



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

March - 2015 Volume 15, Issue 3

**Bureau of Community Health Systems**

Susan Mosier, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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### Governor's Public Health Conference - Celebrating Ten Years

*by the Local Public Health Program, KDHE*



2015 marks the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference! This year's conference in Wichita, April 28 - 30, will feature nationally recognized keynote speakers on topics including the changing landscape of public health, public health ethics, sexual exploitation and human trafficking, and the public health implications of marijuana. In addition, a wide selection of breakout sessions tailored to meet the changing needs of the populations served through public health programs and initiatives will be offered.

The Maternal Child Health and Healthy Start Home Visitor tracks will address baby behavior/ infant development, father involvement, substance exposed newborns, and toxic stress. The Public Health track will include hot topics in epidemiology, strategies for physical activities and wellness, multi-jurisdictional sharing, public health accreditation, supporting schools to implement school wellness programs, plus an array of other topics. Click the image of the capitol to download this year's brochure and registration information.

### Acting Secretary Mosier Names Mason as Deputy Secretary for Environment

*by the Office of Communications*



Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Acting Secretary Susan Mosier, M.D., MBA today announced the appointment of Gary Mason as Deputy Secretary for Environment at KDHE. "Gary's experience makes him a great fit in helping move our agency forward," says Secretary Mosier, M.D., MBA.

Mason, a former business owner, has worked in the environmental field his entire 35 year career. He has held positions with state and federal government, has been an environmental government contractor, he has worked in manufacturing and as principal of his own environmental consulting and environmental remediation company.

As Deputy Secretary, Mason will work closely with the Secretary in shaping agency direction and implementing policy changes. In addition, he will conduct important outreach with the regulated community, Legislature, Governor's office and Kansas citizens.

"KDHE has a significant number of external customers and it is my goal to reach out and determine how we can serve them better," said Mason. "I will then work closely with staff to respond to these needs, while at the same time continue to maintain the proper levels of regulatory compliance and policies that protect our environment."

### Child Care Licensing Town Hall Tour 2015

*by Lori Steelman, Program Director, Child Care Licensing Bureau of Family Health, KDHE*



A Child Care Licensing Town Hall Tour has been scheduled between February 10 and April 7. The purpose of the 14 county tour is to have face to face, open discussion with child care providers, parents and community stakeholders regarding system improvements as well as perceived barriers in the licensing process. The meetings will serve as a forum to inform attendees of new initiatives and available services at the local and state levels. Local health departments and agency partners will have the opportunity to provide program and service information.

The meeting will include a short overview of the child care licensing program. This will not be specific to regulations, rather the broader system. The information attained from the discussion will guide the state to continued quality improvement for Kansas children.

Dates and location information can be found on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1054858, by clicking the logo above to download the Town Hall Flier and also on the [Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing](http://www.kdhe.gov/Child-Care-Licensing) website. All meetings will be held from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

## Regional Public Health Meetings

by Teri Caudle, Public Health Nurse Specialist,  
Local Public Health Program, BCHS, KDHE



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

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

The agenda includes the following: Denise McNerney with iBoswell will conduct training on the MacMillan Matrix and Matrix Map. These are great tools to for strategic planning and program sustainability. AJ Wolf, the new State Training Coordinator for the Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories will present an update on the Laboratory Information Management System, explain expectations of the Clinical Laboratories and share pertinent information on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bioterrorism and Chemical Terrorism programs. The dates and locations are:

March 4 – Beloit (NC)

March 10 – Topeka (NE)

A sneak preview into the Second Quarter meetings includes: Shannon Sandall, KDHE EpiTrax Coordinator presenting on EpiTrax, Stephanie Lambert-Barth, KFMC Project Manager will discuss the HPV Vaccination Project, and Jessica Snook, KDHE Environmental Scientist will speak about Radiation Control and a population monitoring exercise. If you



## Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week - March 2 - 6

by the National Weather Service



Governor Brownback has proclaimed March 2 - 6 as Kansas Severe Weather Awareness Week. Join the National Weather Service (NWS), Emergency Management partners, KDHE and Fred the Preparedness Dog during Severe Weather Awareness Week to promote severe weather safety.

State emergency management and NWS will conduct a Statewide Severe Weather Tornado Drill Tuesday, March 3 at 1:30 p.m. Every school, citizen and business is encouraged to participate in the drill by practicing seeking secure, safe shelter from a "tornado".

