2018 Governor's Public Health Conference Registration is Now Open

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

The 2018 Governor’s Public Health Conference will be held during National Public Health Week to celebrate the Kansas public health workforce. The 2018 Governor’s Public Health Conference will open with the pre-conference sessions on April 3 followed by the general conference sessions April 4-5 at the Marriott in Wichita. The National Association for County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) will be leading a workshop on strategic messaging for the Public Health Pre-conference. Participants will develop messages about the value of public health and their local health department’s work. The Family Health Pre-conference will include interactive sessions to learn how to advance public health priority issues through universal screening, brief interventions and valid screening tools.

The two-day general conference will feature state and nationally recognized keynote speakers including an opening keynote from Monty Selby on creating a vision; a keynote panel on building resilient communities through poverty resolution in Kansas; a presentation on developing partnerships to advance the public’s health delivered by Dr. Karen DeSalvo, former Acting Assistant Secretary for Health; and a keynote session with Dr. Marvin D. Seppala, chief medical officer at Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, on substance use disorders. Additionally, a variety of breakout sessions tailored to meet the changing needs of the populations served through public health programs and initiatives will be offered.

The breakout sessions will provide information and strategies on topics such as engaging adolescents, the opioid epidemic, food deserts, home visiting practices, maintaining morale, KAN Be Healthy, home visitor safety, cultural sensitivity, quality improvement, behavioral health, disease outbreaks, financial management, disaster exercises, neonatal abstinence syndrome, and more. The conference will also include café sessions which offer participants an opportunity to participate in a range of topics including healthy workplaces, disease surveillance, community health workers, Early Detection Works, ESSENCE, motivational interviewing, injury prevention, and more. For more details about the conference sessions, please view the brochure.

A special event will be held on April 4, 5 - 6:30 p.m. with Dr. Tiffany Anderson, Superintendent of Topeka Public Schools. Dr. Anderson was a keynote speaker at the 2017 Governor’s Public Health Conference. She will share about her a Topeka’s school participation in the 2018 national docuseries Undercover High, which embedded seven adults posing as high school students for a semester. Dr. Anderson will discuss the experience, what they learned, and how they will move forward. Clips from the television series will be shown during her presentation. This special evening event is free, but registration is required.

Registration for the conference is on the Wichita State University conference website. CEU certificates will be available in KS-TRAIN within 30 days of the conclusion of the conference. Click here to register. More information about the conference, including details on lodging and accommodation, can be found online or in the brochure.
Critical Congenital Heart Defect (CCHD) screening added to required Kansas newborn screenings
by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

In the United States, a baby is born with a birth defect every 4½ minutes, about 120,000 babies each year, with approximately 1,150 cases occurring in Kansas. Birth defects are the most common cause of death in the first year of life and the second most common cause of death in children ages one to four years.

Critical Congenital Heart Defects (CCHD) are among the most common birth defects, accounting for up to 30 percent of infant deaths due to birth defects. Babies born with a CCHD may appear healthy at first and may be sent home with their families before their heart defect is detected. These babies are at risk for having serious complications within the first few days or weeks of life and often require emergency care.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Newborn Screening Program is pleased to announce that Kansas has added CCHD as one of the required Kansas screenings authorized by K.S.A. 65-180(i). Additionally, KDHE is pleased to have joined the Pediatric Congenital Heart Association in recognizing the annual Congenital Heart Disease Awareness Week (February 7-14) to raise awareness of critical congenital heart defects, including screening, the need for research, and access to quality care.

Since 2014, the Kansas Newborn Screening Program has been working with the Kansas Hospital Association, American Heart Association, March of Dimes, parents, and physicians from private and hospital-based practices in a quality initiative to implement CCHD screening. The initiative’s comprehensive approach focused on accepted protocols including education, screening, diagnosis, short- and long-term follow-up, data collection, evaluation and quality assurance. More information about CCHD Screening in Kansas can be found at http://www.kdheks.gov/newborn_screening/CCHD.

KDHE Sponsors Public Health Thank You Webinar Series
by the Local Public Health Program,
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

The Local Public Health Program (LPH), Kansas Department of Health and Environment is sponsoring a Public Health Thank You Series of webinars in appreciation of the work that you do for Kansas. The first webinar was held on Monday, November 20. A webinar will be held each month leading up to National Public Health Week, April 2018. Continuing nursing education credit is available.

The 2018 Governor’s Public Health Conference will be promoted during each webinar and as part of the promotion of the webinars, one free registration to the 2018 conference will be given to a randomly selected webinar participant. Registration for the webinars and login information will be through KansasTRAIN at http://www.train.org/ks/. The webinars will be presented and recorded via Go To Webinar.

