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New Rankings Shed Light on Where Kansas Counties Could Improve Health

from the Kansas Health Institute website



The [Kansas Health Institute](#) (KHI) reported in March that the new county health rankings have been released. Each year, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute rank nearly all the counties in the country according to a set of criteria related to the physical environment, social and economic factors, clinical care, and health behaviors.

While there is a significant disparity in health ranking in the urban Kansas City area, the 2016 report focused on disparities between urban, rural, suburban and smaller metro counties of states. It shows that people in rural areas are more likely to be obese, uninsured and smokers. According to the 2016 Rankings, the five healthiest counties in Kansas, starting with the most healthy, are Johnson, followed by Thomas, Logan, Pottawatomie and Doniphan. The five counties in the poorest health, starting with the least healthy, are Wyandotte, Labette, Decatur, Cherokee and Wilson.

The Kansas Health Institute created individual county data pages for all of the counties in Kansas. Access your county's page on the [KHI website](#), and access the entire Kansas report at [countyhealthrankings.org](#).

Spring 2016 Regional Public Health Meetings Scheduled

*by Teri Caudle, RN, PHN, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The 2016 Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) sponsored regional public health meetings are designed to connect local health departments (LHD) with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. They also provide the opportunity to network with other administrators and public health professionals. These meetings are planned for the local LHD administrator; however, any staff person interested in a particular topic is welcome to attend. Register on KS-TRAIN <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1062831.

The agenda includes the following: What Can I Expect? Alzheimer's Association Regional Staff; Update on Kansas Local Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), Ghazala Perveen, Director of Science and Surveillance and Pratik Pandya, Advanced Epidemiologist, KDHE; Clinical Responsibilities for Coding and Billing, Aaron Davis, Project Manager, WSU Community Engagement Institute--Center for Public Health Initiatives.

The dates and locations for the meetings are:

- SE Region, Chanute - April 14
- SC Region, Hutchinson - May 4
- SW Region, Garden City - May 11
- NW Region, Oakley - May 12
- NC Region, Beloit - June 1
- NE Region, Topeka - June 14

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics please contact Teri Caudle at tcaudle@kdheks.gov.

Are You Up to Date on Public Health?

Test your public health news knowledge with the Nation's Health News [quiz](#).

Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool (PEMAT)

by Alicia Lillich, Kansas Outreach and Technology Coordinator
National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region



How do you know if patients will understand and follow their instructions? A lot of patient handouts and patient education materials found online might give great information, but these are essentially useless if a patient can't act upon that information. There are numerous tools for evaluating reading level and organization of information. These can be great for gauging if a patient will be able to understand, but they don't tell you if the patient is able to take action.

The [Patient Education Materials Assessment Tool](#) (PEMAT) from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is a tool to evaluate a patient handout or audio/visual material for its understandability and its actionability. This tool is a step-by-step evaluation with 26 items to check for and assess as a simple, yes or no. There are separate items for print versus audiovisual.

For example, when discussing nutrition, does the material provide a tangible tool, such as a meal planner or grocery checklist? If it does, it is actionable. A patient can immediately take action and start filling out the meal planner or take the grocery list of healthy foods to the store that night. Without the action component, the material is only giving the patient information. They are educated, but have not taken steps to apply that newfound knowledge.

PEMAT helps check for actionability where other assessment tools would not. While instructions such as "patients should take twice daily" sound clear on their surface, PEMAT can help frame the instructions to be more actionable. "You should take one in the morning and one at night" are more clear, explicit instructions. The use of active voice clarifies not only what the patient should do, but when. These definite terms are helpful for a patient and a benefit of actionable instructions.

Article questions can be directed to Alicia Lillich, MLS, Kansas Coordinator for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region at alillich@kumc.edu.

What Role Does Dairy Play in the Healthy Eating Patterns Defined by the 2015 Dietary Guidelines

by Marley Sugar, Midwest Dairy Council



The new guidelines propose three different healthy eating patterns: Healthy U.S.-Style, Healthy Vegetarian and Healthy Mediterranean-Style and dairy foods are a part of all three. The Dietary Guidelines note strong evidence that healthy eating patterns are associated with a reduced risk of cardiovascular disease. Moderate evidence indicates that healthy eating patterns are associated with a reduced risk of type 2 diabetes, certain types of cancer...overweight and obesity. While there may be several ways to build a healthy diet, low-fat and fat-free dairy foods like milk, cheese and yogurt play an essential role due to their unique set of nutrients and contributions to health benefits, not to mention taste, satisfaction and enjoyment. Do you get your three daily servings of dairy, cow's milk, cheese and yogurt? Join the Dairy 3 for Me movement and pledge your commitment to getting your three recommended servings of dairy every day. You can take the pledge by simply using the #Dairy3forMe hashtag on Twitter or by signing up on MidwestDairy.com, where you can also find recipes and information about the value of dairy.

