



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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National Public Health Week

from the Kansas Public Health Association Website



Governor Brownback signed a proclamation on Mar. 22 in honor of National Public Health Week, Apr. 1-7, "Public Health is ROI: Save Lives, Save Money." The event was sponsored by University of Kansas masters in public health students and the [Kansas Public Health Association](#) (KPHA). If you are celebrating National Public Health Week in your community please share your activities and stories with KPHA

through the, "[Add My News](#)," link on the associations website. The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is the professional association for Kansas's public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates. KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans live will be healthy. KPHA's diverse membership is unified by a shared mission of, "Working for a Healthier Kansas."

**8th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference
Healthy Kansas Communities: A Roadmap to Wellness**

by the Governor's Public Health Conference Committee



This year's [8th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference, Healthy Kansas Communities: A Roadmap to Wellness](#) will be held Apr. 29 - May 1, in Wichita, Kansas. The conference will highlight public health processes to assess and measure progress in achieving individual and population health. These include Healthy Kansans 2020, The National Public Health Performance Standards Program, Public Health Accreditation, and the Maternal and Child Health Five-Year Needs Assessment.

Continuing medical education (CME) for physicians will be offered on the afternoon of the pre-session day along with continuing nursing education (CNE) and education credit for social workers for the entire conference.

[Four breakout session tracks](#) allow the public health workforce to address multiple program staff training and education needs in one location. Education topics include, Strategic Planning for a Local Health Department; Managing in Tough Times; Evidence-Based Weight Loss; Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Development in Kansas; Libraries: Your Partners for Healthy Communities; Applying Built Environment and Community Planning Tools and Resources to Public Health Practice; A Compass for Putting Equity into Practice: Tools and Some Lessons Learned from Just Health; Roadmap to a Healthy Kansas – Visions from our Health Foundations; and much more.

The conference committee hopes you will add this year's conference to your organization's itinerary. It's a destination that will increase the competency of everyone attending!

Kansas Health Matters Awarded Healthy Communities Institute Achievement Honor

by Mindee Reece, Director

Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



It was recently announced that the [Kansas Health Matters Web site](#), a comprehensive online source of state-specific data and community health improvement resources, has been selected to receive a [Healthy Communities Institute Achievement Award](#). Kansas Health Matters was one of three winners chosen from applicants across the country. The Kansas Health Matters Web site is the collaborative effort of eight

agencies, including the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Hospital Association, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas Health Foundation, Kansas Health Institute, United Way of the Plains, and University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development.

The Kansas Health Matters Web site is intended to help hospitals, health departments, community members and policymakers learn about the health of the community and how to improve it, providing local health data, resources, promising best practices, news articles and information about events related to important community health issues. Kansas Health Matters aims to support the development of community health assessments and community health improvement plans by hospitals and local health departments, but its content also is relevant for anyone interested in how to assess and improve the health of communities. Congratulations to all the partners involved in development of the Kansas Health Matters web site.

Health Facilities Program Welcomes Angela Jirik



*Joyce Smith, Director of Health Facilities Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Angela Jirik joined the Health Facilities Program on Mon. March 25 as the Health Facility Surveyor III/OASIS Manager. She is a registered nurse and previously worked for St. Luke's Hospital of Kansas City for 19 years as a Registered Nurse III and Clinical Nurse Manager. A native Topekan, Angela is a graduate of Hayden High School and received her bachelor of science in nursing from the University of Kansas School of Nursing. She also possess bachelor of arts degrees in Biochemistry and French from the University of Kansas.

Kansas Denim Day

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



Denim Day is a day to wear jeans to support victims of sexual violence and sexual violence prevention education. This year Denim Day is Wednesday, April 24 during Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) is encouraging state agencies, and other Kansas businesses and organizations to support Denim Day by allowing employees to wear jeans on Wed. , Apr. 24.

