



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

May – 2012 Volume 12, Issue 5

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

What's Inside

Governor’s Public Health Conference Training, Sessions Valuable to State’s Public Health Mission 2

In the Spotlight – Kiowa County: The Health and Well-being of Folks After a Disaster 3

KDHE, KHA Award 12 Rural Community Health Assessment Grants 3

Reallocation of Health Dollars and New Sources of Funds Needed 4

69th Annual KPHA Fall Conference Call for Proposals for Speakers and Poster Presentations 4

WIC Nutrition Program Forms Unique Partnership with Local Farmers Markets 5

New Resources for Ova and Parasite Testing 5

Immunization Billing Project Website 5

Child Safety Seat Class Developed: Citations Cleared 6

Roots of Health Inequity 6

Accreditation Corner 7

 Build the Capacity of Your Health Department to Teach Quality Improvement 7

 Improving and Measuring the Impact of Public Health Training 7

 Work Session Explores KDHE Journey of Public Health Department Accreditation 7

Training Announcements 8

 Making it Last: Sustaining Public Health Programs in Your Community 8

 Worksite Wellness: Making It Come Alive! 9

 2012 Kansas Annual Family Planning Conference: Creating New Horizons 9

 Grant Writing Workshop 9

 2012 Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care Train-the-Trainer Workshop 9

 Free Continuing Education Opportunity on Environmental Public Health Tracking 10

Funding Opportunities 10

 Get Your School Involved – Deadline May 15 10

 Roadmaps to Health Prize – Deadline June 7 10

News and Resources 11

 HHS and Education Launch New Stop Bullying Website 11

 Boy Scout Merit Badge 11

 Why Not to Text and Drive 11

 Parks and Recreational Activities Across Kansas 11

 USDA Introduces Online Tool for Locating 'Food Deserts' 11

 U.S. Population Has Good Levels of Some Essential Vitamins and Nutrients 11

 Profile-IQ 11

 Community Health Assessment, Improvement and Guide to Community Preventive Services 12

 Violence Prevention, Health Promotion Coming Together 12

 ASPH Launches New Web App to Help Students Find a Future in Public Health 12

 Existing Laws Provide Unexpected Opportunities to Assess Health 12

 Have You Heard? Facts From The Field 12

 Maternal Metabolic Conditions and Risk for Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders 13

 Autism Training for First Responders 13

 Family Disaster Plan 13

 Ready to Respond - Emergency Preparedness Guidelines 13

 Communicating Public Health Preparedness Media and Message Guide 13

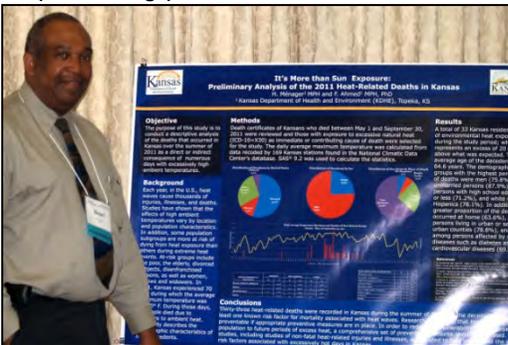
Public Health Connections Information 14

Governor’s Public Health Conference Training, Sessions Valuable to State’s Public Health Mission

by Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer

I am grateful to all of the participants, vendors, speakers and organizers of the 7th Annual Governor’s Public Health Conference for their contributions in making the event a success. From April 23-25, more than 300 people gathered at the Wichita Marriott for an engaging agenda of public health programs. This year was the first time in decades that Kansas’ county health officers and medical consultants came together with the state health officer for a session on roles and responsibilities of our state’s top local health officials. For me, the conference was a wonderful occasion to meet our new partners in public health and to visit with long-time friends who have been in this business for as long as - if not longer than - I have.

Kudos to the Kansas Public Health Association, Wichita State University, Kansas Health Foundation and my colleagues at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment for designing a program that gave public health practitioners a terrific forum in which to collaborate and share best practices. A special thanks to the Kansas Health Foundation for its grant supporting the annual meeting. I’ve heard nothing but rave reviews about the presentations made by all of our subject matter experts. There were speakers not only from partner organizations across the state but also out-of-state guests like the CDC’s Cynthia Baur, Ph.D, whose remarks centered on health literacy. We are thankful for their time and commitment to promoting public health in Kansas.



The pre-conference sessions on April 23 offered training on Maternal Child Health initiatives, Community Health Assessments, Preparedness, Parent Health Literacy, among other topics. The session over the next two days covered the theme of this year’s conference, *Challenge of Change: Developing an Equitable Public Health System*. We were fortunate this year to have Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer, M.D., deliver the welcome and impart the perspective of the Governor’s Office as it pertains to administering public health programs across our state. Dr. Colyer described for us how the objectives we’ve set in our public health plans contribute to the work being done by the State of Kansas to reach the goals

within Gov. Brownback’s Road Map for Kansas. Those measurable items in the Administration’s “report card” are: Increase in net personal income; Increase in private sector employment; Increase in the percentage of 4th graders reading at grade level; Increase in the percentage of high school graduates who are college or career ready; Decrease in the percentage of Kansas’ children who live in poverty.

