



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

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Sam Brownback, Governor

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7th Annual Spring Public Health Conference – Registration Full



The 7th Annual Spring Public Health Conference, "Challenge of Change: Developing an Equitable Public Health System," is full. To be placed on a waiting list, contact Jana Henderson at 316-978-6493.

A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement During National Public Health Week



by Ellen Averett, Ph.D., Associate Professor

Health Policy and Management, University of Kansas Medical Center

The National Public Health Week (NPHW) 2012, Apr. 2-8, [planning toolkit](#) is now available. During NPHW 2012, American Public Health Association (APHA) invites you to promote ways to live healthier lives and highlight the theme "A Healthier America Begins Today: Join the Movement!" NPHW will build upon the National Prevention Strategy to create a healthier nation in one generation.

National Public Health Week is a great opportunity to show your commitment to public health. So, just how can you get involved in this awareness week?

You should start by perusing the NPHW website and downloading the brochure to get a basic rundown of everything National Public Health Week has to

offer. After you've explored the brochure, take the initiative to become a real player. During National Public Health Week 2012, consider planning a local event or related activity. If you're interested in teaming up with your school's public health organization or running an event of your own, feel free to become a partner and access the student resources. Your NPHW partners want to help your event succeed, but you first need to let us know you're interested. So explore the NPHW website and brochure, partner up and submit your event.

The APHA serves as the lead organizer of NPHW and with the help of its 50,000 members and hundreds of organizational partners, educate the public, policymakers and practitioners about the importance of public health.



A healthier America begins with strong public health systems. APHA continues to champion the creation of the healthiest nation in one generation with an emphasis on public health's essential role in prevention. Visit the 2012 NPHW website by clicking the APHA logo.

In the Spotlight – Stanton County Health Department Has New Home



by K. Ellen Kersey, Administrator
Stanton County Health Department

After 44 years in the basement of the county courthouse, the Stanton County Health Department (SCHD) finally has a new home. The health department is now located at 114 North Main Street, downtown Johnson City, Kansas. The move began on Leap day, Feb., 29. The staff were wondering during the move if we only have to show up for work one time every 4 years?

Thankfully we had many helpers for the move including two janitors, four county prisoners, the carpenter and last but not least the employ-

ees.

SCHD hopes that people find the new location more accessible and private than the previous location. In thinking back we are not sure how many square feet the new building has compared to the previous one but each employee now has an office. The other rooms include a nurse's station where blood pressures are taken, lab draws are performed and vaccines are stored and prepared for administration; a patient education room; a treatment and/or exam room and the all-important break room.



The SCHD employees are planning to have a grand opening when all the carpenter projects are completed. We look forward to seeing you at the opening.



In the Spotlight – Kansas Health Alert Network for Public Health Professionals

*by Gilbert Tabares, Operations Specialist
Bureau of Community, Health Systems, KDHE*



Rapid distribution of critical information to health and safety professionals during a public or environmental health emergency is critical to the investigation, prevention and treatment of diseases or other

public health events. The Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN) is a secure, web-based communication system that allows state and local providers to share such information when time is of the essence.

It is crucial that health and environment professionals receive timely alerts on disease outbreaks and health advisories to enhance patient care and prevent the spread of disease. The alerts highlight information about the spread of the disease, prevention and other necessary action steps. That is why the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) encourages all Kansas health and medical professionals, including physicians, nurses, veterinarians, extension agents, behavioral health professionals and others, to become members of KS-HAN. Currently, KS-HAN contains more than 3,000 members from local health departments, hospitals, emergency medical services, animal health, clinics, state agencies, private and public health laboratories and other first responders across the state.

To enroll in KS-HAN, email your name, employer, employer phone number and job title/job description to kshanadmin@kdheks.gov.