KDHE's Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program is providing employers information, flyers and denim day stickers for individuals who plan to wear jeans on April 24. If your organization would like to participate in Kansas

Denim Day contact Laurie Hart, Kansas Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program Manager, at Lhart@kdheks.gov or 785-296-8476.

In 1992, an 18-year old woman in Italy is picked up by her driving instructor for her very first lesson. He takes her to an isolated road, pulls her out of the car, wrestles her out of one leg of her jeans and forcefully rapes her. He then threatens to kill her if she tells anyone and makes her drive the car home. Later that night she tells her parents, and they help and support her to press charges. The perpetrator is arrested, prosecuted and convicted of rape. He is sentenced to jail.

The defendant appealed the sentence in 1999 and the Italian Supreme Court overturned the rape conviction, "because the victim wore very, very tight jeans, she had to help him remove them, and by removing the jeans it was no longer rape but consensual sex."

Outraged, female members of the Italian legislature protested the decision by wearing jeans. Since then, wearing jeans on Denim Day has been a symbol of support for victims of sexual violence and protest against the idea that a victim could cause their own rape.

Though the "jean" decision was eventually overturned in 2008, according to the Columbia Journal of European Law, Denim Day continues to bring awareness to the issue.

For more information about Denim Day, click on the logo above. To learn more about the Kansas Sexual Violence Prevention and Education Program and to access the Kansas Denim Day materials, click on the logo to the right.



Maryland Releases Results of Review of Kwiatkowski Case

from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Website



The Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene [released](#) the results of a review of the employment of radiographer David Kwiatkowski, whose drug diversion was implicated in healthcare-associated transmission of the hepatitis C virus in Kansas and several other states. The [Public Health Vulnerability Review](#) recommends areas where legal or regulatory protections could be strengthened to best protect patients. The report details opportunities in the areas of licensing and regulatory oversight of staffing agencies, licensing of allied health professionals, employment references and prevention of drug diversion.

EMSC Implements National Pediatric Readiness Project

*by Lori Haskett, Director of Injury/Disability Program
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's, Emergency Medical Services for Children Program (EMSC) will be implementing the National Pediatric Readiness Project from May to July 2013. The Project is a multi-phase quality improvement initiative to ensure that all U.S. emergency departments (EDs) have the essential guidelines and resources in place to provide effective emergency care to children. The first phase of this project will be a national assessment of EDs' readiness to care for children. The assessment is based on the following areas of the Joint Policy Statement: Guidelines for the Care of Children in the Emergency Department (published in [Pediatrics](#), October 2009 and [Annals of Emergency Medicine](#), October 2009). The primary purpose of this project is to establish a composite baseline of the nation's capacity to provide care to children in the ED; create a foundation for EDs to engage in an ongoing quality improvement process that includes implementing the [Guidelines for the Care of Children in the Emergency Department](#); and to establish a benchmark that measures an ED's improvement overtime. For more information, contact Lori Haskett at 785-296-8163.

Child Identification Stickers-WHALE Program



The Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office (KTSRO) has re-designed their kids identification stickers. WHALE (We have a little emergency) is an identification program for parents and caregivers who have children in car seats. In many cases, children are too young to identify themselves or provide information in the event of an automobile crash. Identification can be filled out and placed on the back of the car seat. Small stickers are provided to place on windows to alert law enforcement and EMS to look for contact information on the car seat.

These stickers are available by filling out the order form located on the KTSRO [forms page](#) or calling the KTSRO at 800-416-2522. Click the KTSRO logo for more information about other upcoming activities.

Perinatal Casualty Report Redesigned as Part of Quality Improvement Initiative

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

For years the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics (BEPHI) has prepared a perinatal casualty report for birthing hospitals. The report, also known as the K-10 report, has been revised and updated to support birth data quality improvement as well as providing general birth outcome statistics. The revised report is in an HTML format that permits email delivery as well as cutting and pasting of portions of the 45 sections. Occurrence-level versions of the report will be made available to hospitals and physicians on request. Annual residence level reports can be prepared for public health assessment purposes.