The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) has granted a waiver to the state of Kansas The National Weather Service will be allowed to use the actual Emergency Alert System (EAS) code TOR for the tornado drill message. This means that NOAA Weather Radios that are set to receive the TOR code will activate for the test tornado warning. The commercial broadcast industry including all cable outlets should be prepared to receive a TOR coded message for the drill.

Local officials may sound warning sirens to initiate the drill. Area residents, businesses, and schools are urged to treat the drill as if it were an actual tornado warning. The purpose of the annual drill is to test everyone's readiness for life-threatening severe weather events such as tornadoes, flash floods, large hail, and damaging winds.

Kansas experiences a variety of severe weather including tornadoes, severe thunderstorms with damaging winds and large hail, and flash flooding. Residents are encouraged to use this week, and the annual test day, to review their severe weather safety plans. Practice what you would do as if there were a real tornado warning.

NWS will also be focusing on several different severe weather safety topics through the week including flooding with Wednesday March 4th proclaimed as Flood Awareness Day in Kansas. The planned topics for each day can be found below.

- Monday - [Preparedness and Awareness](#)
- Tuesday - [Tornado Safety](#) [Tornado and Mobile Homes-What to do](#)
- Wednesday - [Flood Awareness Day](#)
- Thursday - [Thunderstorms and Lightning](#)
- Friday - [Review of Important Points](#)

## Celebrate National School Breakfast Week March 2 - 6

by Marley Sugar, Health & Wellness Program Manager  
Midwest Dairy Council



Join the Midwest Dairy Council in celebrating [National School Breakfast Week](#), March 2 - 6. Good nutrition and physical activity are key elements for fueling greatness. Research shows that improved nutrition, including dairy breakfast, and increased physical activity can lead to improved academic performance. Eating breakfast at school can help kids be more attentive, behave better and achieve higher test scores. Join the conversation by using the hashtag [#FuelGreatness](#) on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram to show your support for school breakfast.

Learn more about how you can help make breakfast available to all students with Fuel Up to Play 60 [school breakfast](#) activities.

## NHSC Loan Repayment Program Applications Available - Deadline March 30

from the NHSC



The 2015 National Health Service Corps (NHSC) [Loan Repayment Program](#) application cycle is now open and will close on March 30 at 6:30 p.m.

This Program provides loan repayment assistance to licensed primary care medical, dental, and mental and behavioral health providers who serve in communities with limited access to health care. There are both full-time and half-time service options.

The 2015 application cycle is expected to be competitive. On average, it can take up to three weeks to complete an application so applicants are encouraged to apply early. This year the process may improve for applicants, now that some loan information can be automatically populated by the National Student Loan Data System. Available resources include the [Application and Program Guidance](#) and instructions on [how to apply](#).

## National Public Health Week - April 6 - 12

from APHA



The American Public Health Association (APHA) challenges all public health advocates to [sign the pledge to help create the Healthiest Nation in One Generation](#).

In coming weeks, the National Public Health Week website will feature factsheets, downloadable items and a user-friendly toolkit. The 2015 toolkit will offer concrete steps and a checklist for anyone wanting to attend a National Public Health Week event, host an event, organize on campus or help promote National Public Health Week in his or her community. The toolkit also explains how public health advocates can partner with health departments, community groups and other organizations to maximize their impact.

Visit the [National Public Health Week website](#) today to sign up for updates and to download the 2015 brochure. Be sure to check the site often to stay informed of the many resources coming available.

## Office of Communications - The Dispatch

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Office of Communications recently recorded a new episode for the Dispatch, a video series posted to YouTube which spotlights programs in the agency. In this episode you will hear from Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas, and Angela German, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, about carbon monoxide awareness. Click the Dispatch logo to view this video.

## WorkWell KS Phase II is Beginning!

from WorkWell KS

The Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care and partners at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and Kansas Department of Health and Environment, are excited to announce that [WorkWell KS](#) Phase II will be funded for three years by the Kansas Health Foundation.

The goals of this community and worksite initiative include:

- Working to improve the health of Kansans
- Helping employers understand the full cost of health
- Cultivate leaders for health
- Connect worksites and communities around health

Phase I offered 300 employers access to training and support for comprehensive worksite wellness initiatives across Kansas. Phase II funding will allow continuation of current activities and to expand that work. There will be many more opportunities for new and existing WorkWell KS participants to receive training and technical assistance to develop or strengthen and implement worksite wellness plans. WorkWell KS provides Kansas employers with the support needed to make progress on the health issues that impact their organizations and communities.