Rural Health Grant Writing Workshop - May 4 & 5, Hays

by Sara Roberts, Director,
Kansas Office of Primary Care and Rural Health, KDHE



Join the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health and the Kansas Office of Primary Care and Rural Health for a 1.5 day rural health-focused grant writing workshop, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., May 4 and 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., May 5, Best Western Butterfield Inn, Hays. This interactive training will explore how to identify funders and prepare a successful grant application including: grant planning, developing an effective needs statement, writing goals and objectives, preparing work plans, identifying key personnel, and creating realistic budgets.

Who should attend:

- Organizations and individuals: rural healthcare providers, clinics, hospitals, public health professionals who wish to address rural health issues in their community.
- Beginning grant writers seeking to understand the techniques to research and draft winning grant proposals.

There is a \$30 fee to cover lunch and workshop materials. To register for this event [click here](#). Contact Ashley Muninger, ashleym@nosorh.org or 620-481-9797 with questions.

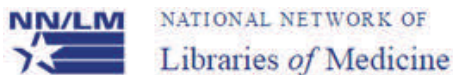
Zika Virus Testing Requires Approval



There are several clinical laboratories that are advertising Zika virus testing capabilities. Please be aware that none of these tests have undergone Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approval, clearance, or authorization and these tests cannot be used for clinical diagnosis. FDA is reaching out to these potential commercial product manufacturers to encourage them to develop and submit applications for emergency use of diagnostic tests for Zika virus. FDA is also working closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to expand the availability of diagnostic testing at other public health labs. At this time, testing in Kansas is only available through CDC and does require approval from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). For information on Zika virus testing call the KDHE Epidemiology Hotline at 877-427-7317.

Resources for Complementary and Alternative Medicine: When East meets West

by Alicia Lillich, Kansas Outreach and Technology Coordinator
National Network of Libraries of Medicine, MidContinental Region



In 2007, 38.1 million adults made an estimated 354.2 million visits to complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practitioners. Of the \$33.9 billion spent on visits, products, classes and materials, \$14.8 billion was spent on non-vitamin products such as, Echinacea, enzymes, ginseng, garlic, soy and flax.

CAM brings together a diverse range of healing philosophies, therapies and products. Complementary medicine is used together with conventional medicine. Discussing CAM usage with members of the health care team – including doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and dentists - is vital. Some complementary or alternative products or practices may be unsafe.

On average, a patient will spend 20 minutes with a nurse or physician's assistant and 10.7 minutes with the doctor. It's not a lot of time to communicate about health history and current health issues, and non-prescribed products or practices, but a patient's use of CAM should be shared with care providers. A recent survey of individuals over the age of 50 showed that only 28 percent discussed the use of CAM with a physician and only 12 percent with a nurse or nurse practitioner.

Consumers use technology to communicate with health care providers, access their electronic health record, and search for health information. Individuals seeking information on CAM may find a dizzying array of resources online, and it's important to know which sites are providing authoritative, non-biased information and those trying to sell a product or treatment. To read the complete article and access CAM resources [click here](#).

NURSE Corps Scholarship Program - Deadline May 5



The 2016 NURSE Corps Scholarship Program application cycle is now open and will close on May 5, 8:30 p.m. Please refer to the [2016 Application and Program Guidance](#) for all of the program requirements. The NURSE Corps Scholarship Program enables students accepted or enrolled in a diploma, associate, baccalaureate or graduate nursing program, including RN to BSN, RN to MSN-NP, and Direct Entry MSN-NP program to receive funding for tuition, fees and other educational costs in exchange for working at an eligible NURSE Corps site upon graduation.

ACCREDITATION CORNER

Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships - April to June Webinars



[Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships](#) (MAPP) is a community-driven strategic planning process for improving community health. Facilitated by public health leaders, this framework helps communities apply strategic thinking to prioritize public health issues and identify resources to address them. MAPP is not an agency-focused assessment process; rather, it is an interactive process that can improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and ultimately the performance of local public health systems. Upcoming Webinars:

- The 4 MAPP Assessments, Monday, April 18, 1:15 - 2:00 p.m., [Register here](#). During this webinar, Katy Gore, Program Analyst on Community Health Promotion, will describe the purpose and phases of the MAPP process, how MAPP can be used to achieve community health improvement goals, each of the four MAPP Assessments and where to find resources for MAPP implementation.

- Identifying Strategic Issues and Formulating Goals and Strategies, Wednesday, May 11, 1:15 - 2:00 p.m., [Register here](#). During this webinar, Tiffany Huang, Program Analyst on Performance Improvement, will describe the purpose and phases of the MAPP process, how MAPP can be used to achieve community health improvement goals, how to identify strategic issues and formulate goals and strategies, and where to find resources for MAPP implementation.

- Action Cycle and Evaluation, Wednesday, June 8, 1:15 - 2:00 p.m., [Register here](#). During this webinar, Pooja Verma, Sr. Program Analyst on Performance Improvement, will describe the purpose and phases of the MAPP process, how MAPP can be used to achieve community health improvement goals, develop an action cycle, evaluate the MAPP process, and where to find resources for MAPP implementation.