The report is one of two being made available to hospitals as KDHE works to improve the quality of birth certificate data. The Public Health Informatics (PHI) group at BEPHI runs weekly computer checks on over 200 items collected on birth and death certificates. Data that is missing, illogical, or out of range are evaluated by Office of Vital Statistics staff. Hospitals, physicians, and funeral directors are queried when the information needs correcting. In conjunction with the weekly evaluation PHI has created a quality tracking dashboard for birthing hospitals. The report follows a hospital's quality and completeness on 16 items from the birth certificate. A red light for an item will indicate the data quality needs to be improved. Green lights encourage the hospital to keep up their good work.

The new data quality reports will be highlighted at a birth clerk's training on Apr. 3. Birth clerks are an essential element of the birth certificate process, accessing information from the delivery, physicians and other sources to provide a complete picture of the birth. When that information is not available to them, the quality of the statistics BEPHI prepares can suffer. Parallel efforts are under way with other hospital officials and physicians to identify and address information gaps in prenatal care data needed for the birth certificate.

Improvements will take time to see. As with any quality improvement cycle, several iterative steps may be necessary to address the underlying challenges. Since the birth certificate is such an important public health information resource, the effort is worth it. County residence level K-10 reports are available for 2011 upon request. Contact Greg Crawford at 785-296-8627 to learn more or discuss obtaining a copy for your local health department.

Improving Reimbursement for Health Department Clinics Billing CoP



by Stephanie Lambert, EQRO Project Manager
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.

A new Billing Community of Practice (CoP) site, developed by the CDC Immunization Services Division (ISD) Billing Team, is open for registration. The Billing CoP was designed to allow local health departments, billing partners, and other interested parties to share experiences, success stories, tools, and ways of addressing barriers in planning and implementing billing programs. The Billing CoP is intended to:

- Connect members to partner organizations and state and local health departments that share an interest in billing
- Enable real-time collaboration and information sharing via a discussion board format
- Work toward solutions to issues identified as priorities within billing
- Provide a repository to post and access relevant billing documents and presentations
- Increase efficiency, in terms of time and cost, in accessing billing information

The community is open to *all programs and partners interested in billing* (not just immunization programs and partners).

The Billing CoP is hosted on the phConnect social media platform. phConnect was created in 2009 by the Public Health Informatics Institute (PHII). This online tool supports public health professionals and those interested in meeting, sharing ideas, and working together to advance public health. phConnect provides members with the ability to join communities, participate in discussions, and work on products with others in the field of public health.

For additional information and to obtain detailed registration instructions contact Stephanie Lambert-Barth, the Kansas Immunization Billing Project Manager, at slambert@kfmc.org, 785-271-4137 or click the KFMC logo.

Accreditation Corner

Assessment Reports Available



Brenda Nickel, MS, RN, Director
Center for Performance Management, KDHE

In Nov. 2012, an assessment of the Kansas public health system was conducted by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and with external partners and stakeholders the following day. The stated mission and goals of the National Public Health Performance standards Program (NPHPSP) are to improve the quality of public health practice and the performance of public health systems by:

- Provide performance standards for public health systems and encouraging their widespread use
- Encourage and leverage national, state, and local partnerships to build a stronger foundation for public health preparedness
- Promote continuous quality improvement of public health systems
- Strengthen the science base for public health practice improvement

The reports provide information and data on the Kansas capacity to meet population-focused environmental and health challenges. This information, as well as information obtained through the Healthy Kansans 2020 process should serve as a road



map to identifying potential public health challenges and provide a framework for guiding efforts to improve the health and well-being of Kansas residents. To access the reports, click the CPM logo.