On April 24, it was an honor to have shared the morning session’s keynote presentation with Aging Secretary Shawn Sullivan and SRS Secretary Phyllis Gilmore. Our three agencies set out at the start of the Brownback administration to create more efficient and effective policies for the health and human services we’re delivering. This conference gave us an opportunity to provide county health departments and other statewide health partners with an update on specific agency efforts and reorganization as well as an update on KanCare, our plan to reform Medicaid in Kansas. Following the ongoing bid negotiations, this summer we’ll begin partnering with three KanCare companies under a new model of integrated care that coordinates services for Kansas’ most vulnerable citizens. The goal is to improve health outcomes and sustain this safety net that would otherwise fall short of meeting consumers’ needs. It’s important to keep in mind that we’re accomplishing this without cutting provider rates or reducing eligibility. Throughout 2011, the secretaries for KDHE, SRS and Aging facilitated public forums to meet with stakeholders (consumers, providers, advocates, etc.) and collect ideas for reinventing Medicaid. Those suggestions and comments led us to KanCare and we continue to listen and make adjustments. I look forward to seeing the results of KanCare as we continue working together in caring for our Medicaid beneficiaries.



The Governor's Public Health Conference also gave us an opportunity to recognize the graduates of the Core Public Health Program and Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute at Wichita State. Their poster presentations were judged by conference attendees as well as a panel of three judges, and awards were given in three categories: Henri Ménager (KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics) won the first place Kansas Public Health Leadership Poster category; Lori Francis (Reno County Health Department) won the first place Core Public Health Program category; Jamie Klenklen (KDHE, Bureau of Family Health) won the People's Choice Award. Congratulations to all the graduates.

The organizers will have a difficult time topping this year's conference. Thank you to everyone who attended.

In the Spotlight – Kiowa County: The Health and Well-being of Folks After a Disaster

THE LEGEND
LIFE IN SOUTHWEST KANSAS

by Mitzi Hesser, Administrator
Kiowa County Health Department
Co-author *The Legend Magazine*

Five years ago, Greensburg was virtually leveled by a massive mile-and-a-half-wide EF5 tornado that set a deadly track through town late on a Friday night. The devastation was so severe that residents of Greensburg, home of the world's largest hand-dug well and the Kansas Meteorite Museum, thought that the town—already losing residents every year—may have been dealt a death blow.

But in the flattened buildings and smashed infrastructure, some saw a blank canvas. A handful of local visionaries believed we could resurrect the town, and to make it thrive. Today, Greensburg is back, having recently been recognized as a one of the best small towns to live in.

"Though we had no choice to be a part of that EF5 tornado, we did have a choice as to how we would deal with our future. No one wants to lose so much so quickly, but for myself I wouldn't change all the things that I have experienced since that day. Our skills and ability to live life has taken on a new and different meaning. We can let an event in our life destroy us or learn from it and make us better. The vision statement that our community adopted was: "Blessed with a unique opportunity, to create a strong community, devoted to family, fostering business, and working together for future generations." With this philosophy before us, we dealt with the great losses of this tornado. The strong support of our civic and spiritual leaders helped us to minimize the repercussions that could have affected the health and wellbeing of our Greensburg community. Today we can see that our tragedy is beginning to be a triumph in our lives."



The above paragraph is an excerpt from an article written by Mitzi Hesser, Administrator of the Kiowa County Health Department, for the Legend Magazine. Ms Hesser wanted to share her thoughts with the Kansas public health community and would like to again, "Thank Everyone." As the Greensburg community approaches the five year anniversary of the May 4th date of the EF5, Ms Hesser remembers all the help from everyone across the State during that time and cannot begin to thank everyone enough for their support. To read the complete article please click the Greensburg image on the right.

KDHE, KHA Award 12 Rural Community Health Assessment Grants

by Communication Office, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) have awarded 12 rural communities in Kansas each a grant to support their local community health assessment efforts. This funding supports initiatives spearheaded by the community's health care providers, public health and its hospital to address the health needs of the community, which could include events like holding town hall meetings or conducting community surveys.

The counties receiving these community health assessment grants are Clay, Coman-



che, Cowley, Ellsworth, Edwards, Lincoln, Mitchell, Osborne, Rawlins, Scott, Stafford and Stevens. Each county will receive up to \$4,000.

KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer Robert Moser, M.D. said it is important for rural communities to partner with their hospitals to effectively address public health needs. "I can attest to the determination of rural health care and public health providers to find innovative ways to improve health outcomes," said Moser. "KDHE is committed to supporting those initiatives through investments like this where communities are not just taking a closer, comprehensive look at their health indicators but are focused on partnering to help leverage available resources," said Moser.