During 2011-2012, KDHE used KS-HAN to send health and medical professionals in Kansas, alerts and advisories on topics such as:

- Pertussis outbreaks
- Measles outbreaks
- Infant Chronobacter infections
- Novel Influenza A (H3H2) infections
- Illegal drug trafficking of Krokodil
- Elevated risk for invasive Listeriosis
- Warning about Rocky Ford Cantaloupes
- Recall of contaminated five and seven layer bean dip
- Harmful Algal Blooms
- The new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Recommendations for Tuberculosis treatment

KS-HAN also serves as the alerting system for the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV), which encourages the pre-registration and pre-credentialing of health professionals who are willing to volunteer in case of a disaster. The K-SERV system is part of a national effort to register both healthcare and non-healthcare volunteers to deploy during times of need. To learn more about K-SERV, click the Kansas Health Alert Network logo above.

Kansas Drug Card Free to All Kansans



The Kansas Health Department is happy to announce partnership with the Kansas Drug Card. The Kansas Drug Card is a free discount prescription drug card. All Kansas residents are eligible for this statewide Prescription Assistance Program (PAP) that provides prescription medication savings (average savings is 30-35% off) at most all pharmacies. The Kansas Drug Card was launched to help the uninsured and under insured people of Kansas afford their prescription medications. However, the program can also be used by people who have health insurance coverage with no prescription benefits or those you use non-formulary or non-covered drugs.

Kansas Drug Card Highlights:

- FREE for everyone in Kansas
- Has NO restrictions, no enrollment forms, no age or income requirements, no waiting periods, no eligibility required, no exclusions, covers pre-existing conditions, no claim forms to file, no annual or lifetime limits.
- Includes discounts on brand name and generic medications and utilizes lowest price logic to guarantee the best pricing on prescriptions

To learn more email angela@kansasdrugcard.com to request flyers or wallet cards to distribute or click the Kansas Drug Card logo.

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition Partners With the April 22 Kansas Half Marathon

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



**TOBACCO FREE KANSAS
COALITION**

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) and its Youth Empowerment Board will be partnering with the Kansas Half Marathon on April 22. TFKC will be sponsoring 10 youth to run in this event from Topeka, Lawrence, Eudora and Kansas City. Twenty youth volunteers from the Kansas City and Lawrence area will also be manning aid stations along the race course on Sun., April 22 from 6:30-10:30 A.M. If you know of a youth that would like to volunteer for the aid station contact Erica Anderson at eanderson@tobaccofreekansas.org or call 785-272-8396.

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is proud to be able to support its youth board and their desire to take part in the Kansas Half Marathon with special thanks to Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas for providing a grant to Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition to support its youth programming.

The Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition is a statewide alliance of health, education, parent, youth, law enforcement and other civic organizations and individuals concerned about tobacco use in Kansas. TFKC promotes laws, policies and funding of effective programs that will result in significant reductions in tobacco use and addiction, especially among children and high-risk groups. The coalition's major goals are to prevent children from beginning a lifelong addiction to tobacco, to help those who want to quit smoking, to protect non-smokers from exposure to secondhand smoke and to protect and assist those populations disparately affected by tobacco use. For more information about TFKC's visit website by clicking on the logo above.

Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Releases 2011 Annual Report

by Bureau of Community Health Systems, Kansas Department of Health and Environment



The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department released its 2011 annual report and a new 5-minute video. The theme for both is, "Let's Start a Conversation." Dan Partridge, Director, said the department can not improve community health on its own because there are many factors that contribute to health: jobs, transportation, child care, access to food, walkable neighborhoods and education to name a few.

Among the report's findings:

- 81 percent of county residents do not eat the recommended five fruits and vegetables per day.
- 50 percent of adults had not exercised in the past 30 days.
- The numbers of teen smokers, those smoking during pregnancy and current smokers overall had declined.

In December, approximately 60 community partners, Health Department staff and Health Board members participated in completing the Local Public Health System Performance Instrument, which rated the entire public health system and provided a benchmark of the capacity to provide the essential public health services in Douglas County.