## Kansas Health Matters Website Redesigned

*by Greg Crawford, Director, Vital Statistics Data Analysis  
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE*



**Kansas Health Matters**

The Web-based tool Kansas Health Matters has been redesigned and enhanced to better assist anyone interested in actionable information for community health improvement in Kansas. [KansasHealthMatters.org](http://KansasHealthMatters.org) now features a new monthly focus area, defines key health indicators and is more user-friendly with a new look and feel.

Although local health departments and hospitals were the original primary target audience for Kansas Health Matters, members of the Kansas Health Matters partnership have worked to revise the new website for even broader use including schools, health associations, chambers of commerce, tourism and government representatives ... anyone looking to identify and understand the health indicators in their community. This site will provide them with tools and resources to support health improvement efforts.

[KansasHealthMatters.org](http://KansasHealthMatters.org) hosts a wealth of data, trends, disparities and demographics and can generate reports that compare between geographies. Additionally, a promising practices database informs professionals and community members about documented approaches to improving community health and quality of life. Funding opportunities and other resources are also featured on the site. All data is presented at the community, not patient, level.

## AmeriCorps VISTA and Public Health

*by Austin Burke, WSU, CCSR*



AmeriCorps Volunteers In Service To America (VISTA) taps the skills, talents, and passion of its members to support community efforts to overcome poverty including public health efforts. Often viewed as the domestic Peace Corps, VISTA members commit full-time for a year to serve nonprofit organizations or local government agencies in capacity building efforts. VISTAs can build capacity by recruiting and managing volunteers, expanding community partnerships, securing

long-term resources, coordinating training for participants, and much more. Any public health department with programs or initiatives serving impoverished individuals or communities may partner with AmeriCorps VISTA.

Wichita State University (WSU) Center for Community Support and Research (CCSR) has developed a WSU VISTA Fellows Project focused on connecting AmeriCorps VISTA members with nonprofits, government, and public health serving agencies statewide. Additionally, CCSR has employed VISTA member Austin Burke on its Public Health Initiatives Team. Austin has been working in poverty related efforts and on Public Health Accreditation through the Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project.

"Working as a VISTA at CCSR has allowed me to use and expand upon my professional skills and serve a deserving community while simultaneously gaining an insight into poverty that I would have never experienced otherwise." For more of my experience as a VISTA at CCSR check out the CCSR blog <http://wsuccsr.blogspot.com/2014/12/reflections-on-lived-poverty-austin.html>.

## KFMC's Adolescent Vaccines Communication Campaign Begins in March

*By Stephanie Lambert-Barth, Project Manager  
Kansas Immunization Billing Project*



The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) is working along with stakeholders to increase adolescent vaccination rates in Kansas. As part of this initiative, KFMC is pleased to announce its communication campaign to increase public awareness about adolescent vaccines. The campaign will be launched the beginning of March. The communication campaign will run for five months, and include a variety of strategies to reach teens and their

parents including a webpage, Pandora radio ads, digital ads, Facebook ads and a postcard mailing. In addition to the listed strategies, marketing materials will be available for distribution including posters aimed towards teens and parents, and handouts provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. We expect that healthcare providers, including health departments, will see an increase in calls about vaccines for teens.

The campaign materials, which are targeted to parents of preteens and teens, use the tagline Protect Me with 3 and promote the recommendation that three vaccines today will protect children from cancer and other preventable diseases in the future. The graphics reinforce the message that preteens need to receive one Tdap, two Meningococcal and three HPV vaccines. Parents are encouraged to call their doctor or their local public health department to identify where they can receive these vaccines.

A related campaign, geared directly to teens, uses the tagline Take Control. You're taking control of new things in your life - getting behind the wheel, starting a new job, tackling algebra. There's just one more thing...It's time to take control of your health.

As with the parent materials, teens are encouraged to call their doctor, or their local health department, to identify where they can receive these vaccines.

For more information about KFMC's communication campaign including requests for communication materials, please contact Rachel Linn, Marketing Manager at [rlinn@kfmc.org](mailto:rlinn@kfmc.org) or 800-432-0770, ext. 376. For more information on how you can participate in KFMC's initiative to improve HPV vaccination rates in Kansas, please contact Laura Sanchez, RN, at [lsanchez@kfmc.org](mailto:lsanchez@kfmc.org) or 800-432-0770, ext. 339.