- **Telehealth: A Resource for Public Health, Course ID# 1073796**, Thursday, March 8, 2018, 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.
  Janine Gracy, MA, Heartland Telehealth Resource Center, University of Kansas Medical Center will discuss explore untapped opportunities to utilize telehealth, including behavioral health, in public health settings along with best practices for using telehealth. At the conclusion of the webinar, learners will be able: describe benefits of using telehealth in a public health setting; and recognize strategies for addressing behavioral health through telehealth.

**Save the Date!**
**KANSAS Community Health Worker Symposium**

Thursday, June 14th, 2018

Formal invitation to follow. For more information about the event, please contact: Alissa Rankin • (316) 978-3464 • alissa.rankin@wichita.edu

Wichita State University, Rhatigan Student Center
3rd Floor, 1845 Fairmount, Wichita
9:00 A.M.—4:00 P.M.
Wyandotte County Health Department: Leading the Way in Violence Prevention

by Stephanie Pastewait, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Sexual Violence Prevention and Education (SVPE) MSW Intern

Are you concerned with violence in your community and looking for ways to prevent it? Local health departments should consider opportunities to prevent sexual violence by utilizing the public health approach in cooperation with community partners. Since multiple forms of violence share numerous risk and protective factors, it can be possible to have a widespread positive community impact on overall violence through sexual violence prevention efforts. Recently, the Wyandotte County Health Department acknowledged the need for violence prevention efforts in their community and committed to addressing sexual violence and other forms of violence in their five-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP).

Fortunately for the Wyandotte County Health Department, they were already working with a local community organization who is a leader in community sexual violence prevention efforts, the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA). MOCSA is well recognized for its rape crisis services and comprehensive sexual assault prevention and education programs in Kansas City and surrounding areas. As a community organization grantee of the KDHE Sexual Violence Prevention and Education program, MOCSA has also spearheaded efforts in Wyandotte County for the primary prevention of sexual violence. MOCSA formed WyCo-SAP, the Wyandotte County Sexual Assault Prevention Coalition, in which the health department is a member. Wesley McKain at the health department comments on the decision to partner with MOCSA to develop the violence prevention plan, “MOCSA was already doing the work for us! Melanie Austin and Vanessa Crawford Aragon reached out to me in early 2017 to ask me to join their efforts in creating a Violence Prevention Plan for Wyandotte County.” McKain went on to explain, “the issue originally came up for MOCSA when they were pursuing a teen dating violence grant from the CDC. The CDC required applicants to attach the community's violence prevention plan.” McKain and MOCSA were surprised to find that Wyandotte County did not have one. Melanie and Vanessa brought this issue to their WyCo-SAP coalition, and the coalition agreed that they should help create a violence prevention plan. “It was fortuitous (but perhaps not a coincidence),” explained McKain, “that violence then turned up in our own community assessment. The Health Department was already in partnership with MOCSA on this other plan, and we were able to merge the two processes without too many hiccups.”

Vanessa Crawford Aragon, Community Prevention Coordinator at MOCSA, is now working in close partnership with the Wyandotte County Health Department and spends one day per week in their office. According to Vanessa:

“MOCSA was already working with the health department in the Healthy Communities Wyandotte County initiative and with the WyCo-SAP coalition, so the organizations have been talking about violence prevention for some time. Since our violence prevention plan will now be part of a larger community health improvement plan, it has a better chance of being successfully implemented.”

The Wyandotte County Health Department is currently drafting a violence prevention plan as part of their Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in partnership with WyCo-SAP. Survey results from their Community Health Assessment showed violence as a top concern of residents. Wesley McKain, program supervisor of the Healthy Communities Division of the Wyandotte County Health Department, explains the assessment process:

“We did an extensive resident concerns survey as a part of our Community Health Assessment. I’m very proud of the work that our staff and partners did to get over 2,200 surveys completed and make sure that the survey respondent demographics matched our county as a whole. The survey turned up “the threat of physical and sexual violence” as a major concern of residents. That was corroborated by the secondary data. We also held five community listening sessions on the results of the assessments to hear citizen reactions to the findings. Our former health planner, Joanna Sabally, and the Center for Community Health and Development at KU put together a pretty sophisticated method of weighing these different data sources to arrive at a prioritized list of community health concerns. In that list, violence was the #3 issue…We decided to jump into tackling violence as a public health issue with both feet. I think it was the right decision.”