The assessment showed that the local public health system had the highest performance (or capacity) in the following essential services:

- Diagnosing and investigating health problems
- Informing/empowering people about health issues
- Enforcing public health laws and regulations

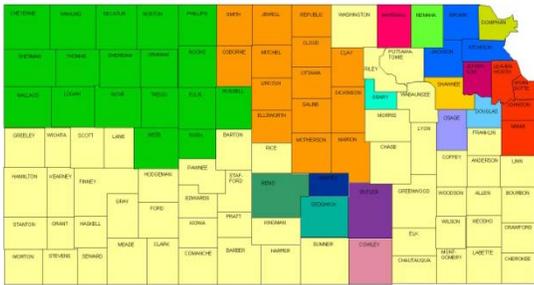
The lowest capacity areas were:

- Evaluating services
- Mobilizing partnerships

To learn more about this report and video, click the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department logo.

New Medical Reserve Corps Unit in Northwest Kansas

*by Emily Nickel, Planning and Volunteer Coordinator
Bureau of Community Health Systems, Kansas Department of Health and Environment*



In March 2012, the Northwest Kansas Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) unit was approved. The unit is sponsored by the Hays Medical Center in Hays, Kansas. The unit is comprised of 18 counties. The mission of the unit is to improve the health and safety in the community throughout Northwest Kansas by organizing public health and medical volunteers.

Currently, there are 18 MRC units located throughout the state, including one statewide Kansas Veterinary MRC unit. The picture of the state of Kansas depicts the location of each unit. The same-colored counties indicate one unit with multiple counties.

In addition to the new Northwest MRC Unit, the Kansas MRC program would like to welcome several new Kansas MRC unit coordinators: Tami Wood, NW MRC; Aly Breeze, Greater Kansas City, MRC; and Kelly Benton, Kansas Veterinary MRC.

The MRC units are recruiting interested individuals throughout Kansas who wish to become active volunteers in their communities. The MRC is a community-based volunteer organization for health professionals and others who wish to engage in response and public health based volunteerism. While many believe the MRC can only utilize healthcare professionals, volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds are needed, including interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors, or those that simply want to be involved in healthy living and disaster preparedness and response.

If you would like more information about joining an MRC unit or starting one in your community, visit the Kansas MRC website by clicking on the MRC map above or contact Emily Nickel at 785-296-5201 or enickel@kdheks.gov. Make sure to "Like" the [Kansas MRC Facebook](#) page for updates and highlights of program activities.

Healthy Communities Initiative - Kansas Health Foundation Awards Grants



Twelve \$25,000 planning grants have been awarded by the Kansas Health Foundation to communities to address either "Healthy Community Design" or "Access to Healthy Foods." The initiative is part of a broader effort by the Foundation to improve nutrition and physical activity among Kansans.

The main goal of these Kansas Health Foundation's initiatives is to help Kansas communities become more actively engaged in pursuing policy, practice and environmental changes that

- support physical activity in public places
- promote access to and consumption of healthy foods

The seven selected organizations addressing Community Design are:

- Western Kansas Community Foundation
- Golden Belt Community Foundation
- Community Foundation of Dickinson County

- Thomas County Community Foundation
- Community Resources Council of Shawnee County
- Mitchell County Regional Medical Foundation
- Live Well Health and Wellness Committee of Crawford County

Communities which were funded to address Access to Healthy Foods are:

- Douglas County
- Manhattan
- Wichita
- Johnson County
- Brown County

To speak with someone at the Kansas Health Foundation about this initiative, please contact Chase Willhite at 316-262-7676 or cwillhite@khf.org.

Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

We KAN QI: What is Quality Improvement?



*by Sylvia Ford, RN, BSN, CIC, Intern & Graduate Nursing Student
Center for Performance Management, KDHE*

In Jan. the Center for Performance Management (CPM) submitted a Quality Improvement (QI) proposal to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation through the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) with the expectation of participating in

a new initiative entitled Strengthening the Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI). We recently learned that our QI award proposal was not selected for participation. There were over 100 applications for the QI award and only 30 sites were selected to participate. This does not change that fact that QI is important. Staff from the Office of Local Public Health and the Bureau of Community Health Systems will continue their efforts to adopt and implement QI as an agency-wide endeavor.