Kansas recently lost one of its Public Health Champions, [Mary Beth Herrmann RN](#), the long time Pawnee County Health Department Administrator. Mary Beth passed away peacefully, surrounded by family and friends on February 18. She had been struggling with a cancer diagnosis for some time. Condolences to the Pawnee County Health Department and Pawnee County Community in the loss of this exceptional leader and friend.

## Funding Opportunities

### Request For Proposals Issued for Sunflower Trails - Deadline March 11

*from the Sunflower Foundation*



The Sunflower Foundation is pleased to announce the 2015 Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the Sunflower Trails program and invites communities, schools and non-profit organizations to submit proposals for building, enhancing or connecting trails in order to create safe, accessible places for outdoor physical activity.

There are a variety of funding options for potential trail projects. Applicants are invited to review the following RFPs as a first step to determine the best fit for their project. Online applications are due Wednesday, March 11 at 5:00 p.m. Funding awards will be announced mid-April. For more information and to download the RFPs, visit [SunflowerFoundation.org/RFPs](http://SunflowerFoundation.org/RFPs).

### Kansas Health Foundation's Recognition Grants - Deadline March 16



Applications for the spring 2015 cycle of the Kansas Health Foundation's Recognition Grant program are due by March 16. Recognition Grants expand the Foundation's support to a broad range of organizations throughout the state. The grants are targeted to organizations and agencies proposing meaningful and charitable projects that fit within the Foundation's mission of improving the health of all Kansans. In addition to supporting projects, the Foundation also seeks to support initiatives that focus on promoting policy, systems and environmental (PSE) transformations that support health. To learn more, visit the official [Recognition Grant home page](#) for complete information.

### Funding Opportunity Announcement: Rural Outreach Benefits Counseling - Deadline March 30



The Federal Office of Rural Health Policy (FORHP) is pleased to announce the release of the Rural Outreach Benefits Counseling Program (Benefits Counseling), a new one-time funding opportunity. FORHP is committed to increasing health insurance coverage for all of rural Americans and is providing funding for this new community-based pilot program. The Benefits Counseling Program is targeted to improve outreach and service delivery in local and regional rural communities. The purpose of the three-year program is to expand health insurance outreach, education and enrollment efforts to eligible uninsured and newly insured individuals and families in rural communities. FORHP plans to award up to 10 new awards for \$75,000 per year.

Applicants must meet all three of the following eligibility requirements:

1. Located in a rural county or eligible rural census tract, please click [here](#) to determine rural eligibility;
2. Public and non-profit entities including faith-based and community organizations and tribal governments and organizations,
3. In a consortium with at least two additional organizations. The consortium must include at least three or more health care providers.

In an effort to share lessons learned among a broader audience, FORHP developed a resource titled [Best Practices Guide to Rural Outreach and Enrollment](#), which highlights outreach and enrollment successes and challenges at the community level. To download the application package, please click on the HRSA logo. For further information, please contact: Linda Kwon, [lkwon@hrsa.gov](mailto:lkwon@hrsa.gov) or 301-594-4205.

## Health Care Scholarships Available - Deadline March 31

by KHERF

The Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation (KHERF) proudly offers the 2015 Health Care Scholarships. The Kansas Association of Health Care Executives, the Kansas Hospital Human Resources' Association, and the Kansas Chapter of HIMSS partners with KHERF to administer the scholarship programs. More than 20 scholarships are available for the 2015-2016 academic year, and students are encouraged to apply in the following categories:

- Nursing: undergraduate students in nursing (KHERF)
- Graduate: graduate level students in any healthcare discipline (KHERF)
- Future Faculty: students pursuing education necessary to become healthcare faculty (KHERF)
- Health Care: undergraduate students in non-nursing healthcare fields (KHERF)
- Healthcare Administration: students in healthcare administration (KAHCE)
- Human Resources: students in hospital human resource-related fields (KHHRA)
- Health IT: students in a technical health IT-related field (KSHIMSS)



Priority will be given to professions and regions experiencing shortages in Kansas. Find [applications](#) on the KHERF website at [www.kherf.org](http://www.kherf.org). If you have any questions or need further information, please contact [Susan Cunningham](#) at 785-233-7436.

