



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



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Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

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JEWELL COUNTY



A tornado struck Jewell County May 28 and caused considerable damage in the area, including destroying the home of Linda Woerner, Jewell County health department administrator. Linda was half-way between the basement and upstairs, and her husband was on the utility room floor looking for his shoes when the tornado hit their home. Linda was thrown to the basement. The tornado took the carpet off the utility room floor, removed the washer, dryer, freezer and walls but left her husband lying on the bare floor. Both re-

ceived only minor scratches and bruises. The Woerner family has lost everything including all the outbuildings on their farm. A neighbor moved a 5th wheel into Jewell behind Linda’s husbands shop and they plan on staying there for the time being. Please keep her and her husband in your prayers. The public health departments in north central region are sending money to Patricia Dowlin at Mitchell County and she will buy a gift card from Wal-Mart for them. If you are interested in lending support send funds to Patricia Dowlin, at the Mitchell County Health Department, 310 W. 8th, Beloit, Ks 67420.



HOW CAN WE SERVE YOU BETTER?



AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER

submitted by Judy Eyerly

University of Kansas Medical Center, Area Health Education Center

Each year the KU Medical Center Area Health Education Centers provide more than 700 continuing education programs across Kansas. Changing technology, learning styles and cost all affect how those programs are delivered.

In order to provide cutting edge continuing education that meets the needs of individual learners and is cost effective, we are asking for your help.

If you haven't already done so, please take a moment to answer our survey. Go to: <http://kuahec.kumc.edu> and click on **Survey**.

PHILLIPS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT HAS NEW ADMINISTRATOR



Ashley Elliott is the new administrator for the Phillips County Health Department. Elliott graduated from Logan High School and then went to Fort Hays State University where she graduated in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Elliott met her husband while going to college at Fort Hays and has been married since last August. After graduating from college Ashley worked on the medical floor at Hays Medical Center for one year, then moved to Phillipsburg to work at the Phillips County Hospital. Elliott began her new position in February.

NATIONAL INITIATIVE TO ADVANCE ACCREDITATION

submitted by Shirley Orr

KDHE, Office of Local and Rural Health



Sixteen states, including Kansas, have been selected to lead a national initiative to advance accreditation efforts and quality improvement strategies in public health departments, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) announced today. The program, managed by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and the Public Health Leadership Society (PHLS), selected Florida, Illinois, Indiana,

Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Washington and Wisconsin from a pool of 25 states to improve the performance of their local and state public health departments and the health of their communities. These 16 states will implement public health quality improvement activities to achieve specific and measurable goals, such as increasing immunization rates, increasing the number of adults that engage in physical activity or implementing standard procedures to efficiently communicate with community members during disasters and health emergencies.



"These states have demonstrated a commitment to improving the quality of public health services and programs. Their work will lead the way as local and state public health agencies across the nation prepare for accreditation and strive to create healthier communities," said James S. Marks, M.D., M.P.H., senior vice president and director of the health group at RWJF.



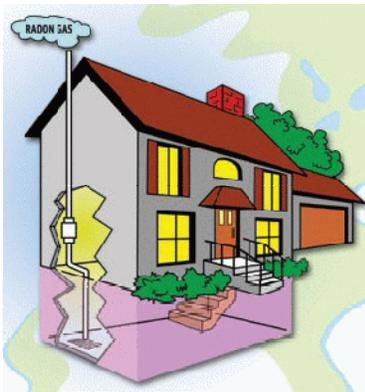
The program, called Lead States in Public Health Quality Improvement: A Multistate Learning Collaborative, is an effort to bring state and local health departments together with other stakeholders including local public health institutes, public health associations, health care providers and universities to improve public health services and the health of their community by implementing quality improvement practices. Each of the participating states has been awarded a three-year grant of up to \$150,000 per year to implement projects that will help address specific health outcomes like decreasing the incidence of vaccine-preventable diseases or reducing the burden of illness due to tobacco or alcohol usage. Additionally, states will address how they deliver public health services. For example, states may focus on improving how they provide culturally ap-

appropriate services to their community, how they collect and use health data or how they integrate better customer service into public health programs.