Let's begin by checking your QI. Did you know that QI:

- Requires a commitment at all levels of staff within an organization.
- Is a deliberate and defined process that is focused on activities to improve population health.
- Is ongoing continuous effort to achieve measurable improvements in efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes and quality of service.
- Starts when you get involved.

What is QI? It is a formal approach to evaluate performance and systematic efforts to improve it. Often QI encompasses activities that focus on specific processes or projects—such as improving internal customer service or increasing efficiency by streamlining a department's work flow. QI involves both prospective and retrospective evaluation of a process. It is aimed at improvement that helps measure the current state of a process and figure out ways to make it better. It specifically attempts to avoid attributing blame and to create systems that are proficient and sustainable. By eliminating inefficiency, error and redundancy, departments can improve critical processes and reduce cost. Trying to find where a "defect" in a system is, and figuring out new ways to do things can be challenging yet rewarding. QI presents a great opportunity to, "think outside the box."

If you would like to learn more about QI and access various tools/guidance click the National Association of County and City Health Officials logo.

Community Health Assessments - What's Happening Across the State?



*by Brenda Nickel, M.S., R.N., Director
Center for Performance Management, KDHE*
Local health departments and hospitals are planning or already working on conducting community health needs assessments with partners or consultants. Since the launch of Kansas Health Matters in Jan. 2012 (click logo to view),

the pace for these activities is steadily increasing with requests for guidance or direction being made. Anticipating the diverse needs and stages of planning or implementation, multiple partners both at the governmental and non-governmental level are working together to create a system to support the work being done in communities, as well as support the existing resources for those agencies leading the way on these activities. Here's an idea of what's happening across the State:

- Results of surveys conducted in Jan. by the Office of Local Public Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) as well as the Kansas Health Institute indicate about 60 local health departments will be conducting community health assessments in the next 24 months (KHI, 2012, no page number).
- Technical assistance for conducting CHA is being provided by private consultants.
- A grant for developing free community health assessment technical assistance has been submitted to the Kansas Health Foundation by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI). This project is anticipated to begin early summer.
- A practice-based research project, called the Kansas Community Health PBRN (KS-CHPBRN), "launched" Feb. 29, in Wichita with approximately 50 attendees from local health departments, hospitals, the University of Kansas (KU) School of Medicine – Wichita, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and the KDHE. This project is in collaboration between the KHI, the KU School of Medicine-Wichita and KALHD.

What's the state agency doing regarding accreditation? KDHE has been working over the past few years on initiatives that will help position the agency for accreditation both internally and with key partners. This work has included the Turning Point Project, the Multi-Learning Collaborative (MLC-2 and MLC-3) and conducting the first phase of the National Public Health Performance Standards Program (NPHPSP) assessment for a state health department in 2008. Here's what the KDHE is doing now to prepare for accreditation:

What's in progress?

- Developed and are currently implementing an organizational strategic plan (pre-requisite for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) application).
- Appointed an Accreditation Coordinator.
- Space designated as Accreditation Center.
- Identifying a time frame for developing the infrastructure to support all accreditation readiness activities including expansion/development of an accreditation team, training on PHAB and accreditation, developing/implementing a system for documenting/storing of evidence.

What's in planning?

- The Bureau of Health Promotion will plan and facilitate the Healthy People 2020 process for assessing the state's health needs and developing a state health improvement plan (summer/fall 2012).
- Conduct the NPHPSP using the State Public Health System Assessment Instrument that, "focuses on the state public health system, which includes state public health agencies and other partners that contribute to public health services at the state level" (CDC, 2012, no page number).
- The Center for Performance Management, with the Office of Local Public Health, is planning quality improvement training and development of a quality improvement plan.
- Develop a performance management system that will be utilized by divisions and programs throughout the agency to track performance measures.