Public Health Departments Have Lower Standards than Zoos

GOVERNING

Libraries, universities and even zoos have national accreditation standards they must meet. But [public health departments](#) -- the very agencies that oversee disease outbreaks and the sanitation of restaurants and drinking water -- don't. There is, however, a movement to change that. A national accreditation board for state and local public health departments (PHAB) was officially formed in 2011, but the process is currently voluntary. Since then, 96 agencies across the country, out of 2,615, have received accreditation, with an additional 253 in the process. If all 253 attain accreditation, that still only makes 13 percent. Some states, like Illinois and New York, have started encouraging their local public health departments to get accredited. Ohio, though, is one of the first states to make it mandatory. A law passed in 2013 requires all local public health departments to become accredited by 2020. If they don't, they'll lose state and federal funding.

Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project



It isn't too late to participate in the Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project (KARP). The project is an opportunity for local health departments to better understand how they may use the accreditation process to develop practices and strategies to become a high performing health department. Each month focuses on a single Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) domain, and the group will work through the domains in numerical order. The monthly learning collaborative webinars are on the third Thursday of each month at 2 p.m. via Adobe Connect. The sessions are one hour long with some homework. You do not need to commit to the entire year—feel free to join any sessions of interest to you. To participate, contact Katie Mahuron at Katie.Mahuron@wichita.edu or 316-978-6776.

Funding Opportunities

Telehealth Network Grant Program from HRSA - Due April 8



The Health Resources and Services Administration recently announced the [2016 Telehealth Network Grant Program \(TNGP\)](#), with 20 expected awards and an estimated total program funding of \$6 million due April 8. The primary objective of the TNGP is to demonstrate how telehealth programs and networks can improve access to quality health care services in rural, frontier and underserved communities. TNGP networks are used to expand access to, coordinate and improve the quality of health care services; improve and expand the training of health care providers; and/or expand and improve the quality of health information available to health care providers, patients and their families for decision-making. Eligible applicants include rural or urban nonprofit entities that will provide services through telehealth. Each entity participating in the networks may be a nonprofit or for-profit entity. Faith-based and community-based organizations, and tribal organizations are eligible to apply. There is no cost sharing or matching requirement. Go to [Apply at Grants.gov by April 8](#). Questions can be directed to Carlos Mena at cmena@hrsa.gov.

2016 Innovations in Rural Health Award - Deadline April 29



The Katie B. Reynolds Charitable Trust recently announced the 2016 New Rural: Innovations in Rural Health Award. The funders are seeking original, innovative solutions that have the potential to drive health improvement in rural communities. These don't have to be finalized projects—and submissions from around the country that highlight new ideas and emerging work are encouraged. Individuals, for-profits, nonprofits and government agencies are welcome to apply. Finalists will receive a \$7,500 award and one innovative and inspiring idea will win the New Rural Award and a total of \$25,000. Download the [Call for Submissions](#) to find out how to enter. Applications will be accepted until 10:59 p.m., April 29.

Request For Proposals Issued for Sunflower Trails - Due May 2, 4:00 p.m.



Sunflower Foundation
HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

The Sunflower Foundation is pleased to announce the 2016 Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the [Sunflower Trails program](#). The foundation invites municipalities, schools and non-profit organizations to submit proposals for building, enhancing or connecting trails in order to create safe, accessible places for outdoor physical activity and community engagement. "It is a pleasure to partner with communities on trail projects to encourage physical activity for all ages and abilities," said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation. "It is wonderful to see trails become hubs of activity in a community, providing opportunities for social interaction and for connecting to nature."

There are a variety of funding options for potential trail projects. Applicants are invited to review the following RFPs as a first step to determine the best fit for their project.

- RFP #16-102 – Community-Based New Trails or Trail Expansion. This RFP is designed for communities seeking to construct a trail at least 1/2 mile long, or expand an existing trail by adding 1/2 mile. Funding is available up to \$55,000, contingent upon project budget and bids. All grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.
- RFP #16-103 – Community-Based Existing Trail Improvements. This RFP is designed for communities that wish to improve an existing trail with either safety infrastructure (e.g., bridges), trees for trail shading and/or distance signage. Funding is available up to \$20,000, contingent upon project budget and bids. All grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.
- RFP #16-104 – Community-Based Trail Connectors. This RFP is designed for communities seeking to link an existing trail with another trail or key access point to improve usability. The trail connector may be less than 1/2 mile. Funding is available up to \$30,000, contingent upon project budget and bids. All grants require a \$1 for \$1 match.

For more information on the application process and to download the RFPs and corresponding documents, visit SunflowerFoundation.org/RFPs. Online applications are due Monday, May 2 at 4:00 p.m. Funding awards will be announced mid-June.