The violence prevention plan will address shared risk and protective factors for multiple forms of violence and will pull together government and community partners to take a preventative approach to violence in Wyandotte County. According to the results of MOCSA’s own community assessment, areas for improvement include fostering safer neighborhoods, promoting community connectedness, improving relationships between communities and law enforcement and improving cultural norms that promote violence. The violence prevention plan for Wyandotte County will be complete by April 2018.
The Regional Public Health Meetings are designed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. The North Central Region will have its first regional public health meeting of 2018 on March 7. The meeting will offer a variety of useful information. The agenda includes an interactive session on facilitation skills led by Vanessa Lohf and Jessica Fiscus from Wichita State University’s Center for Public Health Initiatives. Vanessa and Jessica will provide attendees with skills and strategies to help sharpen the skills needed to contribute productively and facilitate a group to make progress. The second session will focus on identifying specific roles for local public health departments in regards to expanding five specific evidence-based interventions for improving maternal and child health outcomes. This session will include an overview of the interventions that KDHE’s Bureau of Family Health is working on, status of implementation in Kansas, and a facilitated discussion about how public health can directly impact access and utilization. Registration for the first quarter meeting in Beloit on March 7 is available on KS-TRAIN, Course ID#1074448.

The second quarter of regional public health meetings in 2018 will feature three speakers: Jennifer VandeVelde, Director of Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention; Jodi Define, a vaccine representative from GlaxoSmithKline (GSK), and Robert Moser, MD, University of Kansas Medical Center. The meeting dates and locations for the second quarter are listed below:

- Southeast Region, Chanute, April 12
- Northeast Region, Topeka, April 26
- South Central Region, Hutchinson, May 2
- Southwest Region, Garden City, May 9
- Northwest Region, Oakley, May 10
- North Central Region, Beloit, May 23

Registration for the second quarter meetings will be made available on KS-TRAIN at a later date. If you have ideas for regional meeting topics or questions regarding the meetings, please contact Teri Caudle at teri.caudle@ks.gov.

Accreditation Corner

Join NACCHO’s Accreditation Coordinators Learning Community

Has your health department applied to PHAB and is in the process of preparing for accreditation? Is your health department currently accredited and submitting annual reports? Is your health department preparing for reaccreditation? If your answer is yes to any of the above, then you are invited to join the National Association of County & City Health Officials’ Accreditation Coordinators Learning Community (ACLC)! This group provides a space for accreditation coordinators to network with peers, share effective practices and lessons learned, and participate in a virtual community. To learn more about the Accreditation Coordinators Learning Community, please contact accreditprep@naccho.org for additional information.

Opportunities to Provide Feedback to on Competencies for Public Health Professionals

The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is seeking feedback on competencies for public health performance improvement professionals and priority competencies for population health professionals. If you work on performance improvement within your agency, feedback is being accepted on the draft Competencies for Performance Improvement Professionals in Public Health until March 31. A virtual listening session on these competencies will be held on March 12, 2 p.m. Feedback for the draft Priority Competencies for Population Health Professionals is also being accepted until March 31. A virtual listening session will be held on March 19, 1 p.m. Questions regarding either set of competencies can be sent to Kathleen Amos at kamos@phf.org.
Preparedness Corner

Webinar - Healthcare Response to a No-Notice Incident: Las Vegas - March 28

Please join the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response’s (ASPR) Technical Resources, Assistance Center, and Information Exchange (TRACIE) for a webinar on responding to a mass shooting and similar no-notice events on March 28, 12-1:30 p.m. The U.S. healthcare system responds quickly and efficiently on a daily basis to ensure the health and safety of our communities. Healthcare facilities must also be prepared to respond to mass shooting and similar no-notice events. No community or healthcare facility is immune from these types of incidents and responding to them takes significant time, resources, energy, and well-coordinated, collaborative planning. In addition to local emergency medical services, all facility personnel - from leadership to admissions to physicians - play an important role in preparedness, response, and recovery.

The webinar will include healthcare providers who responded to the October 2017 mass shooting incident in Las Vegas. The panelists will share their experiences and recommendations that can help participants prepare for potential incidents. The diverse panel will cover topics such as surge management, triage, prioritization of surgical care, incorporating pediatric providers in adult response operations, and mortuary response.

Register online for the webinar. The webinar will also be recorded and archived on the ASPR TRACIE website within 1 business day. Additional information about the webinar, including the panelists, is available online.