These health assessments could result in the enhancement a local system of transportation for getting residents to health appointments; organizing more diabetic support groups; or building a stronger partnership to plan for and apply for funding to develop a safety net clinic.

"Kansas hospitals are continually looking at the needs of their communities," said Tom Bell, President and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association. "This program helps foster collaboration, not just between the hospital and the health department, but by also bringing together a broad-based group of community leaders to discuss health needs, explore data, set priorities and develop potential action strategies that will improve the health of the community."

For more information on KDHE's and KHA's rural health partnership efforts click on the Kansas Rural Health Options Project logo above.

Reallocation of Health Dollars and New Sources of Funds Needed

NEWS

FROM THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE
NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

*by the Office of News and Public Information
The National Academies*

To improve America's lackluster performance on health outcomes compared with its peer nations and to maintain its international

competitiveness, the United States needs to invest more in its chronically underfunded public health system and spend public health dollars more efficiently, says a new report, "[For the Public's Health: Investing in a Healthier Future](#)," from the Institute of Medicine.

The report calls for the National Prevention, Health Promotion and Public Health Council to oversee the development of a minimum package of public health services that every community should receive from its state and local health departments. To cover the costs of such a package, the authors conclude from a number of existing estimates and projections that federal spending on public health should at least be doubled from its current level of about \$11.6 billion per year to approximately \$24 billion as a starting point to meet the needs of public health departments.

Bruce Miyahara, former State Health Officer from Washington and current Kansas Health Foundation Consultant, contributed to the report, which was sponsored by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

To read the complete article, click the National Academies logo.

69th Annual KPHA Fall Conference Call for Proposals for Speakers and Poster Presentations

*by Elaine Schwartz, Executive Director
Kansas Public Health Association*



The 69th Annual Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) Fall Conference will be held Oct. 1-3, at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The theme for this year's conference is, "Healthy Food for a Healthy Kansas." KPHA is looking for proposals primarily within two content tracks. This year we are soliciting for oral presentations and posters simultaneously. Proposals can be submitted online clicking the conference logo. The deadline for submission is May 21.

KPHA encourages interdisciplinary panels that incorporate public health practitioners and researchers representing different levels of our public health system, such as state agency personnel and local health departments with university faculty or students to submit a proposal.

When you submit your proposal, indicate which track "Food as a Public Health Issue", "Public Health Accreditation", or other and which section(s) would be most interested in your presentation. Indicate your preference to present orally or in poster format. Oral presentations will be one hour in length (60 minutes). This proposal process is competitive and KPHA does not guarantee that all submissions will be accepted or that they can meet presentation preferences.

If you have any questions or cannot submit your proposal electronically please feel free to call Jana Henderson, Conference Registrar, at 316-978-6493 or jana.henderson@wichita.edu.

WIC Nutrition Program Forms Unique Partnership with Local Farmers Markets

by Lisa Horn, Wellcoms.com



The Lawrence-Douglas County WIC (Women, Infants and Children Special Supplemental Nutrition) program has launched a unique pilot project. The pilot will make the Lawrence-Douglas County WIC program the first in Kansas where WIC clients can redeem fruit and vegetable checks through approved farmers market vendors. To accept and cash WIC fruit and vegetable checks, vendors must attend a WIC training to become authorized. Authorized vendors are re-

quired to post a WIC-approved sign.

"The goal of this pilot is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption among WIC clients and improve access to local produce," said Jennifer Church, WIC coordinator at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. "We're excited to have been selected for the project and for the benefits it will bring to our local farmers and economy."

WIC serves pregnant and postpartum women, infants and children up to age five who live in Douglas County, are determined to be at nutritional risk and meet income guidelines. Participants receive nutrition counseling and vouchers to purchase healthy foods for their families.

Currently, 35 percent of infants born in Douglas County are enrolled in WIC. To learn more about WIC and how it helps families get off to a healthy start, click the Kansas WIC logo or call the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department at 785-843-0721.

New Resources for Ova and Parasite Testing

by Cyndi Treaster, Refugee Health Coordinator

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

With international travel on the rise and foreign born, including refugees, settling in our state, new resources for screening of parasitic infections may be useful. An on-line training by John Bahre, Parasitologist with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Laboratory, entitled "KDHE-BCHS Ova and Parasites: A Critical Component of Refugee Health Assessment," #1029575 is on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. This training provides information on how to collect and send stool samples. Bahre reviews symptoms of parasitic disease and presents pictures of common parasites. The course focuses on the importance of parasite assessment in refugee health screenings and reviews two of the most significant parasites for refugees, *Strongyloides stercoralis* and Schistosomiasis as well as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control Guidelines for parasite screening.