KDHE, with local health department and other key partners have been working towards a goal to have a more efficient and effective public health system. Beginning in 1997 with the creation of a Public Health Improvement Steering Committee, the KDHE received a Turning Point Grant, a collaborative undertaking with by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, W.K. Kellogg Foundation and Kansas Health Foundation to identify work needed internally and with partners to strengthen public health capacity and performance. In 2008 the agency joined the second phase of the Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC) to improve local and state health department use of quality improvement (QI) with training, pilot projects, and identification of regional core competencies, a project funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and managed through a partnership of the KDHE, the Kansas Health Institute and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments. In 2010 the agency participated in a MLC-3 QI project to address infant mortality expanding the use of QI with local partners. This project was funded through a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, managed through a partnership of the Kansas Health Institute, the Kansas Associ-



ation of Local Health Departments, the University of Kansas Area Health Education Centers and KDHE. Recent QI projects at the KDHE include:

- A new electronic disease surveillance system called EpiTRAX
- Upgrades to the Kansas Information for Communities Data System
- Development of the Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking web portal
- Kansas Trauma Program and Kansas Board of Emergency Medical Services (EMS) collaboration to develop/implement a process electronically linking EMS and trauma data
- Agency strategic planning, identification of priorities and implementation

There is a momentum and excitement to improve the public health system with our state on course to improve efficiency and effectiveness of services! As the year progresses, there will be opportunities for learning, sharing, and continuing the course envisioned over the past decade for a healthier, more robust Kansas public health system.

PHF Accreditation Preparation



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

Health Statistical Reports



The Partners in Information Access for the Public Health Workforce in collaboration of U.S. government agencies, public health organizations and health sciences libraries provides reports, analyses and summaries of health statistics. This website provides data on local, county, state, national and global health information. To learn more click the Partners logo.

Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Kansans Optimizing Health Program Training

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



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

Upcoming sessions are:

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

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

Bridging the Gap™ in Kansas, 2012 – Bilingual Interpreter Training

by Cathy Anderson, Manager

Language and Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)

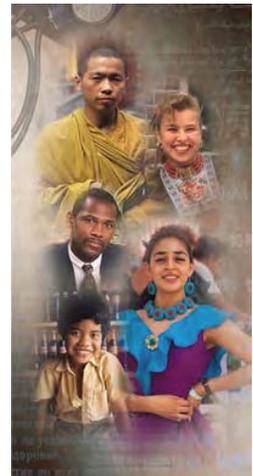
Bridging the Gap is a forty-hour training program for beginning and intermediate medical/social service bilingual interpreters. The course offers participants a thorough grounding in the Interpreter's Code of Ethics, the roles of interpreting, cultural competency and much more. The course is presented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

In 2012, this course will be offered in:

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

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

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



Bridging the Gap is an example of a course that fulfills the interpreter training requirement for applying to the Certification Commission for Healthcare Interpreters (CCHI) to become a certified interpreter. In addition to other requirements, an applicant must have forty hours of medical interpreter training to qualify to take the exams to become credentialed through CCHI. For more information on the application process and a description of the two exams required for becoming certified, click the image above. Feel free to contact Cathy Anderson, (contact info above) a commissioner with CCHI, who can answer your questions about applying for the certification tests.

Grant Writing Workshop

by Bureau of Community Health Systems



The Bureau of Community Health Systems will host a grant writing workshop on June 11-12, from 9:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M., at the Curtis State Office Building, Room 530. The workshop will be facilitated by Grant Writing USA and is targeted at beginning and experienced grant writers from city, county and state agencies as well as nonprofits, K-12, colleges and universities. Please note there is a tuition cost of \$425 associated with this workshop. This registration cost includes the workbook, a resource CD, two days of instruction and free access to Grant Writing USA's Alumni Forums. Payment is preferred at time of enrollment; however, other arrangements may be made.