The Network for Public Health Law has new resources available related to emergency management. This handbook is intended to help policymakers and practitioners incorporate the lessons learned from the preventable disaster in Flint in order to avert and/or mitigate future crises. Specifically, it provides guidance for implementing several key, overarching recommendations produced through extensive research and analysis.

Fred the Preparedness Dog Recognized by Public Health Accreditation Board Site Visit Team as a KDHE Asset

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) was awarded national public health accreditation by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) in November 2017. As a part of the accreditation process a team of trained site visitors reviewed documentation and held interviews with KDHE staff and partners. Fred the Preparedness Dog made a special visit during the PHAB site visit. The PHAB Site Visit Team recognized Fred as valuable asset within their site visit report, “KDHE should be commended for Fred, their emergency preparedness German Shepherd mascot, who engages children to be prepared.”

Fred works with community groups, schools, health and medical organizations, emergency management and others to promote preparedness for all emergencies. Fred targets his messages to children ages 5 to 12 and families with a concentration on pet preparedness activities. If you are interested in having Fred visit your community event or school, please e-mail KDHE.FredPreparedness@ks.gov. More information about Fred and his work, including educational activities, are available online.

“Like” Fred on Facebook at FredThePreparednessDogKDHE and “Follow” @FredPrepDog on Twitter.
Funding Opportunities

10-Minute Walk Planning Grant and Technical Assistance Application – Deadline March 9

The National Recreational and Park Association (NRPA) has announced a funding opportunity to support local planning efforts for the 10-Minute Walk Campaign to increase access to high-quality parks. In the first round of grants 12-13 cities will receive $40,000 each to work alongside NRPA, The Trust for Public Land (TPL), and the Urban Land Institute (ULI) to develop their highest, best, and measurable commitment to the 10-Minute Walk Campaign. Cities selected will have access to the following benefits:

- Ongoing technical assistance from NRPA, TPL, ULI, and additional national and local experts to develop city-specific 10-Minute Walk plans
- Access and technical support for planning tools, reports and best practice resources
- Peer-to-peer support and networking opportunities to share lessons learned and address challenges, including a private 10-Minute Walk city channel on Parkology
- National visibility through articles in Parks and Recreation magazine, Open Space Blog, partner publication, national press releases, and opportunities to present at national conferences, including the NRPA Annual Conference

For more information on eligibility and requirements, refer to the Frequently Asked Questions factsheet. Questions regarding the funding opportunity can be e-mailed to 10minutewalk@nrpa.org. Applications must be submitted by March 9.

Healthy Out-of-School Time Grant – Deadline March 16

The National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA) is pleased to announce the availability of grant funds from the Walmart Foundation to support children’s health through park and recreation out-of-school time programs in rural communities in Colorado, Kansas and Mississippi. Grants in 2018 will focus on three main programmatic goals:

1. Increasing the number of healthy meals children receive through the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) or the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) during out-of-school times;
2. Providing nutrition literacy to children and families that creates behavior change, including increased consumption of fruits and vegetables; and
3. Implementing healthy living practices and policies aligned with the healthy eating and physical activity standards that increase access to healthier foods and support a healthy environment.

In order to be eligible, applicants must be a local government agency, meet the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) definition of a “rural” community (can be verified on this map); serve meals/snacks through the Summer Food Service Program, Child and Adult Care Food Program, and/or the National School Lunch Program in 2018 (refer to the linked document if you are unsure if you participate in these programs). NRPA anticipates funding ten rural grantees in the amount of $35,000 each for one-year grants.

Grant funds will be designated for expenditures that help local park and recreation agencies achieve the stated goals of the program: increase access to healthy meals served to children; provide evidence-based nutrition literacy to children; and implement nutrition and physical activity standards to create more sustainable programs. Examples of eligible expenses include: marketing and promotions within the local community; supplies (tables and chairs, for example); food service equipment (heating or refrigeration units, for example); program transportation costs; staffing to support program implementation; and identifying and using local partners in the community to enhance enrichment activities and program offerings.

The application is available online. For a PDF copy click here. For questions, review the Frequently Asked Questions document or contact outofschoolrfa@nrpa.org for additional information. Applications are due by Friday, March 16.
Emerging Leaders in Public Health Initiative - Deadline April 30

The Kresge Foundation is seeking applicants for Emerging Leaders in Public Health – an 18-month, leadership development initiative aimed at providing local, governmental public health leaders with the knowledge and skills to lead in today’s changing health care environment. Through this initiative, pairs of public health leaders embark on the 18-month, action-oriented experience to undertake projects designed to enhance organizational and leadership competencies in business, planning and public health systems development. This team of leaders challenge and support each other, and build skills and competencies together. Each team is composed of a health officer, the top leader in the organization, collaborating with a co-leader identified as an emerging leader from the same organization.