Lead States builds off the momentum of two Multi-State Learning Collaborative (MLC) initiatives also funded by RWJF. States in the first phase of the MLC project explored the use of accreditation as a quality improvement process and helped shape the recommendations that established the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), the nonprofit group that will administer the voluntary national accreditation program for state and local public health departments beginning in 2011. Kansas was funded during the second phase of the MLC (MLC-2), which brought together 10 states to explore best practices for teaching and implementing quality improvement practices at the state and local level. During MLC-2, three Public Health Regions in Kansas implemented regional quality improvement initiatives. The West Central Public Health Initiative focused on increasing influenza vaccination rates; the Wildcat Public Health Region addressed oral health screening in the MCH population; and the East Central Kansas Public Health Coalition targeted standardizing STI services across the region. Representatives of these regions will discuss their projects at the KALHD Mid-Year Meeting, June 17 and 18 in Wichita.

INDOOR AIR TIPS

*submitted by Kathleen Waters
KDHE, Bureau of Air and Radiation*



Mold: Mold spores can contribute to asthma, allergies, and other health problems. Active mold can damage porous materials such as clothing, furniture, wood and insulation. Spores float in the air like dust and land on most surfaces, and can grow into active mold in 24-48 hours if there is moisture. Musty odors and visible mold indicate mold is present and testing is probably not needed. What is most important is to fix the water problem. Contaminated materials such as wallboard should be replaced. Mold growth on non-porous surfaces should be washed with a mild soap solution (not bleach) and the area thoroughly dried.

Air cleaners: Indoor air problems are usually best handled by first removing the source of the problem and improving ventilation. If an air cleaner is used, a brand that does not produce ions or ozone should be selected. Ozone can damage lung tissue. An air cleaner with a HEPA and/or charcoal type filter is recommended.

Furnace filters: Good quality pleated filters are recommended. They help protect people's lungs by removing fine particles such as dust mites, smoke and pollen from the air. Inexpensive mesh type fiberglass filters mostly serve to protect the furnace machinery by removing large particles, but do not trap most fine particles. Filters should be replaced every three months.

Radon gas: Homes and offices should be tested for radon. Testing is easy, inexpensive and very important because radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer after smoking. Radon occurs worldwide in pockets within the earth, and makes its way up through cracks in the ground and into buildings. Test kits are available from extension offices or hardware stores for \$5-\$10, and include the cost for getting test results.

Web-sites: EPA - Indoor Air Quality - www.epa.gov/iaq/index.html
EPA - Mold - www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldresources.html
Air cleaners and Ozone - www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/ozonegen.html
Radon - www.kansasradonprogram.org/
Furnace Filters - www.healthhouse.org/tipsheets/TS_FurnaceFilters.pdf

For additional information about these or other indoor air problems, contact the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Air and Radiation: Joyce Barrett (785) 368-6683, e-mail at jbarrett@kdhe.state.ks.us or Scott Weir (785) 291-3272, e-mail at sweir@kdhe.state.ks.us.



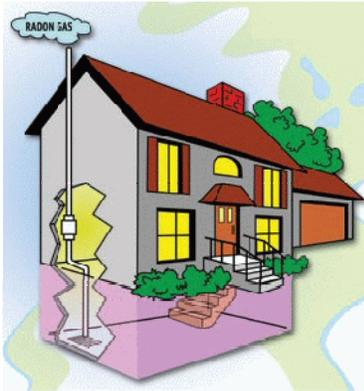
"THINKING GREEN TIP" – DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH?