To begin registration, go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> and search for course #1032829 in the Course ID field on the home page. This will also redirect you to the Grant Writing USA registration page. For more information, click the Grant Writing USA logo.

National HIV/AIDS Strategies: Where Do We Fit?

This conference is designed for teachers, school nurses, prevention and care providers, administrators, health professionals, community health planners, physicians, counselors, persons from community-based organizations, members of the faith community, social workers, parents and public health individuals. Registration fees cover all materials, including conference CD; continental breakfasts, refreshment breaks and lunches.

Registration fees are \$250 if paid by June 1 or after June 1 is \$300. For more information and registration click the conference logo.



Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Sobriety Rocks Scholarship Contest – Deadline April 13

The Kansas Department of Transportation is once again raising awareness with its sixth annual arts contest encouraging teens to abstain from drinking alcohol until they turn 21.

The Sobriety Rocks Scholarship Contest is a way for young people to use their creative talents to inspire their peers to be safe. Winners in four categories will be awarded \$1,000 scholarships. Judges are looking for unique, powerful anti-

underage drinking messages, creativity and passion.

Please help spread the word about the contest. Click the Sobriety Rocks logo for rules, entry forms and posters and to see previous winners' work. The deadline to enter is April 13. Four scholarships will be awarded:

- Best Original Song \$1,000
- Best Original Art \$1,000
- Best Original Writing \$1,000
- Best Original Commercial \$1,000 (can be group entry)

Scholarships go toward any accredited post-high school training, including college. While other categories are for individuals, commercials may be team entries. In the case of a group entry, the money will be awarded to the high school. Ways you can help:

- Share information about the contest at meetings, in e-mails, etc.
- Print and hang posters in your community.
- Print and make available rules and entry forms.

Like us on [Facebook](#). We'll be posting fun updates right up to the deadline. Judging will be based on creativity, originality, craftsmanship, clear anti-underage drinking message and passion.



Share Your Community Guide Story – Deadline April 30



Have you used [The Guide to Community Preventive Services \(The Community Guide\)](#) to address public health challenges in your community? If so, the Public Health Foundation (PHF) wants to hear from you. PHF invites you to share your experience by entering the ["I'm Your Community Guide!" Contest](#). Your stories will help to identify model practices for implementing the evidence-based strategies outlined in *The Community Guide*.

The contest announcement is open until April 30 on www.phf.org. Need more information or just want to provide us with a quick testimonial? Contact us at communications@phf.org.

This announcement is visible on TRAIN to Non-TRAIN states and Affiliate Administrators. If any affiliates would like this announcement visible to their learners please email Ilya directly (iplotkin@phf.org).

Body Venture Application Procedure – Deadline May 14



Body Venture is an exciting educational exhibit for students in grades K-5. The application process for the 2012-13 school year is now available on-line. Click the Body Venture logo for the announcement packet which includes scheduling information and guidelines as well as the Request to Schedule form. Please read the documents carefully so that you will be aware of the requirements and expectations when hosting Body Venture. Print and complete the one page application

form and return it to Child Nutrition and Wellness at Kansas State Department of Education by e-mail, fax or USPS. The completed application form must be received by April 20. Schools will be notified by May 14 if they are scheduled to host Body Venture during the 2012-13 school year. If you have questions please contact Kathy Thompson at 785-291-3605 or ktompson@ksde.org.

Get Your School Involved – Deadline May 15



Want to make a difference in the lives of kids and establish a running program at one of your local schools? ING Run For Something Better can help. Working in partnership with the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE), a minimum of 50 grants will be provided (up to \$2,500 to each school) to establish a school-based running program or expand an existing one. To learn more click on the NASPE logo.

If your school already has a running program, simply choose to use an ING Run For Something Better customized program alongside your current running program or alone, as long as it meets our basic criteria. In other words, you can still apply.

[The 2012 application process is now open.](#) The deadline to apply is May 15 and schools will be notified in September of 2012 if they have received an award.