In addition to receiving leadership coaching and development, each team receives a grant up to $125,000 to develop and implement a transformative concept designed to deliver a new model of public health for its community. Applications will open on April 2 and will be accepted through 4 p.m., on April 30. To learn more, visit kresge.org/elp or contact elph@kresge.org.

Center for Sharing Public Health Offers Small Grants for Cross-Jurisdictional Sharing - Deadline March 30

The Center for Sharing Public Health Services is offering small grants to organizations that wish to explore, plan, implement or improve some specific aspects of cross-jurisdictional sharing (CJS) in public health. Proposals must fall into one of three categories:

- CJS initiatives aimed to explore, plan, implement or improve a specific CJS arrangement in public health practice (additional eligibility criteria in the RFP);
- Projects that encourage or demonstrate on a small scale the use of CJS as a systems change tool for public health service delivery; or
- Research projects that will add to the body of evidence for public health CJS within the Center’s identified priority areas.

Applications must target at least one of the five priority areas identified by the Center:

- Use of public health CJS among small jurisdictions (defined as having a population of less than 50,000), and especially in rural or frontier jurisdictions.
- Use of public health CJS in states with a centralized public health system.
- Use of CJS as a systems change tool for public health service delivery.
- Use of CJS methods and principles for public health collaboration among different government sectors.
- Use of CJS in public health projects involving tribes.

Additional information is available online. Applications must be submitted by March 30. Questions regarding the funding opportunity should be sent to phsharing@khi.org.

Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Webinar on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 10 a.m. The next webinar will be March 27. To view minutes from the monthly calls, click the KDHE logo.
Webinar – Get Ready for National Immunization Week 2018 – March 7

National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW) is an annual observance to highlight the importance of protecting infants from vaccine-preventable diseases and celebrate the achievements of immunization programs and their partners in promoting healthy communities. NIIW is taking place from April 21-28. Join this planning webinar on March 7, 11 a.m. to learn about NIIW planning tools, digital communication resources, and CDC activities planned for the week. The Houston Health Department will also share lessons learned from NIIW 2017, including outreach to pregnant women about infant immunization, as well as plans for this year. Register online.

Webinar – Maternity Care Practices at the Nexus of Hospitals, Providers, States and Communities – March 12

Join the National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) for a webinar on March 12, 1 p.m. that will examine maternity care practices at the nexus of hospitals, providers, states and communities. This webinar is a part of NACCHO’s Breastfeeding Public Health Partners - Charting the Course Together series. Register for the webinar online.

Webinar – Using Electronic Health Data for Community Health – March 13

HIPAA is often considered an impediment to sharing health data between health systems and public health departments. A new report from the de Beaumont Foundation and Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Using Electronic Health Data for Community Health, provides a roadmap for how to overcome perceived barriers to using electronic health data for public health activities. Join All In: Data for Community Health for the first webinar in a two-part series on March 13, 2 p.m. The webinar will focus on using electronic health data for community health improvement. Two of the authors of the report will present, discussing the legal underpinnings of data sharing between health systems and public health agencies, providing illustrative examples, and engaging in a Q&A discussion. Register online for the event.
Webinar - Legal Interventions Relevant to Midwest States & Localities – March 13

The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) is hosting a webinar regarding legal interventions relevant to Midwest states and localities on Tuesday, March 13, 1 p.m. The webinar is a part of a series for public health associations and partners to increase knowledge of climate change and impact on public health; participation in state and local resiliency planning; and advocacy by public health associations and partners. This webinar will focus on three related topics: built environment, rural communities and agricultural policy, and equity and environmental justice. Join the webinar on GoToMeeting through the link provided on the webpage. At this time a registration link is unavailable. Attendees can join via phone by dialing 1-669-224-3412, Access Code: 566-570-069. For more information about this opportunity, please contact Jerry King at jking@inpha.org.

Webinar Series - Leadership in Practice: A Digital Exchange

Join the Midwestern Public Health Training Center for a Digital Exchange of resources, best practices, and new approaches to Public Health 3.0 to build strong leaders and develop the workforce. Not your typical webinar, this innovative Exchange brings together a panel of leaders from across Region VII for an open dialogue around the themes of Public Health 3.0: A Call to Action to Create a 21st Century Public Health Infrastructure:

- Cultivating Strategic Partnerships on Tuesday, March 13, 2 p.m.
- Sharing Outside of the Box on Thursday, March 22, 12 p.m.
- Using a data query system for public health application on Tuesday, March 27, 12 p.m.
- Foundational Infrastructure: A Focus on the Public Health Brand on Tuesday, April 3, 12 p.m.