To support ova and parasite testing, instructions for gathering stool samples are available in a variety of different languages including English, Chinese, French, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Russian, Somali, Spanish and Ukrainian from the website [Health Information Translations](#). Recently the Kansas Refugee Preventive Health Program, through funding from the KDHE Center for Health Equity commissioned the translation of testing instructions into several common languages spoken by new refugee populations in Kansas. These translations are available in Burmese, Karen, Karenni and Nepali and are available under translated health materials, which can be access by clicking the image above. For questions or comments contact Cyndi Treaster, at ctreaster@kdheks.gov.



Immunization Billing Project Website

by Stephanie Lambert-Barth, EQRO Project Manager

Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Immunization Program was recently awarded Prevention and Public Health capacity building grant funds for an immunization billing project. KDHE has contracted with

the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC) to conduct the activities associated with the development of a statewide strategic plan to support local health department billing of immunization services for privately insured clients.

At the request of the project stakeholders, KFMC developed a project webpage to allow project resources, activities and communication to be available in a centralized location. The project webpage is regularly updated



and includes timely information regarding the project status, meetings and events. In addition, a variety of immunization billing tools and related literature are available on the site.

KFMC encourages all Kansas health departments to visit the project webpage by clicking on the Immunization Billing Stakeholder Group logo.

Contact Stephanie Lambert-Barth at slambert@kfmc.org or 785-271-4137 if you have ideas for additional resources that might be shared through the website or questions about the project.

Child Safety Seat Class Developed: Citations Cleared

*by David Brazil, Administrator
City-Cowley County Health Department*



The Safe Kids Coalition of Cowley County in collaboration with the City-Cowley County Health Department, the Cowley County Attorney's Office, and the Cowley County Sheriff's Office has developed a Child Passenger Safety Class. This class is available to people who have been ticketed for child passenger safety violations.

Anyone cited for such a violation in the unincorporated areas of Cowley County can call the Health Department and schedule to attend an offender's class. Participants will view a 30 minute video presentation that demonstrates proper installation of child car safety seats from birth to eight years of age and then review a basic comprehension test. Certified child passenger safety seat technicians will be available to answer any questions participants may have. After the presentation participants will properly install their child's car seat in their own vehicle. Classes will be held on the second and fourth Thursday of every month from 9-11 A.M. Classes are held at either the Arkansas City or Winfield Health Departments. A \$25.00 donation is required.

A Certificate of Class Completion is provided to each participant. The original safety citation can then be presented to the County Clerk's Office along with the Certificate of Class Completion and the citation will be cleared. Child passenger safety citations will only be waived once.

The Winfield and Arkansas City Health Department Offices are designated child passenger safety seat fitting stations. The general public can call or stop in to have their child's car seat checked for proper installation. The department currently maintains three certified child passenger safety seat technicians. They are Karen Knowles, Cyndii Callaway and Karla Knight.

The Safe Kids Coalition of Wichita certifies child passenger safety seat technicians in our area. The training for this certification is five full days. Technicians must learn about the various makes and models of cars and their different seat belt configurations in relationship to the seat that best fits the size of a given child. The best location for safety seats in individual vehicles is also examined. Technicians are certified every two years and keep up to date on recalls, crash test findings and new installation methods.

Most people do not realize they are using a child safety seat inappropriately until an officer cites them with a violation. "Paying a fine typically does not solve the problem, but providing folks with the appropriate information and example does," said Cyndii Callaway, Health Educator for the health department. With this idea in mind the Safe Kids Coalition of Cowley County approached County Attorney Chris Smith, who was highly supportive of the idea. From that point a curriculum and presentation was developed over the past year. "This class is a unique opportunity to promote safe car seat use in our state; as I am unaware of any others like it," said Daina Hodges of Safe Kids Kansas.

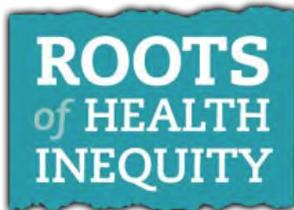
County Sheriff Don Read, who volunteers with the Safe Kids Coalition, has been instrumental in the program's development and in ensuring officers inform motorists of the class when being cited for child passenger violations.

The coalition is hopeful that additional municipal child passenger safety violations may be included in the program in the future.

Please call the City-Cowley County Health Department at 620-221-1430 and ask to speak with a Child Passenger Safety Technician for more information.

Roots of Health Inequity

by NACCHO



"Social justice is a matter of life and death. It affects the way people live, their consequent chance of illness and their risk of premature death." These first words from the World Health Organization (WHO) Commission on Social Determinants of Health Final report entitled, "Closing the Gap in A Generation: Health Equity Through Action on the Social Determinants of Health," highlight the deep connection between lived experience, social injustice and systematic inequities in rates of

mortality, morbidity and life expectancy among different groups.

Can public health influence the unequal structuring of life conditions? The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) thinks public health can reach the heart of the matter: the core social injustices associated with class oppression, racism and gender inequity. Advances can occur, even if only incrementally, by thinking differently about possibilities for practice.