RWJF Evidence for Action - Call for Proposals - No Deadline for Submission

This national program from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, aims to provide individuals, organizations, communities, policymakers and researchers with the empirical evidence needed to address the key determinants of health encompassed in the [Culture of Health Action Framework](#). The program encourages and supports creative, rigorous research on the impact of innovative programs, policies and partnerships on health and well-being, and on novel approaches to measuring health determinants and outcomes. [Proposals](#) are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year.



Training and Conference Announcements

CDC Learning Connection Announces Changes for April 1



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Learning Connection has been working behind the scenes to build a new and improved website. CDC is excited to announce the new site will go live April 1, just in time for National Public Health Week. Be sure to mark your calendars so you can be one of the first to experience the next evolution of CDC LC. The [CDC Learning Connection \(CDC LC\)](#) connects the health workforce to quality public health training opportunities and educational tools. Through website features, social media, and this e-newsletter, CDC LC is the ideal place to stay abreast of new public health learning opportunities, including many that offer free continuing education (CE). Tell your colleagues about CDC LC and encourage them to [sign up](#) to receive these monthly e-newsletters.

Medicaid Program Training Offered - Spring Sessions Conclude Early April



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Division of Health Care Finance spring Medicaid Training courses conclude early in April. The courses in this curriculum provide an overview of the Kansas Medicaid and Medicaid eligibility. Interested staff can register for each of the courses on a single day or over the course of several days. Registration is first-come, first-served, and must be done on the KS-TRAIN website at <https://ks.train.org>. All training sessions will be held at four locations and are noted on each session in KS-TRAIN. Session locations are listed below.

KDHE Medicaid Training includes many valuable resources. This is an instructor led interactive training for any staff in any agency that deals with Medicaid (KanCare). Certificates will be provided through KS-TRAIN upon completion of the course evaluation. Courses being offered:

- [DHCF: Medicaid Eligibility Overview \(1062099\)](#), Eisenhower State Office Building, Topeka, April 5 or 7 or Landon State Office Building, Topeka, April 1
- [DHCF: Medicaid Overview \(1062097\)](#), Eisenhower State Office Building, Topeka, April 5, 7 or 8
- [DHCF: Introduction to Medicaid Finance \(1062101\)](#), Eisenhower State Office Building, Topeka, April 5
- [DHCF: Medicaid Waivers \(1062094\)](#), Landon State Office Building, Topeka, April 1

Questions can be directed to Carol Arace at carace@kdheks.gov or 785-296-4753.

Earth Day Webinar - April 22



April 22 is Earth Day! What better time to hear about the efforts underway by dairy farmers in the midwest and other dairy community leaders to minimize overall impact on the environment. Do you find that more people are interested in both the nutrition in their food and *how* it was produced? Midwest Dairy Council invites you to participate in a webinar on April 22 that will showcase tools and metrics to help dairy farmers measure their overall impact on the environment as they continuously work to be even better environmental stewards, share success stories of dairy farmers from the midwest who are committed to on-farm sustainability efforts, and an update on the latest sustainability-focused research that will ultimately help minimize overall environmental impact. The webinar will offer a wide variety of examples to help answer questions about the dairy community's proactive role in the area of sustainability. [Register now](#) – if you have a scheduled conflict, you will receive a link to the recording for replay at a later date, as long as you were registered.

EDW Provider Trainings

by the Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE



The Early Detection Works (EDW) program provides life-saving breast and cervical cancer services to low income, uninsured and underinsured women in Kansas. In-person provider staff trainings for the EDW payment submission process are being held in central and western Kansas during March and April. Northeast and Southeast Kansas EDW providers have received the training and attendee evaluations were positive regarding the efficiency of the training, the ease of use of the data system and the helpfulness of the provider handbook. Please contact your EDW regional nurse for a list of trainings coming to your region.

EDW providers in all regions of the state have received new contracts. If you are an EDW provider and have not received a contract or if you are interested in becoming an EDW provider, please contact Liz Varner at 785-296-1207.

Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Spring 2016 Series - April 6

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH GRAND ROUNDS

The University of Kansas Preventive Medicine and the Kansas University Area Health Education Center in collaboration with the Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council will be broadcasting Challenges in Preventing Unplanned Pregnancy in Kansas: Evidence, Policy and Practice, Wednesday, April 6, 12-1:00 p.m. via Adobe Connect. There is no fee to participate in this session, however, webinar pre-registration is required by close of business Friday, April 1. The Grand Rounds committee invite physicians, advanced practice nurses, nurses, social workers and public health professionals to join in the learning event.

Nearly half of all pregnancies in the U.S. are unintended, yet highly effective forms of contraception, like intrauterine devices (IUDs) and implants remain underutilized. To examine the role of state initiatives in facilitating access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) methods, the Grand Rounds presenters will discuss published evidence describing actions in Texas and Colorado. Preliminary findings on LARC availability through Kansas local health departments will also be shared. Speakers for this learning event are Representative Barbara Bollier, M.D., Tawana Evans, M.D./MPH Student, Meghan Ramaswamy, Ph.D., MPH and Catherine Lindsey Satterwhite, Ph.D., MSPH, MPH.