In anticipation of the webinar series, Dr. Karen DeSalvo, Former Assistant Secretary for Health at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has provided a quick introduction to Public Health 3.0 that can be viewed online.

Webinar - The Heart of New Ulm: Population Health Takes a Village - March 21

The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is hosting a webinar on March 21, 12 p.m. to learn about an innovative program led by the New Ulm Medical Center in partnership with Brown County Public Health, the Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation, city leaders and government, and more. The program has been a successful initiative to reduce heart attacks and improve heart disease risk in a rural Minnesota town. Features of the program include: use of electronic health records for identifying at-risk individuals and neighborhoods and monitoring progress over time; interventions to fill gaps in the community, in healthcare, and at worksites; positive results on numerous modifiable risk factors related to heart disease; continuous improvement over the life of the program; and a sustainable approach led by community members. Register for the webinar online. Additional information about the webinar can be found online.

Webinar - Maternal Mental Health 101 – March 22

Join Postpartum Support International in a webinar discussing maternal mental health on March 22, 12:30 – 2p.m. Participants will learn about the range of maternal mental health disorders, the prevalence, signs and symptoms and recommended treatment options in this complimentary webinar hosted by 2020 Mom and presented by Postpartum Support International. Register for this free webinar online.

Eat Right For Life Conference – March 28

Live Well Saline County is excited to announce that registration for the Eat Right for Life Conference is open. The Eat Right for Life Conference features a keynote presentation by Dr. Ann Kulze, a best-selling author, physician, and motivational speaker in the areas of nutrition, healthy living, and disease prevention. Breakout sessions include Telling the Local Foods Story and Engaging People Where They Live, Learn, Earn, Play, and Pray. Join colleagues from across the state on March 28 at the Salina Hilton Garden Inn for an exciting day learning about the science of nutrition and how to transform your health and the health of your community. The cost to attend the training will be $25, which includes a healthy meal. Please click on the Eat Right For Life Conference link here for registration details.
Vision Screening Trainings in March and April

The Kansas University (KU) Medical Center Area Health Education Center invites you to take part in our upcoming vision screening trainings. There are currently three vision screenings trainings scheduled in March and April. Slots fill up quickly, so reserve your spot now by registering online. More information is also available on the Hearing/Vision Screening Page on the website or contact the KU Medical Center Area Health Education Center at 620-235-4040. The cost for each of the vision screening trainings is $75. A schedule of upcoming screening trainings are as follows:

- March 30, 8:30 a.m. – 12 p.m. – Kansas State School for the Blind, 1100 State Ave., Kansas City. Download the flyer and registration form here or register online.
- April 6, 12:30 – 4:30 p.m. – Salina Regional Health Center, 400 S. Santa Fe. Ave., Salina. Download the flyer and registration form here or register online.
- April 20, 12 – 4:00 p.m. – KU School of Medicine – Wichita, 1010 N. Kansas, Wichita. Download the flyer and registration form here or register online.

NACCHO Webinar Series - Five Things to Know: Essentials of HIV Prevention

The National Association of County & City Health Officials (NACCHO) is offering a four-part webinar series on Thursdays in March. In the rapidly changing landscape of health care and HIV prevention, staying current on clinical guidelines and creative approaches is both challenging and vital. Primary Care Development Corporation’s upcoming "HIP in Health Care" webinar series will highlight and discuss four trending topics in the field of HIV prevention and lay out “five things to know” for each topic. Each webinar will also feature an interactive discussion with leaders in the field who have successfully applied these strategies to improve health outcomes for their patients.

The webinars are intended for health care staff from all fields (medicine, nursing, social work, navigation) that work to prevent, diagnose, or treat patients living with HIV/AIDS.

- March 8, 1 p.m. - Webinar 2: “Five Things to Know: HIV Testing and HIV Prevention”
- March 15, 1 p.m. - Webinar 3: “Effectively No Risk: Five Things to Know About Antiretroviral Therapy (ART) & HIV Prevention”
- March 22, 1p.m. - Webinar 4: “Five Things to Know: Transgender Competent Care and HIV Prevention”

Register for the full series to improve your HIV prevention and care delivery.