Click on the picture of Kansas City for more information



HOW TO GET CURRENT AIR QUALITY INFORMATION

submitted by KDHE, Bureau of Air and Radiation



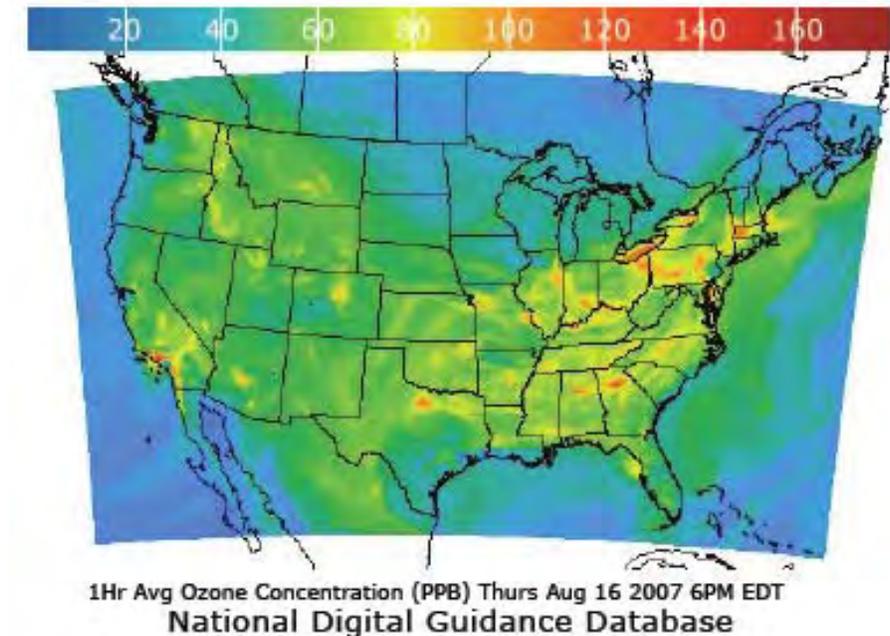
forecast is especially important to people with respiratory illnesses.

Air Quality Index (AQI) The AQI is a color-coded index describing how clean or polluted the outdoor air is in a specific location and what associated health effects may result for the local population. The AQI focuses on health effects a person may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. EPA has established AQI scales for five major pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. For each of these, EPA has established national air quality standards to protect public health.

State and local air quality agencies participating in the AIRNow program, post air quality conditions and their forecasts/alerts in terms of the AQI on EPA's AIRNow site: www.airnow.gov

EnviroFlash gives instant air quality information that citizens can customize for their own needs, allowing them to take steps that can protect the health of their family. The service is especially helpful for people who are at greater risk from air pollution, including children, older adults, and people with heart or lung diseases. Once you have registered for the EnviroFlash notification, you will receive air quality forecasts via e-mail or pager, allowing you to make plans based on the most up-to-date air quality information. Everyone can benefit by taking steps to reduce exposure on unhealthy air quality days. To participate in this service visit www.airnow.gov to register and learn more about the importance of air quality forecasts.

NOAA Forecasting Guidance is a new tool developed to assist state, local, and private sector organizations disseminate hour-by-hour air quality forecast information. Recent expansions to the tool now provide ozone and smoke predictions for the lower 48 states. This on-line guidance will also improve forecasters' abilities to predict the onset, severity, and duration of poor air quality, which will certainly help the public in planning their daily activities and as a result limiting their exposure to poor air quality. To learn more about this guidance tool visit, <http://www.weather.gov/aq/>.



KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

submitted by Theresa St.Romain, Senior Coordinator

Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute



The Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute (KPHLI) is seeking applicants for its sixth training cycle, 2008-2009. The year-long cycle will begin with an orientation session in connection with the Kansas Public Health Association conference in Topeka in September 2008.

The KPHLI provides competency-based leadership training to professionals in public health and allied fields from around the state. Through four quarterly training sessions, participants hear renowned speakers and complete directed readings and reflective writings in consultation with a mentor/coach. The training cycle culminates in the development and presentation of an applied public health capstone project.