Objectives - At the completion of the session, participants will be able to:

- Describe the frequency of unintended pregnancy in the U.S. and Kansas and adverse outcomes of unintended pregnancy
- Discuss the role of long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) in preventing unintended pregnancy and barriers women face in getting LARC
- Describe state-level effects of family planning policies on LARC access

[Click here](#) to access the Grand Rounds details including registration and login information.

Local Health Department Fundamentals Webinar Series #3 - April 18

*by Sonja Armbruster, Director, Center for Public Health Initiatives, WSU
Michelle Ponce, Director, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments*



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INSTITUTE
Center for Public Health Initiatives

The WSU Center for Public Health Initiatives (CPHI), with funding support from the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and content support from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, has developed a three-part webinar series to help

local health department staff learn more about three key elements of the Kansas Public Health System. The final webinar is April 18 at 12:00 p.m.

The April 18 webinar will cover workforce development. Effective public health practice requires a well prepared workforce. This includes hiring productive staff who value customer satisfaction, evaluating staff effectiveness, and planning to properly train staff through continuing education. Join us for our final webinar to learn more about workforce development.

Contact Kristina Helmer at kristina.helmer@wichita.edu for registration information or questions.

Preparedness Summit 2016 - April 19 to 22



Resilience – adaptation in the face of adversity – is often the difference between a community that can survive and thrive after a disaster, and one that struggles over years to recover. In 2013, the Rockefeller Foundation created 100 Resilient Cities – an organization dedicated to helping cities around the world build resilience to the social, economic, and physical challenges that are an increasing part of the 21st century. The Rockefeller Foundation and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) are now working together to build a vision for resilient communities. The 2016 Preparedness Summit's opening plenary will explore public health's integral role in making this goal of more resilient communities a reality. HUD's Marion McFadden and the 100 Resilient Cities' Andrew Salkin will join Dr. Nicole Lurie from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response to discuss their programs and public health's vital place in the federal government's community resilience efforts. Learn more about the conference in Dallas and [register](#) here. Also, Kansas's own, Fred the Preparedness Dog will be giving a demonstration session at the Summit.

Performance Management: Improving the Improvement - April 21, Webinar



The Public Health Foundation will be sponsoring a [performance management webinar](#), April 21, at 11:00 a.m. Hear information about performance management, including tips and strategies for continuously improving a performance management system. Two local health departments will share their experiences for building, maintaining, and continuously improving their performance management systems. [Register today](#).

Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment E-Learning Course



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Learning Connection featured the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Value Enhanced Nutrition Assessment (VENA) e-learning course that is posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course ID# 1062362. VENA is part of the Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) initiative to revitalize nutrition services – expanding the purpose of nutrition assessment to include nutrition education in addition to eligibility determination. This course, intended for WIC staff, consists of three modules:

- Introduction to VENA
- Critical Thinking
- A Health Outcome-Based Assessment.

Take the course and learn how to encourage your clients to make healthier food choices.

2016 Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference - April 26-28



The 2016 Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference will open with the pre-conference sessions April 26 and general conference April 27-28 at the Marriott in Wichita. The public health pre-conference session, Tuesday, April 26, will include an interactive session by the Public Health Law Center and a session by the Wichita State University Center for Public Health Initiatives on addressing planned or emergency staffing changes; the Maternal and Child Health pre-conference session provides opportunities to learn more about the Title V Maternal and Child Health program and Title X Family Planning guidelines.

New this year—the conference committee has partnered with the [Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children \(KADEC\)](#). KADEC will host an all-day pre-conference session, Tuesday, April 26, which will be beneficial for front line staff. Topics include current drug trends, how to identify children living in drug environments and adverse childhood experiences.

The two day general conference will feature state and nationally recognized keynote speakers on topics including the impact of childhood stress and trauma on adult health outcomes, cultural competency, recent disease outbreaks and emerging threats, and the impact of prescription drug abuse on public health. In addition, a wide selection of breakout sessions tailored to meet the changing needs of the populations served through public health programs and initiatives will be offered.

The Maternal and Child Health and Healthy Start Home Visitor sessions will address safe sleep, developmental screenings, safe homes, infant child development and mental health, tobacco cessation during pregnancy, home visitor safety, bullying prevention and intervention, and more.

The public health sessions will include adverse childhood experiences, public health law, quality improvement, environmental health, chronic disease self-management in schools, sexual violence prevention in schools, e-cigarettes and other learning opportunities. The conference will also include café sessions which offer participants an opportunity to participate in a range of focused topics including EpiTrax, Catalyst, oral health, breastfeeding, workforce development initiatives and more in a roundtable setting.

Registration for the 2016 Kansas Governor's Public Health Conference is through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1062257. [Click here](#) to access the conference brochure.