Webinar – Innovative Strategies for Engaging Residents in Community Health Improvement Planning – April 17

Meaningful engagement of community members is often a desired goal of multi-sector collaborations working to improve community health, though in reality, this can be very difficult to achieve. On this All In: Data for Community Health webinar, representatives from Public Health Seattle-King County, WA and Garrett County, MD will share how they developed and tailored processes and strategies for engaging residents in community health improvement planning as well as some of the barriers and opportunities encountered along the way. The webinar will be held on April 17, 1 p.m. Register for the webinar online.

Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium, May 10-11

Registration is now open for the Kansas Infectious Disease Symposium which will be held on May 10 -11. Join leaders in public health, emergency response, preparedness and healthcare to learn how highly infectious disease outbreaks (including zoonotic diseases and foodborne illnesses) are contained and managed in the state of Kansas and the Midwest. The event will be held at the Olathe Hotel and Conference Center in Olathe. For more information, including cost and a tentative agenda, please visit the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment website. Registration is open on Kansas TRAIN. Course ID# 1072721. Registration closes on April 30. A pre-conference surveillance training to be hosted by the Kansas Syndromic Surveillance Program which will focus on syndromic surveillance tools and best practices.
Preconception Health Webinar Series

The March of Dimes North Carolina Preconception Health Campaign is hosting a series of webinars focused on preconception health. The webinars focus on improving the health of women prior to pregnancy and aiming towards better birth outcomes. Upcoming webinars include:

- **March 14, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** - The Missing “P” in MCH: Paternal Reproductive Health and its Impact on Birth Outcomes - Participants will learn how historical beliefs around men’s preconception/reproductive health have hurt males in our society and why they need to change. Presenters will inform the audience of the current state of men’s preconception health and factors that impact their health. The webinar will also describe how men can be a strong influence on the woman’s preconception and perinatal health, as well as how the health of both the man and woman can impact birth outcomes; therefore – mom, baby AND dad should be treated as a unit. Finally, participants will learn how engaging fathers during pregnancy and after birth can impact the child’s early development. Register [online](#) for the webinar.

- **April 25, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.** - Preconception and Maternal Health: Equity and Inclusiveness -. Participants will learn about examples of clinical and public health practice interventions and policy/communications initiatives that demonstrate the importance of using an equity lens to reduce preterm birth. Register [here](#) for the webinar.

- **May 15, 10:30 a.m - 12:30 p.m.** - The Link Between ACEs, Preconception Health, and Birth Outcomes - Participants will learn about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the lifelong impact they can have on an individual’s physical and mental health. Presenters will provide examples on how to effectively utilize the ACE and resiliency questionnaires and other screening tools in order to provide better informed preconception health counseling. Participants will also learn how resiliency skills and protective factors can minimize the impact of ACEs and help individuals lead healthier lives. Webinar presenters will clearly demonstrate the link between ACES, preconception health, and birth outcomes. Register for the webinar [online](#).

2018 Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases to Host National Meeting on Tick-Borne Diseases - May 5

The Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases (CEVBD) is an interdisciplinary research center at the College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University. The primary focus of CEVBD is to conduct research on vector-borne diseases of importance to animal and human health. Its goals also include disseminating the current knowledge through continuing education conferences. The conference will offer DVM Continuing Education credits. The CEVBD will hold its first annual national conference to provide the most up-to-date information to participants on tick-borne diseases. Renowned scientists with a high level of expertise on tick-borne diseases will be among the speakers (listed below). The conference is open to scientists, doctors, veterinarians and others having interest in learning about tick-borne diseases.

The following speakers are currently confirmed for the event:

- Dr. J. Stephen Dumler, MD, Professor and Chair, Department of Pathology, Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, Bethesda, Maryland

- Dr. Christopher Paddock, MD, MPHTM, Medical Officer, Rickettsial Zoonoses Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, Georgia

- Dr. Ed Breitschwerdt, DVM, DACVIM, Professor of Internal Medicine, Vector Borne Disease Diagnostics, Department of Clinical Sciences, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

- Dr. Hans Coetzee, BVSc, PhD, Professor, Department Head and Interim Director of Nanotechnology Innovation Center of Kansas State (NICKS) and Institute of Computational Comparative Medicine (ICCM), Department of Anatomy and Physiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University

- Dr. Roman Ganta, MS, PhD, Professor and Director, Center of Excellence for Vector-Borne Diseases, Department of Diagnostic Medicine/Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, Kansas State University.