## Community Tool Box Hosting Out of the Box Prize - Deadline April 30

by the Work Group for Community Health and Development, KU



The Community Tool Box is celebrating its 20th anniversary by hosting an Out of the Box Prize to honor exemplary approaches to promoting community health and development happening in communities worldwide. The Grand Prize winner will receive \$5,000; a Second Prize winner will receive \$3,000. All finalists' stories will be featured from the [Community Tool Box](#) website.

Your community group's work may involve activities to improve community health, education, urban or rural development; or to address poverty, the environment, or promote social justice.

The Work Group for Community Health and Development at the University of Kansas invites you to enter the contest, and encourages you to share contest information with others doing innovative work to improve life in their communities. To learn more, please [download an application form](#) or [click here](#) to apply now. Closing date for applications is April 30.

The Community Tool Box has been creating and disseminating practical guidance about community health and development online since 1995. We invite you to [visit us](#), where you will find over 300 how-to-do-it instructional modules, with over 7000 pages of text.

## Summer Food Service Program - Because Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation

by Child Nutrition and Wellness, KSDE



### Summer Food Service Program

Child Nutrition & Wellness, KSDE

Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), at the Kansas State Department of Education, provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas get the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school.

Schools, public agencies, and private nonprofit organizations may apply to become a sponsor and receive reimbursement for food service to enhance their education or recreation program. Applications are due May 1 of each year. Click the Summer Food Service Program logo to learn more.

## PHAB Seeks Public Vetting of Proposed Revisions to the Accreditation Process - Deadline March 31

from the [PHAB Newsletter](#), Special Edition



The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), as a learning organization, has been working to develop improvements in the process for health departments to seek accreditation. The accreditation process is set forth in the [PHAB Guide to National Public Health Department Accreditation](#). PHAB will release a revised Guide to National Public Health Department Accreditation in the summer of 2015.

While the overall accreditation process will not be changed, several adjustments are being considered to streamline steps and ensure efficiency throughout the process. PHAB's Accreditation Improvement Committee has carefully considered proposed adjustments and requests your feedback and recommendations. Comments will be accepted through March 31. PHAB is providing [a link to a survey](#) where you can submit your comments concerning proposed revisions to the accreditation process. There is also an opportunity to submit general comments through the survey.

Proposed Revisions include revisions to the [Readiness Checklists](#), changes to the Application Requirements, feedback on a proposed [extension policy and an inactive status policy](#).

## Training and Conference Announcements

### Diabetes Self-Management Program Leader Training - March 3 - 4 & 10 - 11

*by the Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC) is offering the opportunity to become a Diabetes Self-Management Program (DSMP) leader. As a trained leader you will be certified to facilitate DSMP workshops; workshops meet once a week, for six weeks. The workshop content covers topics ranging including diabetes symptoms, healthy eating, appropriate medication use, and working with healthcare providers. Each workshop is facilitated by two trained leaders, at least one of whom is living with diabetes.

To find out more information about this program, visit the Stanford [website](#).

The next DSMP leader training opportunity is scheduled for, March 3 - 4 and 10 - 11 in Pittsburg. The separate Area Program Coordinator Training will be conducted on March 2 in Pittsburg.

This training will be from 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on each day listed above, and registrants must attend each day of the training in full to receive certification and reimbursement. Training materials will be provided.

Area Program Coordinator (APC) training is also available for one identified staff or volunteer from each organization. The APC is from 1 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. and will help organizations plan their workshop facilitation. Coordinators will learn how to navigate [leadyourhealthks.org](http://leadyourhealthks.org) and receive login information to help with workshop planning. Contact Megan Skaggs at 785-273-2552 Ext 345 or [mskaggs@kfmc.org](mailto:mskaggs@kfmc.org) for questions and registration. Space is limited, so don't wait! Get your application in today!

### Farmers' Market Regional Workshops - March 7 & 20

*by Ginger Park, Communications Manager  
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



Farmers' market regional workshops will focus on current and prospective farmers' market vendors. Workshops will highlight tools vendors need to start or expand their business. Registration is only \$25 and includes lunch and more than 6 hours of workshops.