Recruiting Stepping On Program Leaders - May 3,4,5

by the Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE



Stepping On is a program that helps older adults reduce falls. The program incorporates a range of issues including falls and risks, strength and balance exercises, medication review, vision exams, home safety, safe footwear, and what to do and how to cope after a fall. The Stepping On course consists of seven two-hour weekly classes, a home assessment at three months and a six-month follow-up. Stepping On is research-based and scientifically proven to reduce falls by more than 30 percent among participants.

Individuals who have successfully completed a three-day Leader Training facilitate Stepping On community workshops. Stepping On Master Trainers are holding a Leader Training on May 3, 4 and 5 in WaKeeney. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Stepping On Leader in Kansas, please contact Lori Haskett at 785-296-8163 or Lhaskett@kdheks.gov. Visit <https://wihealthyaging.org/stepping-on> to learn more about Stepping On.

Public Health Improvement Training - Registration Deadline, May 10



The Public Health Improvement Training (PHIT): Advancing Performance in Agencies, Systems & Communities to be held Wednesday, June 15 & Thursday, June 16 in Baltimore, MD, offers a variety of hands-on training workshops and networking opportunities to take action in public health performance improvement. Topics include performance management, quality improvement, national voluntary accreditation, health assessment and improvement planning and workforce development.

PHIT attendees have the opportunity to network and participate in a variety of interactive learning and skill-building sessions designed for different experience levels. PHIT is produced by the National Network of Public Health Institutes, in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. There is a \$150 fee to attend—register early to save your seat. [Scholarships applications](#) are now being accepted for PHIT through April 20. To read more about this learning event, [click here](#).

Kansas Community Health Worker Symposium - May 11, Wichita



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Wichita State University – Community Engagement Institute, and the Kansas Health Foundation invite you to a [Kansas Community Health Worker \(CHW\) Symposium](#) May 11 in Wichita. The event will provide a venue where all stakeholders can better understand the progress and barriers associated with CHWs specific to Kansas; offer an opportunity for networking among the CHWs and their organizations across the state and focus on designing CHW infrastructure and systems rather than skill building. The long-term goal of the CHW Symposium is to help reduce health disparities and increase access to care through CHWs in Kansas. Click the link above to access the symposium invitation and registration information.

Personal Protective Equipment – Training, Use and Practice for Health and Medical Personnel Dates Scheduled Through June 2016



Make plans to attend one of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment sponsored trainings on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The course is presented by the Kansas National Guard, 73rd Civil Support Team and is designed to provide attendees with information and ample time for hands on practice of donning and doffing. Course content focuses on highly infectious disease events. Specific course information and registration for the PPE training is on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course ID# 1056977. Space in each class is limited, so mark your calendar and register now to attend. There is no fee to attend this course.

The following are the dates and locations scheduled for the trainings. For detailed course information and address for training venue, go to KS-TRAIN.

- April 13, 2016 - Hutchinson
- April 14, 2016 - Hoisington
- May 17, 2016 - Marysville
- May 18, 2016 - Abilene
- June 8, 2016 - Oakley
- June 9, 2016 - Beloit

If you have questions, or need additional information, contact Lisa Williams, lawilliams@kdheks.gov or 785-296-1984.

CDC Launches New 2016 Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials Course



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention launched a new course in March--Packaging and Shipping Division 6.2 Materials: What the Laboratorian Should Know for 2016, Course ID #1062513. In order to be certified, or recertified, to ship laboratory materials you must complete training on the hazardous materials regulations as well as some facility specific training. This online course uses a problem solving approach to provide training on infectious Division 6.2 materials as specified in the Department of Transportation regulations. The content includes some general security training as well as some guidance on facility specific training. Access to resource documents and a number of job aids will not only enhance your learning experience but also provide useful resources for your laboratory. This course is designed specifically for those who participate in any phase of shipping laboratory specimens within the United States.

The course, KHEL: Preparing Clinical Specimens Related to Chemical or Biological Exposure Using Evidence Control Measures (CESSL), Course ID #1050287, is an intermediate-level 45 minute training overview of regulations and procedures associated with evidentiary control measures taken when shipping clinical specimens to the Kansas Department of Health and Environmental Laboratories after a known or unknown chemical exposure event has occurred. This course is offered to ensure all laboratory staff across Kansas receive the full training needed to fully support their responsibilities as sentinel laboratory staff members.

If you have staff who have completed the Division 6.2 Infectious Materials course via another venue other than the CDC online course on KS-TRAIN, they should contact Sara Hoffman at the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories. Sara will enroll your employee into the CESSL course, #1050287. You can reach her at shoffman@kdheks.gov or 785-291-3162.

Introduction to Billing and Business Processes for Local Kansas Health Departments



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
INSTITUTE

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Wichita State University - Center for Public Health Initiatives have posted a two-part training for both new and experienced administrators, billers, and office managers. This training is a reprise of the presentation presented at the KDHE regional meetings during the spring of 2015, and gives a high level overview of the billing workflow utilized in departments. Focusing on organizational competencies, as part of the Foundational Public Health Services and Capabilities Model, this training provides an introduction to performance and financial management as applied to the billing process.