NACCHO has developed a course to provide an online learning environment from which to explore root causes of inequity in the distribution of disease, illness and death. Funded by the National Center for Minority Health and Health Disparities, National Institutes of Health, its audience is primarily the local public health workforce. It seeks to ground participants in the concepts and strategies that could lead to effective action.

The curriculum specifically prompts participants to reflect on how our institutions, as historian Elizabeth Fee says, "structure the possibility for healthy or unhealthy lives and how societies create the preconditions for the production and transmission of disease," (see Resources, Elizabeth Fee, p.xxxviii) and the implications for acting on those systems to eliminate inequity.

The course arose from a need expressed by public health practitioners for assistance in tackling root causes of health inequities. Repeatedly, they asked, "Where do we start? How do we address the bureaucratic and financial constraints?" Renewed interest in social medicine, social epidemiology and an outpouring of research and analysis about health inequity also influenced us. NACCHO is not an expert on the issues. Rather, as a national organization supporting local practice in the U.S., we view ourselves as colleagues engaging with our peers and raising questions, based on what we have learned from the field and from the growing knowledge base related to inequities in health throughout the industrialized world.

To learn more about the course click the Roots of Health Inequity logo.

Accreditation Corner

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Build the Capacity of Your Health Department to Teach Quality Improvement



Have you heard of a Train-the-Trainer model to support workforce development? By training a small group of individuals, your organization can build its internal capacity to offer ongoing quality improvement (QI) training for others and create a robust quality culture over time. Read how the Texas Department of State Health Services (TXDSHS) recently trained agency staff to teach QI tools and techniques. Click the TXDSHS logo.

Have you heard of a Train-the-Trainer model to support workforce development? By training a small group of individuals, your organization can build its internal capacity to offer ongoing quality improvement (QI) training for others and create a robust quality culture over time. Read how the Texas Department of State Health Services (TXDSHS) recently trained agency staff to teach QI tools and techniques. Click the TXDSHS logo.

Improving and Measuring the Impact of Public Health Training



"How can we best improve public health training and measure its impact?" asks Wendy Braund, State Health Officer, Wyoming Department of Health.

High-quality continuing education is vital to the maintenance of a competent public health workforce. In today's rapidly changing environment, public health professionals are continually developing their knowledge and skills in order to meet the public health needs of their communities. To learn more or share your thoughts and opinions on this and other hot public health topics, click the Wyoming Department of Health logo.

Work Session Explores KDHE Journey of Public Health Department Accreditation



Brenda Nickel, MS, RN, Director

Center for Performance Management, KDHE

A work session, facilitated by Brenda Nickel, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Performance Improvement Manager and Accreditation Coordinator, was held on Tues., Apr. 3, with Secretary Robert Moser. The session was scheduled to review past projects or initiatives related to improving the public health system in Kansas and to explore new opportunities to demonstrate the department's capacity to deliver core public health functions and essential services through agency programs with national public health department accreditation. (*The Essential Public Health Services and Core Functions*, Source: *Core Public Health Functions Steering Committee, Fall 1994*). Discussion about the

role of the department with private and public partners to improve health of Kansas residents and how to demonstrate the KDHE's ability to meet defined standards of high quality services and performance to stakeholders and residents, was the primary focus of the meeting. Presenters for the work session included: Tim Keck, Chief Deputy Counsel; Brandon Skidmore, Deputy Director, Bureau of Health Promotion (BHP); Cyndi Treaster, Director, Special Population Health, Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS); Sara Roberts, Director, Rural Health, BCHS; Sylvia Ford, Graduate Student, University of Kansas and Linda Frazee, Public Health Workforce Specialist, BCHS. Objectives for the meeting included:

- Review KDHE past activities supporting public health system improvements.
- Explain how Public Health Accreditation Board Standards & Measures (PHAB) support the Governor's Road Map and the KDHE strategic plan.
- Complete PHAB Readiness Checklists.
- Identify opportunities and challenges to KDHE accreditation readiness activities .
- Explain KDHE's role in supporting local health departments & community hospital efforts to services in communities to improve health outcomes.
- Estimate time frame for activities which are required for agency public health accreditation.

The Bureau of Health Promotion will be facilitating the Healthy Kansans (Healthy People) 2020 process with partners across the State this year. This State Health Assessment (SHA) process will help to identify leading health indicators that need to be addressed by Kansas through a State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) that will include both private and public partner across the state. Internally at the KDHE, the Center for Performance Management is facilitating accreditation readiness training and staff professional development opportunities and involvement that will include all three agency divisions: Environment, Health and Health Care. For questions or comments, email bnickel@kdheks.gov.

Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Making it Last: Sustaining Public Health Programs in Your Community

by Kelly Kabler, Assistant Director

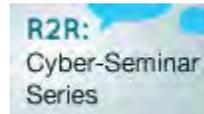
Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health

University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita

Research to Reality

The National Cancer Institute's May Research to Reality (R2R) presents a cyber-seminar, "Making it Last: Sustaining Public Health Programs in Your Community" on Tues., May 8, from 1-2 p.m. Positive public health outcomes can only be achieved if effective programs are sustained over time. However, sustainability is an on-going challenge for public health programs and for practitioners and researchers alike. This challenge is compounded by the fact that many things affect sustainability, including financial and political climates, factors in the organizational setting and elements of project design and implementation.

The cyber-seminar will explore public health sustainability, the challenges and facilitators, frameworks and tools for practitioners and researchers and examples of sustainable programs from two communities. Dr. Mary Ann Scheirer will provide an overview of sustainability and a framework for public health programs and research. Then, Dr. Doug Luke will share a new sustainability assessment tool developed for practitioners. The Program Sustainability Assessment Tool provides public health programs and their partners with a reliable way to measure their capacity for sustainability. Finally, Drs. Susan Tortolero and Alice Ammerman will join as panel discussants to share examples of how the available tools and sustainability models can be applied to public health programs, including the successes and challenges their own Prevention Research Center programs have faced.



Join us for this exciting and relevant topic with some of the key leaders in this field. This cyber seminar was planned in collaboration with the National Prevention Research Centers (PRC) Evaluation Committee.

Following registration, you will receive a confirmation email with the toll free number, web URL and participant passcode. This cyber-seminar will be archived on the Research to Reality (R2R) website by clicking on the R2R: Cyber-Seminar Series logo.

Worksite Wellness: Making It Come Alive!

*By Misty Lechner,
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita (KUSM-W) is partnering with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Health Foundation, the Wichita Community Foundation, the Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care and WorkWell KS to provide resources that will help Kansas worksites assess and improve their current practices regarding wellness.

On May 30, Worksite Wellness will present, "Making it Come Alive!" This workshop will answer how can you design and implement health promotion projects and programs that can inspire your company and its employees to achieve maximal health and wellness?

To register click the Worksite wellness logo. If you have any questions or would like more information contact Missty Lechner at 785-296-1917 or email at mlechner@kdheks.gov.

2012 Kansas Annual Family Planning Conference: Creating New Horizons

by Bureau of Family Health



of the family.

This year's conference will be held at the Wichita Marriott on June 6-7. The conference will provide participants with an opportunity to examine the issue of service delivery from various client service needs and identify working strategies for not only ensuring access but also improving access to family planning and reproductive health care. For registration and other information regarding the conference, click the image

Grant Writing Workshop

by Bureau of Community Health Systems



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

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

2012 Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care Train-the-Trainer Workshop

by Kansas Department on Aging



The Kansas Department on Aging with funding from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment presents the Emergency Preparedness for Long-Term Care Train-the-Trainer Workshop. This program is designed to assist key staff in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living, Residential Healthcare and Home plus organizations in Kansas to plan for potential emergency situations. Other targeted audiences include County Emergency Managers and Emergency Preparedness Hospital and Local Public Health Preparedness Coordinators.

This is an award-winning national disaster preparedness initiative created by Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging, designed to provide long-term care and senior living communities with the competencies needed to respond to any natural or man-made disaster or emergency. Mather LifeWays Institute on Aging is the research and education area of service for Mather LifeWays, a unique not-for-profit organization based in Illinois.

The workshops are from 8 A.M. until 4:30 P.M. with dates and locations as follows:

- June 11
 - Clarion Inn, North Ballroom, 1911 E Kansas Avenue, Garden City, KS
 - Sternberg Museum, Expedition Room, 3000 Sternberg Drive, Expedition Room, Hays, KS
- June 13
 - Holiday Inn, Wichita East I-35, South Ballroom, 549 S Rock Road, Wichita, KS
 - Courtyard Marriott, Cottonwood D, 310 Hammons Drive, Junction City, KS
- June 15

- Holiday Inn Express, Gorilla/Buffalo Room, 4011 Parkview Drive, Pittsburg, KS
- Holiday Inn, Kansas Ballroom, 8787 Reeder Street, Overland Park, KS

This workshop is free for providers of Long-Term Care, Assisted Living, Residential Healthcare and Home Plus Facilities and other targeted audiences include County Emergency Managers and Emergency Preparedness Hospital and Local Public Health Preparedness Coordinators. Pre-registration is required for all attendees and must be done online. To register for your preferred location, go to [KS-TRAIN](#) course # 1033068. Limit only two persons from each organization or corporate office. For more information contact Karla Werth at 785-296-6681 or email at karla.werth@aging.ks.gov.

Free Continuing Education Opportunity on Environmental Public Health Tracking

by Shelley V. Bearman, Public Health Educator

Bureau of Environmental Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment



The Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking network announces a recently released updated version of Tracking 101, a user-friendly, online tutorial outlining the major components of the Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) network. Topics include the National Tracking network and program; surveillance and epidemiology; tracking data; environmental hazard data; biomonitoring data basics, GIS; policy and practice and communication.