Quality Improvement Trainings and Resources

The following organizations are providing Quality Improvement (QI) trainings:

- [NACCHO Introduction to QI](#)
- [Institute for Healthcare Improvement "How to Improve"](#)
- KS-Train Courses:
 - Operationalizing QI in Public Health, 90 minutes [Course ID 1029921](#)
 - Your Local Health Department: Introduction to QI, 30 minutes [Course ID 1034871](#)
 - Basic Quality Improvement Tools for Public Health, 60 minutes [Course ID 1018663](#)
 - Quality Improvement Quick Guide Tutorial, 40 minutes [Course ID 1030628](#)

Here are some helpful resources for QI:

- [PHF Quality Improvement \(QI\) Quick Guide](#) - The QI Quick Guide provides an introduction to quality improvement (QI) and a gateway to resources that public health professionals can use to pursue QI initiatives within their organizations
- [NNPHI's PH Performance Tool Kit](#) - Features a variety of tools and resources - including presentations, samples and guides - on many QI topic areas.
- [Resources for Public Health Quality Improvement](#) - The alphabetical list of resources selected by the Public Health Foundation (PHF) is intended to help public health leaders and practitioners apply quality improvement to programs and processes, with the ultimate goal of saving lives, cutting costs, and getting better results.
- [NACCHO Accreditation & QI Resources for Local Health Departments](#) - The QI Roadmap provides LHDs with guidance on progressing through six phases or levels of QI maturity until a culture of quality has been reached and can be sustained.
- [Embracing Quality in Public Health: A Practitioner's Quality Improvement Guidebook](#) - This second edition of *Embracing Quality in Public Health* reflects five years of study, action, and learning among the authors and many other generous, thoughtful individuals who contributed their time and talent to informing this resource.
- [Public Health Quality Improvement Encyclopedia: Public Health Foundation](#)



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



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

Elementary School Grants Available - Deadline Apr. 22



On Feb. 28, the Active Schools Acceleration Project (ASAP) launched as one of the collaborating partners of Michelle Obama's, "Let's Move! Active Schools." To support physical activity in school and accelerate the movement, ASAP is offering schools a new grant opportunity. Anyone who is interested in deploying a winning physical activity model in school, with a financial boost to get it going, should consider looking at ASAP. These grants are primarily aimed at Elementary school levels.

One million dollars of grants will be awarded (\$1,000 to each of 1,000 new schools), along with the materials and support to launch one of three physical activity model programs identified in ASAP's nationwide Innovation Challenge. This is a very simple application and designed to be a low-barrier way for a school to get involved in this movement.

Completed applications must be submitted by 10:59pm on April 22. Click the Active Schools logo for more details and the application process.

SFSP . . . Because Hunger Doesn't Take a Vacation - Deadline May 1

by Kansas State Department of Education



Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does the need for good nutrition. The Food and Nutrition Service Program (SFSP), an agency of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), provides free, nutritious meals and snacks to help children in low-income areas. Children will receive the nutrition they need to learn, play, and grow, throughout the summer months when they are out of school. The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) sponsors the SFSP for Kansans.

Children 18 and younger may receive free meals and snacks through SFSP. Meals and snacks are also available to persons with disabilities, over age 18, who participate in school programs for people who are mentally or physically disabled. Locally, SFSP is run by approved sponsors, including school districts, local government agencies, camps, or private nonprofit organizations. Sponsors provide free meals to a group of children at a central site, such as a school or a community center. They receive payments from USDA, through their State agencies, for the meals they serve and for their documented operating costs.

To find a location in your area click the KSDE logo. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor click the sunflower on the right. Deadline for application is May 1.



National Health Service Corps Scholarship Program - Deadline May 14

by Barbara Huske, Director of Primary Care

Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



Mar. 21, marked the opening of the 2013 National Health Service Corps (NHSC) Scholarship Program application cycle. The application cycle will remain open through May 14. The [Application and Program Guidance](#) can be found on the NHSC Website and contains all of the requirements and program details. Click the NHSC logo to learn more.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Roadmaps to Health Prize - Deadline May 23



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), "Roadmaps to Health Prize," is awarded annually to honor outstanding community efforts and partnerships that are helping people live healthier lives. Winning communities will each receive a \$25,000 cash prize and have their success stories celebrated and shared broadly with the goal of raising awareness and inspiring locally-driven change across the country. Up to six RWJF, "Roadmaps to

Health Prize," winning communities will be honored in 2014 and each will receive a no-strings-attached \$25,000 cash prize.