Applicants must complete an application form and a one-page biosketch/statement of interest and must provide a letter of professional recommendation. Full instructions can be found in the Cycle VI application brochure at www.waldcenter.org/kphli/participants.html#cycleVI or by clicking the KPHLI logo.

For further information about applying to the KPHLI, contact KPHLI Senior Coordinator Theresa St.Romain at tstromain@kumc.edu. Applications should be submitted to Dr. Suzanne Hawley, KPHLI Co-Executive Director, at shawley@kumc.edu no later than Aug. 1.

PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS UPDATED WEB-SITE

Mike Heideman, Communications Specialist

Kansas Department of Health and Environment



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Center for Public Health Preparedness (CPHP) has recently updated its Web-site, which can be accessed at www.ksprepared.org or www.kdheks.gov/cphp/. Please bookmark your browsers for future reference!

The updated site features pages dedicated to specific sectors of the preparedness community and links to secure KDHE and CPHP sites, as well as information for the public. Information available on the site includes:

- Preparedness grant information, including the Grant Materials Tool Kit
- Standard Operating Guides, including Community Containment and Mass Dispensing
- Exercise tools
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) information
- A new Individuals and Families page
- A link to open a free online subscription to the KS Preparedness Times newsletter
- State Biological Incident Annex, Kansas CHEMPACK Plan, and more!

If you have questions about the CPHP Web-site, please contact Mike Heideman, communications specialist, at (785) 296-4363 or mheidema@kdhe.state.ks.us.

WHAT'S IN IT FOR ME?

submitted by Eldonna Chesnut

Kansas Public Health Association Board Member



In today's society our lifestyles keep us going at lightning speed. There are multiple demands from family, work, friends and church. Often we have to prioritize which meeting/event is more important than another. Likewise, we must choose which organizations to join and more importantly which organizations to be actively involved with. It often comes down to the basic question of – what's in it for me?

One organization I would like to encourage you to consider investing your valuable time in is KPHA (Kansas Public Health Association). KPHA is the only professional public health association in Kansas--just as the medical society is the professional organization for doctors, the hospital association is the professional organization for hospitals, American Nurses Association for Nurses -- KPHA is the professional organization for public health in the state (since 1920). The second benefit is being able to participate in all the programs and projects KPHA is involved in--annual conference, poster and paper sessions, Section activities, KDHE/KHPA/Kansas Foundation for Medical Care (KFMC)/Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) committees, and grant projects such as the Public Health Orien-

tation manual. We are also getting ready to launch a joint American Public Health Association (APHA)/KPHA effort regarding joint membership in both organizations. The third is advocacy - we also have the only "all public health" statewide advocacy effort in Kansas, organized AHA (Alliance of Health Advocates), sponsored Health Day at the Capitol, sponsored statewide Legislative Health Forums, and have testified on legislation. Membership also offers opportunities to network with other public health professionals. Finally, supporting KPHA with membership dues helps to promote public health in Kansas.

The current board of KPHA is working hard to provide members with a high quality organization that offers multiple sought after benefits. The board has created a strategic plan and is moving forward with many initiatives. However, for the organization to be successful we need to have member feedback and participation. If you are a member already – that's great! Do you want to get more involved and don't know how? There are many opportunities for you including serving on committees, helping out on grant projects, and helping at the fall conference just to name a few. If you aren't a member yet please consider the benefits of membership.

For additional information and/or to join KPHA go to <http://www.kpha.us/> or contact Nicole Heim, Associate Director at Nicole@kpha.us or (816) 564-2201. You may also contact me – Eldonna Chesnut, Board Member at Large and Membership Chair (913) 477-8366 or Eldonna.chesnut@jocogov.org.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY

submitted Theresa St. Romain

KPHLI Senior Coordinator KU Medical Center - Wichita

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, is now offering online cultural competency training for public health workers through the KS-TRAIN learning management system. The content for this two-part course, offered under the title "WALD: Cultural Competency Module" (I and II), was developed by Dr. Suzanne Hawley and Dr. Angelia Paschal for the KU Master of Public Health program in Wichita. It has been adapted for TRAIN into two self-paced trainings of two hours each. Trainings are free of charge for all participants. Course #1010194 for Module I and course #1010197 for Module II.