Offered at no cost, the latest version of this course features updated information, improved design and printable resources. Up to six free continuing education credits from the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are available for nurses, certified health education specialists and others. The National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) credits are also available.

Users are required to register with NEHA to access the courses, but do not need to be or required become a member. To access this user-friendly online course through the Kansas Train Website, visit <http://ks.train.org> and add the course number to the "Search by Course ID" field on the right hand side of the homepage to access:

- "Environmental Public Health Tracking 101 - Part 1" (#1025689)
- "Environmental Public Health Tracking 101 - Part 2" (#1025690)
- "Environmental Public Health Tracking 101 - Part 3" (#1025691)

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Get Your School Involved – Deadline May 15



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

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

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

Roadmaps to Health Prize – Deadline June 7



The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded County Health Roadmaps project will recognize communities across the U.S. that have successfully mobilized to improve population health. All U.S. communities are eligible to apply for the Roadmaps to Health Prize. A brief notice of intent to apply is due May 31; the full application is due June 7. Click their logo learn more.

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

HHS and Education Launch New Stop Bullying Website



The Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, and Education Secretary, Arne Duncan, have unveiled a revitalized [Stop Bullying](#) website to encourage children, parents, educators and communities to take action to stop and prevent bullying. To learn more about this prevention activity click the HHS logo.

Boy Scout Merit Badge



The field of public health deals with maintaining and monitoring the health of communities and with the detection, cure and prevention of health risks and diseases. Although public health is generally seen as a community-oriented service, it actually starts with the individual. From a single individual to the family unit to the smallest isolated rural town to the worldwide global community, one person can influence the health of many. Did you realize that there is a Boy Scout Merit Badge for Public Health? This would be a wonderful way to conduct some community outreach, find some new partners and increase your agency's visibility. To learn more click on the Public Health badge.

Why Not to Text and Drive



Looking for a resource to share with teenagers on, "Why Not to Text and Drive." Click the image on the left to check out this YouTube video developed by Missouri. This is an outstanding video that should be shared whenever possible. Not just with the kids, but with the parents.

Parks and Recreational Activities Across Kansas



GoPlayKansas.com is a searchable database providing information on parks and recreational activities across Kansas. Launched as a pilot project for south-central Kansas in 2009, GoPlayKansas.com started as part of Visioneering Wichita's planning process – bringing together thousands of people to plan for the future of south-central Kansas. Out of the process came a priority to use social media to organize and mobilize the community. The focus eventually landed on translating public information about parks, recreational activities and open spaces into user-friendly data. It provides open, free access to information on parks and recreation spaces and coordinates the information on a local, regional and state level. Whether your passion is hiking or biking, GoPlayKansas.com helps people get out and be active.

USDA Introduces Online Tool for Locating 'Food Deserts'



The online "Food Desert Locator," developed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Economic Research Service (ERS), is a tool that can be used to assist efforts to expand the availability of nutritious food in food deserts, or low-income communities that lack ready access to healthy food. Expanding the availability of nutritious food is part of First Lady Michele Obama's "Let's Move!" initiative to address the epidemic of childhood obesity.

U.S. Population Has Good Levels of Some Essential Vitamins and Nutrients



Overall, the U.S. population has good levels of vitamins A and D and folate in the body, but some groups still need to increase their levels of vitamin D and iron, according to the Second National Report on Biochemical Indicators of Diet and Nutrition, released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The report offers a limited but generally favorable review of the nation's nutrition status although the findings do not necessarily indicate that people consume healthy and balanced diets. To learn more click the CDC logo.

Profile-IQ

Profile.IQ Profile-IQ, an online data query system from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO's). The data is from NACCHO's National Profile of Local Health Departments (LHDs) Survey. The query system allows users to perform customized queries on three main topics covered in the 2010 Profile survey on LHDs financing, workforce and activities. Click the Profile.IQ logo to learn more.

Community Health Assessment, Improvement and Guide to Community Preventive Services



The Guide to Community Preventive Services is a free resource to help you choose programs and policies to improve health and prevent disease in your community. Systematic reviews are used to answer these questions:

- Which program and policy interventions have been proven effective?
- Are there effective interventions that are right for my community?
- What might effective interventions cost; what is the likely return on investment?

Learn more about the Community Guide, the collaborators involved in its development and dissemination and methods used to conduct the systematic reviews.

The Community Guide's In Action Success Stories provide examples of how the Community Guide has been used to improve health in communities across the country. To review these examples click the image above.

Violence Prevention, Health Promotion Coming Together



In the article by the American Public Health Association's (APHA), "The National Health," an emerging public health movement brings practitioners in the fields of violence prevention, healthy eating and active living together to transform their communities in ways that will foster health and safety. At its core, the work aims to get to the root cause of why some people are not going outside to exercise and not eating healthy foods. To read more about this article click the APHA logo.