Each community applicant will be asked to designate a local governmental or tax exempt public charity to accept the \$25,000 prize on the community's behalf, should they win. For full eligibility and selection criteria, please read the call for applications by clicking the RWJF logo.

Safe Routes to School Program - Deadline June 7

by Becky Pepper, State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator

Kansas Department of Transportation



The Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) announced that it is accepting applications for the Safe Routes to School Program (SRTS). The SRTS program was created to encourage more children to walk and bicycle to school and to make it safer for them to do so. This federally funded program will provide reimbursements to cities, counties, and school districts for projects that focus around education, encouragement, enforcement, engineering and evaluation.

Click the KDOT logo to find a copy of the application information. Read the entire application guidance as procedures have changed since the last application cycle.

Run for Good - Deadline June 13



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

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

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



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

Letter of Inquiry via the Web site. To learn more click on the image of the Kozmetskys.

Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy - Deadline Sept. 25



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

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

Baseball Tomorrow Fund - Deadline Oct. 1



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

Training and Conferences Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

In the Know: Social Media for Public Health Webcast Series - Apr. 2 - June



National Prevention Information Network's (NPIN) "In the Know" webcast series is designed for you. There are a series of six webcasts beginning Apr. 2 through June 2013. Each webcast focuses on a different social media channel and providing basic information, tips, and hints for how to use them to meet your needs. To learn more or to register click the NPIN logo.

NACCHO Invites Poster Showcase Proposals for Annual Conference - Deadline April 5



The 2013 National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) Annual Conference Workgroup invites you to submit a Poster Showcase proposal for the upcoming NACCHO Annual 2013 Conference in Dallas, Texas, on July 10-12. The deadline for submissions is April 5. For more information about submitting a poster or more about the conference click the NACCHO conference logo.

PHAB Domain 8 Maintain a Competent Public Health Workforce Webinar - April 9



The Association for State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is very excited to have two states present case studies on Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Domain 8, via webinar, Tues. April 9, 12:30-1:30 pm. The *Oklahoma State Department of Health* and the *Florida Department of Health* will share first-hand their experiences addressing workforce assessment and workforce development plan.

Domain 8 focuses on the need for health departments to maintain a trained and competent workforce to perform public health duties. Continuous training and development of health department staff is required to ensure continued competence in a field that is making constant advances in collective knowledge and improved practices.

The two case studies will specifically address:

- Standard 8. 2 Assess staff competencies and address gaps by enabling organizational and individual training development opportunities: A health department workforce development plan can ensure that staff development is addressed, coordinated, and appropriate for the health department's needs. Staff job duties and performance should be regularly reviewed to note accomplishments and areas that need improvement.
- Measure 8. 2. 1 A: Maintain, implement and assess the health department workforce development plan that addresses the training needs of the staff and the development of core competencies.

To enroll in this webinar click the ASTHO logo.

Evaluating Legislation Impact: The Maryland Public Health Dental Hygiene Act - Apr. 9

from the American Public Health Association Website



Beginning on Oct. 1, 2008, the underserved in Maryland, especially children, gained increased access to oral health services through the Public Health Dental Hygiene Act of 2008. The act allows a dental hygienist working in a public health setting, including schools, to practice dental hygiene and apply sealants or fluoride agents, mouth rinse or varnish without a prior examination by a dentist or physician. In 2012, the Maryland Office of Oral Health was awarded funding by the American Public Health Association to evaluate the law's effects.