Workshop Locations:

- Pratt: March 7 [Click for the registration site](#)
- Olathe: March 20 [Click for the registration site](#)

### EDW Provider Training Updates Scheduled for March

*by Cynthia Snyder, Data Manager  
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*

Mark your calendars! All Early Detection Works (EDW) providers and clinics are encouraged to attend a webinar session to learn more about the new EDW system. The EDW Overview Training webinar will be offered at the following dates and times for your convenience:

Tuesday, March 10, Noon - 1 p.m.

Thursday, March 12, Noon - 1 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18, 4 - 5 p.m.

This one-hour webinar is for directors, physicians, supervisors and other team members who work with the EDW program. The session will cover new processes for EDW payment reimbursement, an overview of EDW's new data system and expectations for providers as EDW transitions to the new system for provider payments. After the webinar, participants will understand the minimal technical requirements for accessing the online Provider Payment Request portion of the data system, and be able to determine which staff should attend the upcoming EDW Payment Request training. Please email [ejones@kdheks.gov](mailto:ejones@kdheks.gov) with your clinic name, contact information and preferred webinar date.



### Kansas City Hosting National Oral Health Conference - April 27 - 29



2015 marks the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Community water fluoridation. The CDC touts community water fluoridation as one of the [10 greatest public health achievements](#) in the twentieth century. The American Association of Public Health Dentistry will celebrate this achievement by hosting a plenary session on

community water fluoridation at the 2015 [National Oral Health Conference](#), April 27-29 in Kansas City, MO; an event that you will surely not want to miss!

### NACCHO Conference Coming to Kansas City

Registration is open for the 2015 NACCHO Annual Conference which will be held in Kansas City, MO, July 7 - 9. To receive the early bird registration discount, register on or before June 4. The registration portal may be found at <http://www.nacchoannual.org/register/>.



## Registration Now Open for Using an Organizational and Team-Based Approach to Tobacco Cessation - March 12

by Michael Pommier, Senior Coordinator for Marketing  
KU Area Health Education Center

### KU Area Health Education Center

Registration is now open for the March 12, Using an Organizational and Team-Based Approach to Tobacco Cessation. It is well recognized that tobacco use can lead to tobacco/nicotine dependency and serious health problems. Quitting smoking greatly reduces the risk of developing smoking-related diseases. Yet many health care professionals are not confident in their ability to provide appropriate and effective tobacco cessation counseling. This workshop, which is sponsored by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the KU Medical Center Area Health Education Center, was designed to provide practical evidence-based approaches for establishing a tobacco cessation program in the practice setting.

This workshop will be broadcast online with viewing available in Overland Park, Pittsburg, Salina, Hays, Wichita and Garden City. Topics of presentations include: current trends regarding smoking cessation intervention and treatment; unclear consequences of e-cigarette use; motivational interviewing and a role playing exercise. The cost for this workshop is \$10 if postmarked by March 9; \$20 thereafter. Registration and informational flyer are available online by visiting [www.kumc.edu/AHECcalendar](http://www.kumc.edu/AHECcalendar). For more information contact the KU Medical Center Area Health Education Center at 620-235-4040.

### Return on Investment Series of Courses Posted to TRAIN

from the *Midwestern Public Health Training Center*

The Western Region Public Health Training Center (Region 9) at the University of Arizona presents Return on Investment Series. There are 12 courses within this series that can be taken individually or as part of a series. Dr. Patrick M. Bernet, who is an Associate Professor of Healthcare Management at Louisiana State University School of Public Health, is the instructor of the course. Below are the links to the courses and their [TRAIN](#) course ID.

Series:

Return on Investment Series TRAIN Course ID # 1054383

Individual courses:

- Introduction To Cost Effectiveness Course ID #1055156
- Working With Costs Course ID # 1055186
- Principles of Cost-Effectiveness Analysis Course ID# 1055198
- Developing A Research Project Course ID# 1055199
- Calculating Life Expectancy Course ID# 1055200
- Health-Related Quality Of Life Measures Course ID# 1055201
- Calculating Quality Adjusted Life Years (QALYs) Course ID# 1055202
- Finding The Data You Need Course ID# 1055211
- Probabilities And Models Course ID# 1055212
- Working With Data Course ID# 1055221
- Sensitivity Analysis Course ID# 1055223
- Presentation And Reports Course ID# 1055225



### Having a Healthy Baby - Focus on Five



The Michigan Department of Community Health's Bureau of Epidemiology and Ohio Department of Health's Bureau for Children with Special Needs are offering self-study trainings for healthcare providers interested in improving the preconception and inter-conception health of women of childbearing age. These self-studies provide information and resources addressing some common risk factors for poor reproductive outcomes, with a particular emphasis on recognizing and decreasing the risk for birth defects. Having a Healthy Baby - Focus on Five, Course ID # 1028474 is posted to TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. It is a free distance-learning course with continuing nursing education contact hours. The course currently has an average rating of 4.1 out of 5 stars.