For more information or to access this training, go to <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID # 1062321.

Your Leadership Edge: A KLC Experience



Your Leadership Edge (YLE) serves as a headquarters where you can access short videos, discussion boards, Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) content and video chats aimed at helping you make progress on your most important leadership challenges. At Your Leadership Edge: A KLC Experience, we know change doesn't just happen if you wish for it while clicking your heels. Instead, change happens if enough people exercise leadership. YLE is a subscription portal that anyone can access from anywhere around the world, unless you don't have a subscription or an internet connection. The portal gives you access to the Kansas Leadership Center resources and teachings, both online and in-person. Your Leadership Edge operates as a subsidiary of the Kansas Leadership Center with all profit directed back to the mission work of the organization.

To learn more about Your Leadership Edge and to register for the education offerings go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1060353. There is a \$200 fee associated with this program. KLC hopes you choose to take advantage of this amazing experience. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Janell Linnebur, Program Assistant at 316-712-4953 or email her at jlinnebur@kansasleadershipcenter.org.

WSU Offers Online Badges for the Public Health Workforce



Wichita State University's (WSU) new [badge program](#), which launched August 2015, kicked off with the first of six badges aimed at public health professionals. The Care of Population Health Professions, Badge 1, 2 & 3 are still being offered this spring. In addition, WSU will roll out the rest of the Care of Population badges throughout the upcoming semester with Badges 4, 5 & 6 on March 9. The Care of Population badges are tied directly to Tier 1 of the Public Health Core Competencies and provide important knowledge for any professional working in the public health industry. At \$100 each, these badges are very affordable and have already been approved for 7.5 contact hours for both nursing and social work re-licensure. Other licensed professionals may self-submit this course to their licensing board for contact hour approval.

In addition to receiving contact hours, professionals who successfully complete Care of Population badges will receive 0.5 of a credit hour that will appear on a transcript indicating that academic work was successfully completed in a short course. This is especially useful for those who are planning to or are already working through the RN to BSN program at WSU as these are considered credit courses and will count toward their degree.

Learn more about the badge program and how to register through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>:

- WSU: HP 570BA, Care of Population Health Professions Badge 1, Course ID# 1059105
- WSU: HP 570BA, Care of Population Health Professions Badge 2, Course ID# 1061762
- WSU: HP 570BA, Care of Population Health Professions Badge 3, Course ID# 1061764
- WSU: HP 570BA, Care of Population: Community Dimensions of Practice Badge 4, Course ID# 1061942
- WSU: HP 570BA, Care of Populations Cultural Competency Badge 5, Course ID# 1061943
- WSU: HP 570BA, Policy Development & Program Planning: Badge 6, Course ID# 1061939

You. Lead. Now. Leadership Development - Monthly Live Session Opportunities



Designed for those at every level, from all sectors who are ready for a transformational leadership development experience, You. Lead. Now. is open to anyone interested in improving their effectiveness to make progress on difficult issues in their community, however you define community.

This impactful three-day program developed and led by the [Kansas Leadership Center](#), will introduce a leadership framework practiced by thousands of alumni across Kansas as well as cover important Public Health Competencies. Participants will receive a certificate upon completion of this program. You. Lead. Now. is a three-day leadership development experience during which you will learn new skills and gain new knowledge and insight based on the Kansas Leadership Center principles: Leadership is an activity, not a position; Anyone can lead, anytime, anywhere; It starts with you and must engage others; Your purpose must be clear and it's risky.

The Kansas Leadership Center (KLC) equips people with the ability to make lasting change for the common good. KLC is different in the field of leadership development with its focus on leadership as an activity, not a role or position. This course is open to anyone seeking to move the needle of tough challenges within their community, however it's defined. KLC envisions more Kansans sharing responsibility for acting together in pursuit of the common good.

You. Lead. Now. will provide:

- Knowledge to create change within an organization.
- Skills to intervene more effectively to help a team or small group make progress.
- Insight into your unique, personal opportunity to make a difference, to lead now.

You. Lead. Now. is offered once each month in 2016, February through November, at the Kansas Leadership Center & Kansas Health Foundation Conference Center in Downtown Wichita. To learn more and register for this educational event go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1060027.

News and Resources

Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call



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

Kansas Medication Disposal Program



Each year in Kansas, millions of prescription medications go unused or expire. The [Kansas Medication Disposal Program](#) offers Kansans a convenient, safe and environmentally responsible option for disposing of unwanted medications. Proper disposal reduces accumulation in the home and the subsequent risk of unintentional poisoning, drug abuse and diversion. By utilizing a take-back location for your unused medications, you help us to limit the environmental impact that they may have on our surface and groundwater. Please join us in this important endeavor to safeguard our families and the environment. For more information, contact Megan MacPherson at mmacpherson@kdheks.gov or 785-296-1617.