Baseball Tomorrow Fund



The Baseball Tomorrow Fund (BTF) is a joint initiative between Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association that was established in 1999 through a \$10 million commitment by Major League Baseball and the Major League Baseball Players Association.

The mission of BTF is to promote and enhance the growth of youth participation in baseball and softball throughout the world by funding programs, fields, coaches' training, and the purchase of uniforms and equipment to encourage and maintain youth participation in the game. Grants are designed to be sufficiently flexible to enable applicants to address needs unique to their communities. The funds are intended to finance a new program, expand or improve an existing program, undertake a new collaborative effort, or obtain facilities or equipment. BTF provides grants to non-profit and tax-exempt organizations in both rural and urban communities. BTF awards an average of 40 grants per year totaling more than \$1.5 million annually.

To learn more about the BTF click their logo above.

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

The 45th Edition Kansas Statistical Abstract



The "*Kansas Statistical Abstract 2010*," contains the latest available state, county and city-level data for Kansas on population, vital statistics and health, housing, education, business and manufacturing, exports, employment, income, finance, state and local government, crime, recreation, communications, transportation, agriculture, climate and energy and natural resources. The Kansas Statistical Abstract is a PDF file and will require Adobe Acrobat Reader.

To view this complete report, click the Kansas Statistical Abstract 2010 book image. Feel free to print individual tables or the abstract in its entirety. Reproduction is permitted on the condition that the sources are cited.

Kansas State Senate Passes Livable Streets Resolution



Efforts by Kansas City Healthy Kids, The Greater Kansas City Food Policy Coalition, Local Initiatives Support Corporation and others to promote healthy living was rewarded when the Kansas State Senate passed a Livable Streets Resolution on Thurs., Feb. 23. Also called Complete Streets, Livable Streets are created to enable safe travel by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders and drivers and people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults and individuals with disabilities. To learn more the about Kansas City Healthy Kids, click their logo above.

Resolution on Thurs., Feb. 23. Also called Complete Streets, Livable Streets are created to enable safe travel by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, public transportation riders and drivers and people of all ages and abilities, including children, youth, families, older adults and individuals with disabilities. To learn more the about Kansas City Healthy Kids, click their logo above.



Kansas Health Statistics Report

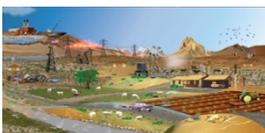
The Feb. 2012 edition of Kansas Health Statistics Report is available at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics website. Click on the KDHE logo to view the file of the issue. This edition contains the following articles:

following articles:

- Kansas Trends in Poisoning Morbidity and Mortality
- Suicides among Kansas Residents 2001-2010
- Newborn Screening Identifies 73 Kansas Infants with Inheritable Disorders
- Perinatal Periods of Risk Approach to Better Understand Fetal-Infant Mortality
- Trends in Breastfeeding Initiation Rates in Kansas, 2005-2010
- Pneumonia and Influenza Mortality, Kansas, 2010-2011

The Bureau publishes the Kansas Health Statistics Report quarterly. Kansas Health Statistics Report is available by electronic subscription. Send name changes or additions to the e-mail subscription list to:

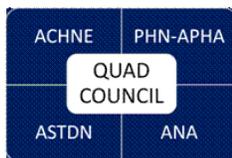
<mailto:Kansas.Health.Statistics@kdhe.state.ks.us>.



NLM Tox Town Web Site Adds US Southwest Neighborhood

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

Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations



The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations is taking the initiative to educate public health nurses (PHNs) who are interested in becoming certified in public health nursing. The Council is conducting a brief survey (13 items and should take no more than five minutes) hoping to gain a greater sense of incentives and barriers to obtaining advance practice certification. The survey results will inform the planning of an upcoming webinar for PHNs on continuing their education and seeking certification. Please assist by completing this brief survey. If you are a member of multiple organizations, you should only complete the survey once. Click the Quad Council logo to take the survey.