2012 County Health Rankings Released



The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps provides more than 3,000 counties and the District of Columbia can compare how healthy their residents are and how long they live with the 2012 County Health Rankings. The rankings are an annual check-up that highlights the healthiest and least healthy counties in every state. To learn where about the county rankings click the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps logo.

ASPH Launches New Web App to Help Students Find a Future in Public Health



The Association of Schools of Public Health (ASPH) has launched its web application "I am Public Health." The user-friendly app answers the question, "What can I do with a degree in public health?" with real responses and insight from more than 2,000 professionals in the field. With funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ASPH designed and implemented the app to help prospective students easily explore all the possibilities there are in public health. To learn more click the I Am Public Health logo.

Existing Laws Provide Unexpected Opportunities to Assess Health



In recent findings by the Health Impact Project finds that a wide variety of existing laws offer important opportunities to improve Americans' health. The first comprehensive study of its kind found an unexpectedly large number of laws that facilitate the consideration of health effects, in fields such as transportation, energy and agriculture. Many of these legal requirements may be satisfied by conducting health impact assessments (HIAs), a type of study that helps decision makers identify and address the potential and often unrecognized health risks and benefits of their decisions. Most HIAs are done without any formal legal or regulatory requirement. This review highlights laws that may require or support their use. To learn more click the Health Impact Project logo.

Have You Heard? Facts From The Field



The "Have You Heard? Facts From The Field," (HYH) weekly e-mail shares brief highlights on the accomplishments, successful practices and innovative programs of health departments around the country, as well as their concerns and challenges. HYH is sent to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) staff and employees in state, tribal, local and territorial public health agencies every Wed. You can access the "Have You Heard" archives by clicking the e-learning logo.

CDC is looking to develop a, "Have You Heard?" focused around learning in the field. If you are doing something that has a large impact, whether it is the implementation of a new program, practices, partnership, or planning to develop learning delivery tools, or methodology that is innovative, CDC would like to know. This is a great opportunity to share what your group is doing with learning. Additionally, CDC can resend the HYH out through the CDC Learning Connection subscription list; this list alone has 41,000+ subscribers. If interested, please send your info and any relevant links to train@cdc.gov; staff will pass them along to those who create and disseminate the HYH and notify you if you will be featured.

Maternal Metabolic Conditions and Risk for Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders

American Academy of Pediatrics

"Maternal Metabolic Conditions and Risk for Autism and Other Neurodevelopmental Disorders," is a recent article found in the April 9 edition of *Pediatrics*, the official journal of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The authors examined whether metabolic conditions (MCs)

during pregnancy (diabetes, hypertension and obesity) are associated with autism spectrum disorder, developmental delays, or impairments in specific domains of development in the offspring. They concluded that maternal MCs may be broadly associated with neurodevelopmental problems in children. With obesity rising steadily, these results appear to raise serious public health concerns. To learn more click the AAP's logo.

Autism Training for First Responders



This comprehensive article includes information on what autism is, how to recognize it, interaction guidelines, reasons for calls, police procedure and interview techniques, community partnerships and much more. Also includes interaction and communication suggestions, common behaviors that police, fire and EMTs may see, as well as suggestions for what parents can do to keep their loved ones safe and what to do if their child wanders away or goes missing.

Click the image on the left to learn read two articles about Autism and First Responders.

Family Disaster Plan



Having a plan can help your family make it through any disaster with minimal stress. A comprehensive family disaster plan includes information about each family member, household pets, insurance and finances, the home itself and its contents. Most important, the plan outlines what each family member should do during an emergency and identifies safe places inside and outside the home.

University of Missouri Extension (UMX) has created a disaster plan template to guide families through the development process. Creating a plan begins with a family meeting to discuss and decide how the family will respond to a disaster. Click the UMX logo to learn more and download the disaster plan template.

University of Missouri Extension (UMX) has created a disaster plan template to guide families through the development process. Creating a plan begins with a family meeting to discuss and decide how the family will respond to a disaster. Click the UMX logo to learn more and download the disaster plan template.

Ready to Respond - Emergency Preparedness Guidelines



Sedgwick County Emergency Management has developed the, "Ready to Respond – Emergency Preparedness Guidelines." checklist. Make sure your family has a plan in case of an emergency. Before an emergency happens, sit down together and decide how you will get in contact with each other, where you will go and what you will do in an emergency. To download your copy of the guide click the Sedgwick County logo.

Communicating Public Health Preparedness Media and Message Guide



The American Public Health Association with Qorvis Communications presents, "Communicating Public Health Preparedness Media and Message Guide." This Media and Message Guide is intended to be used by public health professionals and partners to help provide consistent messages and communications about public health preparedness. Consistency in messaging is essential to ensure that the importance of emergency preparedness is communicated effectively with reporters, policy makers and the public. Click the Qorvis logo to read the complete guide.

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