### One Health Modules Posted to KS-TRAIN

by *Kansas State University*



One Health Kansas is offering the following noncredit modules and opportunities for physicians, advanced practice nurses, nurses, EMS, social workers and adult home care administrators. Human health providers must take all five modules to receive five continuing education hours. Cost of the five modules is \$110, or \$22 per module. The One Health Modules, Course ID #1054723 on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> include the following topics: One Health, Influenza, Zoonotic Tick-borne Disease, West Nile Virus and Shiga Toxin-Producing *E.coli*.

## Quitline Provider Training

*by the Bureau of Health Promotion*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is now offering a free comprehensive online training on Brief Tobacco Intervention techniques to help health care providers work with patients to quit tobacco. The interactive training takes approximately 45 minutes. The online training can be used by a wide range of providers including doctors, nurses, front office staff, dentists, dental hygienists and respiratory therapists.

The training includes two audio clips of Quitline phone counseling sessions and demonstrations of clinicians delivering the brief intervention to a tobacco user and is available at

[www.kstobacointervention.org](http://www.kstobacointervention.org).

At the conclusion of the educational offering providers will be able to:

- Use the brief tobacco intervention with all patients who use tobacco
- Refer patients who are ready to quit to the Kansas Tobacco Quitline
- Describe Food and Drug Administration approved cessation pharmacotherapy
- Describe the benefits of the Kansas Tobacco Quitline

The training is under review by the American Academy of Family Physicians for CME accreditation. Continuing education credits for other fields such as nursing and respiratory therapy are also being pursued.



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

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



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

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

## Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks - E-Learning Course

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



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

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



## News and Resources



### Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. The next call will be March 24. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.

### The Benefits of National Accreditation - NACCHO Announces Research Brief

The National Association of County-City Health Organization's new Research Brief shares the results of an April 2014 survey of accredited local health departments to determine a preliminary list of benefits gained from pursuing and achieving accreditation. This [downloadable PDF](#) shares information about the staff involved in accreditation efforts, NACCHO accreditation preparation tools that accredited health department used, and the benefits these accredited health departments realized related to both the accreditation process and the accredited status.

### Poison Control Center Hotline: QR Code



The University of Kansas Hospital, [Poison Control Center](#) has a [QR code](#) that when scanned, automatically enters the Poison Control Center's Hotline number into your phone contacts. Please feel free to share and to include in any of your home safety or poison prevention materials/education/websites/newsletters or social media. This important resource can be shared with families and caregivers. When this code is scanned by a QR scanning app on a cell phone, it will create a contact for the Poison Help line and allow an individual to easily save the number into their phone! To download a QR scanner simply search for "QR Code Scanner" or a similar entry in the iTunes store or the Google Play Store, depending on the device. Most QR code scanners are free. QR codes are excellent for trade show booths, banners, posters and documents. Please be sure to remind parents that the Poison Control Center's Hotline is not just for emergencies. They can call any time with questions. Please contact Stefanie Baines, Education Coordinator at 913-588-0152, or [sbaines@kumc.edu](mailto:sbaines@kumc.edu) with any questions or concerns! Thank you for your continued support of the Kansas Poison Control Center.

### Basic Fire Facts and Fire Safety Tips



In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. In minutes, a house can be engulfed in flames. If woken up to a fire, there won't be time to grab belongings; fire spreads too quickly and the smoke is too thick, there is only time to get out. A fire's heat alone can kill. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. If this super-hot air is breathed in, it will scorch the lungs. It also has the ability to melt clothes. In five minutes a room can get so hot that everything in it catches on fire at once. This is called flashover. Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke. If woken up to a fire a person may be blinded, disoriented and unable to find his or her way around the home he or she has lived in for years. Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire uses up the oxygen needed to breathe and produces smoke and poisonous gases. Breathing even small amounts of smoke and toxic gases can make people drowsy, disoriented and short of breath. The odorless, colorless fumes can lull people into a deep sleep before the flames reach the door, and people may not wake up in time to escape. For more information on fire safety and prevention visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at <http://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/outreach/>.