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NACCHO Prevention Messaging Research

Have you ever wondered why the public is so unaware of what community-based prevention does for them? And if it's so important, why does public health and prevention funding always get cut when national, state and local budgets get tight?

National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), the Partnership for Prevention, Trust for America's Health, American Public Health Association (APHA), Association of American Retired Persons (AARP), American Cancer Society and other national groups got together and decided to conduct public opinion research. To learn more click the NACCHO log above.

CDC Research Shows Outbreaks Linked to Imported Foods Increasing



Foodborne disease outbreaks caused by imported food appeared to rise in 2009 and 2010, and nearly half of the outbreaks implicated foods imported from areas which previously had not been associated with outbreaks, according to research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). To read more about this press release, click the CDC logo.

Digital Games Emerge as New Tool to Foster Health, Exercise



There are growing intersections between public health and digital games and video games, and avatar-based simulations are emerging as an effective way of teaching healthy behaviors. As part of Alabama's Wee Can Fight Obesity campaign, Halcyon Elementary is one of dozens of schools that received a free Nintendo Wii Fit, a video game system that requires players to move around to earn points, also known as 'exergaming.'

HHS Launches Public Health Challenge Based on Twitter



Studies are showing that trending topics on social media can serve as an early indicator and warning of emerging health issues within a community. The "Now Trending: #Health in My Community" Challenge is to develop and submit a web-based application that tracks Twitter to identify trending illnesses. Submissions are due June 1. To learn more click the "Enter Challenge to Win" logo.

Medical and Health Groups File Suit to Protect Limits on Mercury, Air Toxics Pollution



Five professional medical societies and public health groups have taken legal action to support public health safeguards that reduce mercury and toxic air pollution from power plants. The American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Lung Association, the American Nurses Association, the American Public Health Association, and Physicians for Social Responsibility, represented by the Southern Environmental Law Center, filed a motion to intervene in support of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Mercury and Air Toxics Standards, which set long-overdue limits on the emissions of hazardous air pollutants from coal- and oil-fired power plants. Click on the St. Clair Power Plant image to read more about this suit.

3-Step Competency Prioritization Sequence



A set of three quality improvement tools introduces an efficient, step-by-step process for selecting Core Competencies domains for workforce development that address gaps in current workforce strengths, while building competencies that will best advance a public health organization's strategic goals. The tool set consists of a radar chart, a prioritization matrix and a matrix diagram that, used in sequence, can assist in identifying where to invest limited professional development resources for the largest potential benefit. Steps for using each tool are provided, along with examples and blank templates that can be used by public health organizations in their own competency prioritization efforts. This three-step approach can be applied diversely—to shape a comprehensive workforce development plan, a division-specific plan, or an individual development plan.

Poll Shows Many Americans Ambivalent Over Laws Aimed at Healthy Living



According to a new Harris Interactive/HealthDay poll, most Americans remain ambivalent about the issue, agreeing that policies that aim to protect public health and safety are sometimes necessary, but believing as well that adults should take responsibility for their own actions, and consequences for health. With a recent flood of new regulations or proposals aimed at governing lifestyle choices such as smoking, eating or cellphone use, is the United States in danger of becoming a "nanny state." To read more about this poll, click the Harris Interactive logo.

A Day in the Life of Public Life



When looking for resources to share with your Boards of Health, Advisory Boards, Community Health Assessment Committee and Stakeholders, check out, "A Day in the Life of Public Health." This video was made possible by a grant from the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) and is available on the Kansas Public Health Association website. KHF is a philanthropy dedicated to improving the health of all Kansans. Based in Wichita, the Foundation's assets total over \$480 million with over \$23 million paid out annually in the areas of children's health, leadership, public health and policy. To view this video, click the KHF logo.

Job Openings

Reno County Health Department

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

- [Public Health Nurse I or II](#)



Shawnee County Health Department

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

- [Healthy Start Home Visitor](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse - Primary Care/Women's Health/Float](#)
- [Physician](#)



Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

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