Dental Care and Bullying



[Oral Health Kansas](#) recently published information from All 4 Oral Health, *Bullying: Nothing to Smile About*. Individuals who display good dental esthetics are assumed to be better at making friends, dating and career advancement, while those with poor dental appearance, often are perceived to have low esteem, from Seehra, Newton, and DiBiase, 2011. [Read more](#) about bullying and dental care.

Skills and Competencies for Public Health



In a nine minute [YouTube](#) video, Dr. Greg Martin talks about four areas of competencies needed to be effective in public health and global health. This is the [final video in a series of four](#), and is perfect for everyone, and geared toward mid-career professionals. Dr. Martin places particular importance on management, leadership and governance.

Selling the Health Benefits of Tap Water, in An Age Of Flint



The water crisis in Flint, Michigan, is making some public health messages harder to get across — namely, in most communities, the tap water is perfectly safe. And it is so much healthier than sugary drinks. It's a message Dr. Patty Braun, a pediatrician and oral health specialist at Denver Health, spends a lot of time on in Denver, even before lead was found in the water system of Flint. [Click here](#) to access the complete article from Kaiser Health News.

The Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act



The [Network for Public Health Law](#) recently published information [Giving Credit Where Credit is Due: the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act](#). With the rise in popularity of electronic smoking devices came increased calls to poison control centers around the country and at least one reported death of a young child due to ingestion of liquid nicotine. Earlier this year, Congress passed the Child Nicotine Poisoning Prevention Act, requiring that containers of liquid nicotine—typically used to refill electronic smoking devices—meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission standards established to prevent children under age five from opening the container

CDC Highlights Programs that Reduce U.S. Health Disparities



A [supplement](#) to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Health Disparities and Inequalities Report, published in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, highlights programs that reduce disparities by race/ethnicity, geography, disability, and/or sexual orientation across a range of different health conditions. “Reducing and eliminating health disparities is fundamental to building a healthier nation,” said CDC Director Tom Frieden, M.D., M.P.H. “With science-based and effective interventions, we can close health disparity gaps in America.” The supplement demonstrates that we can make progress in overcoming public health disparities through meaningful community and local health authority involvement.

Incident Command System: Perishable If Not Practiced



Although the basic Incident Command System (ICS) is taught across emergency response disciplines, several shortcomings and constraints could lead to its downfall. Training for ICS is not a one-time occurrence, but should be an ongoing process of expanding knowledge, exercising skills, and passing on these abilities for the benefit of future generations. [Click here](#) to read the complete article from the Domestic Preparedness.

Early Release of Selected Estimates Based on Data from the January - September 2015 National Health Interview Survey



In an [early release](#), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) provides updated estimates for 15 selected health measures based on data from the January–September 2015 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and presents estimates from 1997 through 2014 for comparison. The 15 early release measures are being published prior to final data editing and final weighting to provide access to the most recent information from NHIS. The estimates will be updated as each new quarter of NHIS data becomes available.

Americans Guzzling too Much Soda, Despite Declines



Despite what we know today about how sugar drinks, which include regular soda, fruit drinks, sweet tea, and sports or energy drinks, contribute to diabetes, heart disease, obesity, and tooth decay, too many [Americans are still guzzling](#) too many sodas too frequently. Public health departments need to mount and sustain hard-hitting ad campaigns that tell [consumers the truth](#) about the harm that sugar drinks can cause.

Recognize National Health Observances with Plan4Health



Plan4Health is working in partnership with the national organizations involved in the Partnering4Health project to create grab-and-go packets for select [National Health Observances](#). These packets are full of great resources, including sample social media posts and other templates. Check out April’s packet, and be on the lookout for future packets!

Job Postings

Applications are being accepted for the positions listed below.

Butler County Health Department

- [Part-time Community Health Nurse - APRN](#)

Geary County Health Department

- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\)](#)
- [Nurse Practitioner \(APRN\)](#)
- [WIC Registered Dietitian](#)

Meade County Health Department

- [Meade County Health Administrator](#)

Osage County Health Department

- [Lead Public Health Nurse](#)—Contact the health department at 785-828-3117 for more information

Reno County Health Department

- [Public Health Nurse Stand by \(PRN\)](#)

Riley County Health Department

- [Health Department Administrator](#)

Sedgwick County Health Department

- [Health - Behavior Intervention Specialist \(BIS\) Disease Investigator](#)
- [Public Health Specialist](#)
- [Public Health Nurse II/Senior Social Worker](#)
- [Epidemiologist](#)

Wyandotte County

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)



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

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[Green Guide](#)

[Health Homes Herald](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[Simmelweis Times](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

[Nutrition and WIC Update](#)

[Oral Health Newsletter](#)

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

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

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, e-mail bchs@kdheks.gov.

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be found at

http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm.

Send your public health news to

Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov.