unveiled Advancing Healthy Housing - A Strategy for Action. The vision of the federal agencies that developed the Strategy is to reduce the number of American homes with residential health and safety hazards through achievement of five goals and priority actions. Click the image on the left to view this information.

## Guide to Effectively Educating State and Local Policymakers



This resource guide facilitates the action steps needed to educate policymakers on relevant health policy issues. The guide stems from the curriculum of Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE)'s State Health Policy Institute (SHPI) that ran from 2009-2011. SHPI aimed to form an elite corps of Health Promotion Policy Experts (HPPEs) that were specialized in educating state legislators and other professionals on the latest policies and research in chronic disease prevention and control. To learn more about this resource guide, click the SPOHE logo.

## Disaster Apps and Mobile Webpages Redesigned



The National Library of Medicine's (NLM) Disaster Information Management Research Center webpage of Disaster Apps and Mobile Web Pages was redesigned using responsive web design, which provides an optimal view across a range of devices including PCs, tablets and smartphones. To learn more click the NLM logo.

## Recommendations to Improve Prevention Policies in America



Trust for America's Health (TFAH) has released, "A Healthier America 2013: Strategies to Move from Sick Care to Health Care in Four Years," which provides high-impact recommendations to prioritize prevention and improve the health of Americans. The *Healthier America* report outlines top policy approaches to respond to studies that show more than half of Americans are living with one or more serious, chronic diseases, a majority of which could have been prevented. Also that today's children could be on track to be the first in U.S. history to live shorter, less healthy lives than their parents. To learn more click the TFAH logo.

### Pew Internet and American Life Project Report: Tracking for Health



Seven in ten (69 percent) U.S. adults track a health indicator for themselves or a loved one and many say this activity has changed their overall approach to health, according to a new survey by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project. To find out more about, "Tracking for Health," click on the Pew Internet logo.

### Whooping Cough Vaccine for Pregnant Women Among New Recommendations



The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics have released new vaccine guidelines for 2013. One change is a recommendation for women to receive a dose of the whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine with each pregnancy. To learn more about these guidelines, click the Medline Plus logo.

### Introducing CDC's new iPad App



New outbreaks happen every day, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)'s disease detectives are on the front lines, working 24/7 to save lives and protect people. When new outbreaks happen, disease detectives are sent in to figure out how they started, before they can spread. In our new, free iPad app, you get to [Solve the Outbreak](#).

In this interactive, engaging app, you get to decide what to do: Do you quarantine the village? Talk to the people who are sick? Ask for more lab results?

The better your answers, the higher your score – and the more quickly you'll save lives. You'll start out as a Trainee and will earn badges by solving cases, with the goal of earning the top rank: Disease Detective. To download the free app, click on the CDC magnifying glass.

### Omnibus HIPAA Rulemaking



On Jan. 17, The [Director of the Office for Civil Rights](#), Leon Rodriguez, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) corresponded with the Nation's Health Care Providers on the current status of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule. He stated that the, "HIPPA Privacy Rule does not prevent your ability to disclose necessary information about a patient to law enforcement, family members of the patient, or other persons, when you believe the patient presents a serious danger to himself or other people."

Also at the end of Jan., HHS, released the Federal Register, 45 CFR Parts 160 and 164 which explains modifications to the, "HIPAA Privacy, Security, Enforcement and Breach, Notification Rules Under the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act; Other Modifications to the HIPAA Rules; Final Rule." To download the Federal Register click the HHS logo.

### Free Low Vision Videos and Booklet



The National Eye Institute (NEI) provides a 20-page large-print booklet and a series of videos to help people adapt to life with low vision. "Living with Low Vision: What You Should Know," is available for free by clicking the national Eye Institute Logo.

### Community Health Workers and Emergency Preparedness



Health Outreach Partners is a national non-profit organization providing training, consultation and information services to community-based organizations striving to improve the quality of life of hard-to-reach populations.

"Including Outreach Workers and Community Health Workers in Health Center Emergency Preparedness and Management", a new tip sheet, has been released. This tip sheet provides an overview of emergency preparedness and identifies strategies on how to involve outreach staff in planning for, during and after an emergency. The strategies provided can be applied to organizations serving underserved populations, such as farmworkers, people experiencing homelessness, public housing residents, seniors, low-income individuals and immigrants.

Health centers have an important role in emergency preparedness, and community health workers are essential to health center emergency preparedness and management, especially for underserved populations. By involving these workers, health centers can ensure that their plans and policies are rooted in the community's needs and respond adequately in times of an emergency. Click the Health Outreach Partners logo to learn more.

### Pay Now, Or Pay (More) Later: The Crying Need to Fund Community Prevention



The Prevention Institute takes a broad, comprehensive approach to systematizing prevention as a distinct discipline - not simply an educational message. It infuses a community and policy orientation into prevention practices and it emphasizes the importance of quality prevention strategies that are well designed and achieve far-reaching outcomes. Their new resources addresses the question, "How can we start paying for things that make people healthier, instead of just treating them when they get sick?" and includes ways to redirect community funds to pay for prevention. To learn more click on the Prevention Institute logo.

### Vaccination Strategies for Future Influenza Pandemics



A recently released study examines the planning issue of the delay between the arrival of an influenza pandemic and the availability of an effective vaccine. Researchers concluded that for moderate and extreme pandemics, vaccination combined with rapidly activated antiviral and social distancing interventions is cost effective in terms of life years saved. To learn more, click on the following hyperlink: [Vaccination Strategies for Future Influenza Pandemics: A Severity-Based Cost Effectiveness Analysis](#).

### National and State-Specific Healthcare-Associated Infections Standardized Infection Ratio



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released the annual [National and State-Specific Healthcare-Associated Infections Standardized Infection Ratio Report](#). The report looks at data submitted to the National Healthcare Safety Network and provides an analysis of progress in healthcare-associated infection (HAI) prevention and areas for improvement. States received an early look at the report's data through the HAI coordinators. Highlights from the report are available in the [press release](#).

### California's Tobacco Control Program

California's Tobacco Control Program saved \$134 billion in healthcare costs over the last two decades, according to a new [University of California at San Francisco study](#) on the program's impacts in the state. California spent about \$2.4 billion from 1989 through 2008 on one of the nation's most aggressive tobacco control programs, including buying up billboards and TV time to run ads against smoking, as well as promoting smoke-free environments and tobacco cessation programs. The researchers [found](#) that for every dollar spent on the state's anti-smoking program, healthcare costs dropped by about \$56. They attribute those savings to lower spending on healthcare due to people quitting smoking or not starting, or, for those who do smoke, consuming fewer cigarettes.

### America's Children and the Environment



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released "America's Children and the Environment, Third Edition." It is a comprehensive report that covers trends for contaminants in air, water, food and soil that may affect children; concentrations of contaminants in the bodies of children and women of child-bearing age; and childhood illnesses and health conditions. The report is an important tool for policymakers as they consider the best ways to safeguard America's 75 million children. To read more about this report, click on the EPA logo.

### Vital Signs: Smoking and Mental Illness

The smoking rate for adults with mental illnesses is 70 percent greater than the rate for those who aren't mentally ill, according to CDC's monthly Vital Signs report. The report finds that 36 percent of adults with a mental illness are cigarette smokers, compared with only 21 percent of adults who do not have a mental illness. According to the report, nearly 1 in 5 adults in the U.S. - about 45.7 million people - have some type of mental illness. Here's the CDC's [news release](#).

### CDC Vital Signs Video Clips Available

Video and audio clips on smoking and mental health, the flu and polio now are available from the CDC. They are available for use [here](#).

### Have a Great Subject Line When E-Mailing a Reporter

Even if you have the greatest story pitch ever e-mailed to a reporter, your idea will never be read if you have a poor subject line. Improve your chances for success by reading [these five subject-line mistakes](#) to avoid when e-mailing a reporter.

### Job Openings

#### Franklin County Health Department

The Franklin County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse/RN](#)



#### Johnson County Health Department

The Johnson County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Certified Medical Technologist](#)



#### Lawrence Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



#### Lyon County Health Department

The Lyon County Health Department/Flint Hills Community Health Center is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Coordinator](#)
- [Family Practice Physician](#)



#### Phillips County Health Department

The Phillips County Health Department is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Public Health Nurse - Administrator](#)



#### Riley County Health Department

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

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse](#)
- [Health Department Administrator](#)



#### Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Medical Technologist II](#)
- [Registered Dietician - WIC](#)



#### Shawnee County Health Agency

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

- [Child Care Licensing Surveyor](#)
- [Health Information Management Systems Manager](#)
- [Health Promotion Coordinator](#)



#### Wyandotte County Health Department

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

- [Nurse Practitioner/Physician Assistant](#)
- [Program Aide-Breastfeeding Peer Counselor](#)
- [Program Coordinator-Training and Exercise Coordinator](#)
- [Program Coordinator-Home Visitor/Program Coordinator](#)



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## Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

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

### **Public Health Connections Information**

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

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[www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm)

Send your public health news to

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

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