On Apr. 9, 1:30-2:30 p. m. a webinar will be facilitated by the American Public Health Association (APHA) on the results of the evaluation. This webinar will feature Harry Goodman, DMD, MPH, director of the Office Oral Health, who will give an overview of the law; Deborah Levy, MS, founder of SuccessLinks, LLC and evaluation consultant who will discuss the evaluation and Sue Camardese, RDH, MS, the public health dental hygienist at Chase Brexton Health Services in Columbia, Md., who will speak about how the law has affected their dental program. To register for this webinar click the APHA logo.

Vaccine Billing Webinars Now Available Through KS-TRAIN

*by Stephanie Lambert, EQRO Project Manager
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc.*



In 2012, the CDC Immunization Services Division (ISD) Billing Team partnered with America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) to develop a Webinar series to discuss and address key challenges faced by public health providers implementing billing programs. These archived webinars are now available for viewing through [KS-TRAIN](#). Course numbers, titles and presenter lists for each course are included below:

- Course ID 1042396: **Strategies for Contracting with Health Plans for Vaccine Delivery**
 - Barbara Lardy, MPH, Senior Vice President, Clinical Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, America's Health Insurance Plans
 - Wayne Rawlins, MD, MBA, National Medical Director, Racial and Ethnic Equality Initiatives, Aetna
 - Kate Reynolds, MHA, Enterprise Contract Manager, Provider Contracting and Reimbursement, Well-Point
 - Donna Dojan, MS, National Director, Contracting Policy, Standards and Compliance, Cigna
- Course ID 1042403: **Coding and Electronic Billing**
 - Barbara Lardy, MPH, Senior Vice President, Clinical Affairs and Strategic Partnerships, America's Health Insurance Plans
 - Wayne Rawlins, MD, MBA, National Medical Director, Racial and Ethnic Equality Initiatives, Aetna
 - Katherine Abel, CPC, CPMA, CPC-I, CMRS, Director of Curriculum, AAPC

- Michele Darnell, Vice President, Secure Exchange Solutions
- Shannon Montgomery, Aetna Learning Consultant, Communications Production and Education, Aetna
- Course ID 1042408: **Other Issues in Establishing a Vaccine Billing Infrastructure**
 - Wayne Rawlins, MD, MBA, National Medical Director, Racial and Ethnic Equality Initiatives, Aetna

For detailed instructions about accessing these courses and additional information about the KS-TRAIN system, please [click here](#).

Sharpened Focus on Mental Health First Aid



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

USDA WIC Courses Posted to TRAIN

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

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

Public Health Accreditation Board Online Orientation Available on TRAIN

by the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



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

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

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

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

Looking for Continuing Nursing Education Credit, Consider the Individual Offering Approach

from the Kansas State Board of Nursing Website



There are often times that nursing professionals attend education offerings that do not provide Kansas State Board of Nursing (KSBN) prior approved Continuing Nursing Education (CNE) credit. Any course not approved by a recognized CNE provider must go through the individual offering approval process. This would include all college courses and all courses provided by other health care providers. KSBN has posted to their website a one page [Nursing Individual Offering Approval Form](#) that can be completed by the professional nurse and mailed into KSBN.

Hearing Screen Certification

by Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Nancy Price, M. A. , CCC-AUD/SLP, Educational Audiologist & Speech-Language Pathologist will be conducting Level 1 and Level 2 trainings in Kansas in coordination with the University of Kansas (KU) Area Health Education Center (AHEC). The first Level 1 training will be Apr. 29-30 in Lawrence. Click the KU AHEC logo to download the course information. Questions may be directed to Terri Schmitz at tschmitz@kumc.edu or 620-235-4040.



News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Building Healthier Communities



Action Communities for Health, Innovation and EnVironmental change (ACHIEVE) fosters collaborative partnerships to enhance local communities' abilities to help prevent or manage health-risk factors for heart disease, stroke, diabetes, cancer, obesity and arthritis.

Click on the ACHIEVE logo to learn more.

NACCHO Obesity Prevention/Physical Activity/Nutrition



The Nation Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), in cooperation with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, seeks to address issues related to the obesity endemic in the United States and develop interventions

through evidence-based, cost-effective strategies which can have a significant impact on our nation's health. To learn more click the NACCHO logo.

County Health Rankings Show Healthiest and Least Healthy Counties in Every State



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has prepared a new report, "County Health Rankings." This report examines the health and well-being of people living in nearly every county in the United States, and finds that rates of premature deaths are at the lowest level in 20 years. This

report contains data and analysis that allows counties to see what it is that is making residents sick or healthy and how to they compare to other counties in the same state. Click the RWJ logo to learn more.

HHS Releases Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report



The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, in partnership with the President's Council on Fitness, Sports and Nutrition, has released the, "Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans Midcourse Report: Strategies to Increase Physical Activity Among Youth." This report examines the evidence related to strategies to increase physical activity among children and adolescents. To learn more about the report click the

HHS logo.

Research on Public Health Services and Systems Shows Promise: Growing Field



An article published in, "The Nation's Health" by the American Public Health Association (APHA) shows how many communities now are benefiting from public health services and systems research. The report addresses the organization, structure, financing and delivery of public health services and their impact on people's health. To read this article, click the APHA logo.

Sugary Drinks Tied to 25,000 U. S. Deaths a Year



This article provided by the Medline Plus, "Trusted Health Information for You," reports that more than 180,000 deaths worldwide in 2010 were linked to a high intake of sugar-laden drinks, including approximately 25,000 deaths in

the United States. These latest findings show a correlation between high consumption and deaths from heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers. To read more of this article, click the Medline Plus logo.

Bridging Clinical Medicine and Public Health

from the American Public Health Association Website



"Health reform is a catalyst for innovation," so writes Terry Allan, health commissioner of the Cuyahoga County Board of Health, Ohio. As the three-year anniversary of the Affordable Care Act approaches, "Public Health Newswire," is publishing a new series on the law's impact since its enactment, written by contributing authors with varying public health perspectives. Check out Commissioner Allan's article on, "Bridging Clinical Medicine and Public Health" by clicking the image of Allan. The American Public Health Association, Public Health Newswire tracks the latest news in public health.

Healthcare-Associated Infections



The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) and Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) have released a new policy backgrounder, "[HAI \(Healthcare-Associated Infection\) Prevention and Policy Implementation](#)". The two-page brief will serve as a tool for communicating about HAI prevention with policymakers. These reports and other resources, such as state legislative tracking, are available on the [ASTHO HAI page](#). A summary of the ASTHO and CDC collaborative project is available in [an article](#) by CDC in the American Health Lawyers Association's magazine, "AHLA Connections."

Green Spring Cleaning



After a long winter, it's time for spring-cleaning. Unfortunately, many home cleaning products are loaded with strong, artificial colors and fragrances and harsh cleansing agents like bleach, ammonia and acids. These chemicals can produce indoor air pollution by off-gassing toxic fumes that can irritate eyes and lungs, especially in children and pets. Commercial cleansers also cost a lot! Even the biggest messes and toughest stains can be attacked effectively with baking soda, borax, lemon juice and other simple ingredients. Click the Green Team logo to download the, "Green Spring Cleaning – Kansas Green Guide for March."

Job Openings

Finney County Health Department

The Finney County Health Department is accepting application for the following position:

- [WIC Breastfeeding Counselor](#)



Johnson County Health Department

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

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Lawrence Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Lyon County Health Department

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

- [LPN – Part-Time](#)



Riley County Health Department

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

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



Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Registered Dietician - WIC](#)



Shawnee County Health Agency

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

- [Health Information Management Systems Manager](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

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

- [Disease Intervention Specialist](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Program Aide-WIC](#)



Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

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

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov

Previous issues of Public Health Connections maybe found at

www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov or

Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov

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