Register before March 9 for the a discounted rate of $150. Register [online here](#) or visit the [website](#) to register. For more information, contact Dana Parker by e-mail at dlaparker@vet.k-state.edu or by phone at 785-532-4528.
Far More U.S. Children Than Previously Thought May Have Fetal Alcohol Disorders

More American children than previously thought may be suffering from neurological damage because their mothers drank alcohol during pregnancy, according to a new study. The study, published recently in the journal JAMA, estimates that fetal alcohol syndrome and other alcohol-related disorders among American children are at least as common as autism. The disorders can cause cognitive, behavioral and physical problems that hurt children’s development and learning ability.

Public Health Foundation Resource: Assessing Your Performance Management System at the Program Level

To ensure you make the most of your performance management system, it is helpful to assess its performance. This “meta perspective” on performance management enables you to capture visually the uptake of each component of performance management, and the degree to which it is supporting your organization's goals. The Public Health Foundation is offering a new resource, designed and tested by Dan Ward from the Idaho Division of Public Health, Assessing Your Performance Management System at the Program Level can also help organizations identify who is and is not engaged with performance management, and plan activities to bolster engagement. For additional help in building and improving a performance management system, please visit the Public Health Foundation’s Performance Management Toolkit, or contact Margie Beaudry at mbeaudry@phf.org or (202)218-4415 to schedule customized technical assistance.

CDC Resource: Immunization Billables Project Evaluation Report

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released the CDC Billables Project Evaluation Report. The objectives of the evaluation were to assess whether the Billables Project strengthened the capacity of the local health departments (LHDs) to effectively bill third-party payers for immunization services; identify activities, resources, and stakeholder partnerships that helped or hindered LHDs’ ability to bill; describe the steps taken by LHDs to plan and implement a billing program and barriers they encountered; and describe trends seen in awardees’ billing programs. The report is available online.

How to Drive Down Smoking in Groups That Still Light Up

Advertising campaigns, tobacco taxes and public bans have lowered rates of smoking significantly in the U.S. since the 1960s. And for people who never smoke or manage to quit, there are major health benefits: lower risk of cancer, heart problems and stroke. But 15 percent of Americans - about 40 million people - continue to smoke. Who are they? And why are they still smoking? “There's a massive disparity in this country in terms of who's smoking,” says Jeffrey Drope, a researcher at the American Cancer Society. The highest rates of smoking are in population groups that often intersect.

Resource: Local Health Department Systems Catalog

The Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI) at Wichita State University recently made available a catalog of technology systems used by local public health departments. The catalog is a result of a project launched in 2017 to try to gather information for departments to share information what software systems are being used and how. This catalog includes a list of known EHRs, Practice Management Systems, financial software, claims systems, and more. The catalog will continue to be updated as information is shared about what systems are in use and how departments are using them. To find the most recent version of the “Kansas LHD Systems Catalog” click here: http://www.kalhd.org/publications/lhd-systems-catalog/

Un-burying the lead: Public health tools are the key to beating the opioid epidemic

The opioid crisis claims 175 lives daily. In addition to these deaths, other tragic and costly health consequences of this epidemic include unprecedented increases in the incidence and prevalence of addiction, increased hospitalizations and emergency room visits, and a dramatic increase in the number of babies born with neonatal abstinence syndrome. A recently released report provides recommendations and draws parallels between today’s crisis and other historic drug epidemics, to examine the public health lessons policymakers can learn.

No Downturn in Obesity Among US Kids, Report Finds

Hopes were dashed this week that the United States was finally making progress in the fight against childhood obesity. Contrary to previous reports, the epidemic of fat has not abated. In fact, there’s been a big jump in obesity among the nation’s youngest children.
Butler County Health Department
- Community Health Nurse
- Registered Nurse

Ford County Health Department
- Registered Nurse

Franklin County Health Department
- Registered Nurse

Geary County Health Department
- Nurse Practitioner - IST
- WIC Coordinator
- Registered Nurse
- Registered Dietitian
- Medical Front Office Assistant

Hodgeman County Health Department
- Health Department Staff Nurse (RN)

Marion County Health Department
- Staff Nurse/Child Care Surveyor

McPherson County Health Department
- Receptionist/Clerk I
- Registered Nurse - Public Health

Riley County Health Department
- Medical Clerk

Sedgwick County Health Department
- Nurse Coordinator - Immunizations
- Nurse Coordinator | Division of Health
- Epidemiologist/Surveillance Coordinator

Sumner County Health Department
- Preparedness Coordinator

Career opportunities at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can be found here.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

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Public Health Connections Information
To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, email phc@kdheks.gov.
Send your public health news to Katie Mahuron at katie.mahuron@ks.gov.