### MMWR Releases Report on Disparities in Nonsmokers' Exposure to Secondhand Smoke

The Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) recently released the [Vital Signs: Disparities in Nonsmokers' Exposure to Secondhand Smoke](#) report in MMWR, which found that 58 million people were exposed to secondhand smoke during 2011 and 2012, and that children had the highest levels of exposure. Specifically, 40.6 percent of children aged three - 11 and 67.9 percent of African-American children in that age group were exposed to secondhand smoke. In addition, CDC released an [article](#) that provides a closer look at secondhand smoke, methods of exposure, and possible action steps that can be taken to protect the population.

### Preparedness Report Released by CDC



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) [Office of Public Health Preparedness and Response](#) (PHPR) is pleased to announce the release of the seventh state-by-state [preparedness report](#). The [2015 National Snapshot of Public Health Preparedness](#) showcases collective investments, initiatives, and activities to improve public health preparedness. The snapshot focuses on 2013 and 2014 activities in the framework of CDC's priorities of improving health security at home and around the world, protecting people from public health threats, and strengthening public health through collaboration.

### ASTHO Publishes Article on Disneyland Measles



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has published a [new feature](#) on [StatePublicHealth.org](#) about the Disneyland measles outbreak that has spread in the U.S. The article explores how state health departments are responding to it, the time and economic costs of containing a measles outbreak, and how global health shapes health in the United States.

### Measles - It Isn't Just a Little Rash

#### Measles: What You Need to Know

Learn about measles, the shot to prevent it, and the 2015 outbreak

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has up-to-date data and education resources on how to protect children from the highly contagious measles virus. Included in CDC's arsenal of information is print material, posters, articles, podcasts in English and Spanish, infographics, YouTube videos and more. Click the Measles: What you Need to Know logo to navigate to the CDC website.

### Serve with CERT!



Volunteering, like disaster preparedness, is a year-round activity. If members of your community are looking for opportunities to give back this year, consider encouraging them to join your local [Community Emergency Response Team](#) (CERT). Team members receive training in basic medical operations, light search and rescue, and many other useful disaster skills.

After completing their training, CERT volunteers may support their communities in a variety of different ways before, during, and after emergencies, including by providing information to the public, conducting residential checks, supporting traffic and crowd control efforts, staffing emergency operations centers, and more. CERT teams are typically sponsored by fire departments, police departments, or other local emergency management agencies that provide training to and manage volunteers. There are more than 2,300 CERT programs nationwide that help their communities in a variety of different ways. Watch this [video](#) showing the Bridgewater, MA CERT in action during a recent blizzard that left the town without power; then check out FEMA's [blog](#) and CERT [Newsletter archives](#) highlighting other great activities from teams around the country. Learn more about CERT, [find a team](#) in your area, and encourage community members to start volunteering today. If a program doesn't exist in your area, you may be able to help create one by contacting your [State's Point of Contact](#).

### Job Postings

Applications are being accepted for the positions listed below.

#### City-Cowley County Health Department

- [Accounts Specialist/Office Assistant 1](#)

#### Finney County Health Department

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

#### Franklin County Health Department

- [Registered Nurse \(2\) positions](#)
- [Health Educator](#)

#### Geary County Health Department

- [Mother and Infant Registered Nurse](#)

#### Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

- [Analyst](#)
- [Health Promotion Specialist](#)

### Reno County Health Department

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\)/Physician Assistant Part-Time 24 hrs](#)
- [Preparedness Coordinator Grant Funded](#)

### Riley County Health Department

- [Health Educator](#)
- [Raising Riley RIGHT Child Care Facilitator](#)

### Saline County Health Department

- [Maternal Child Health Coordinator](#)

### Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse/Physician Assistant](#)
- [Assistant Finance Manager](#)
- [Fetal Infant Mortality \(FIMR\) Team Coordinator](#)
- [Part-time Registered Dietitian](#)
- [Part-time WIC Clerk](#)
- [Mobile Immunization Nurse](#)
- [WIC Medical Data Clerk](#)

### Shawnee County Health Agency

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



Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found [here](#).

### Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[Health Homes Herald](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Nutrition and WIC Update](#)

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

[Green Guide](#)

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

### Public Health Connections Information

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

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

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

Send your public health news to

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