Training takes the format of online PowerPoints with audio narration. Topics covered in Module I include an introduction to cultural competency and related concepts, definitions related to ethnicity and race, the relationship of cultural competency to public health, and models for different stages of cultural competency. Topics covered in Module II include specific health behaviors of racial and ethnic groups in Kansas, culturally competent service delivery (including health literacy and Title VI), and several self-assessment tools.



HIV CULTURAL DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR FAMILY PLANNING CLINICS

submitted by Jennifer Vandavelde, KDHE, Bureau of Disease Control & Prevention and Ruth Werner, KDHE, Bureau of Family Health



This online course through KS-TRAIN, provides an overview of necessary elements to provide culturally competent services for diverse populations. The training was originally created as part of a cooperative agreement for opt-out HIV testing in family planning clinics, but can be applied to many related services (family planning, STD, primary care, OB/GYN, etc.). There is discussion of general cultural awareness, with an emphasis on African American and Hispanic cultures.

Special thanks to Sharon Goolsby, RN program director, Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) Center for Health Disparities, and Arturo Ponce, HIV/AIDS director, United Methodist Mexican American Ministries for their expertise and presentation of the subject matter. To find this course go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, # 1012967. For more information contact Jennifer Vandavelde at (785) 296-6544, JVandave@kdhe.state.ks.us or Ruth Werner at (785) 296-1304, RWerner@kdhe.state.ks.us.

PERINATAL ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

*submitted by Joe Kotch
Perinatal Health Consultant, KDHE*



The Annual Perinatal Association of Kansas (PAK) Conference, "Faces of Prematurity" will be held June 20 in the Gault-Hussey Auditorium in the Pozez Education Center at Stormont-Vail Health Care in Topeka. Topics that will be presented include: medical issues in the late preterm period, ethics related to issues in high-risk pregnancies, March of Dimes presentation of a model initiative to help reduce preterm births in targeted areas and new laws and issues from the field of genetics.

Bernard Becker, MA, SPHR, vice president and chief human resources officer for Stormont-Vail Health Care will present, "Leading and Working in a Multigenerational Workforce" in order to bring to the participants a greater understanding of the four age groups that make up today's workforce. The annual PAK general membership meeting gives participants an opportunity to hear reports from members of the PAK executive board and is a time for introductions to new as well as any outgoing board members.

The Kunsche Award will be presented to a person who embodies the ideal of dedicated service, and the promotion of optimal health for mothers and babies in the field of perinatal health. The honoree will receive a framed picture of a Native American grandmother holding an infant in a special recognition ceremony during the luncheon.

For more information and to receive a special "Early Bird" discount go to: www.kansasperinatal.org.

AWARD NOMINATIONS

*submitted by Shirley Orr
KDHE, Office of Local and Rural Health*

The Kansas Public Health Association is soliciting nominations for KPHA Awards, to be presented at its annual conference, Sept. 16-18 in Topeka. Nominations may be submitted to recognize individuals or organizations, in the following categories:

- ✦ Special Service Awards are for individuals who have rendered outstanding service to Kansas in the interest of public health and/or environmental improvement. Two special service awards may be given annually, one of which may be to a non-member of KPHA.
- ✦ Dorothy Woodin Award is bestowed on a public health nurse for outstanding public health nursing services.
- ✦ Jane Addams Award is for a social worker who exemplifies the qualities of Jane Addams, including a pioneering spirit, a trailblazer, and one striving to improve the health of the poor and the sanitary conditions of communities.
- ✦ Virginia Lockhart Health Education Award is given for outstanding service in public promotion of health and/or environmental issues.
- ✦ Corporate Public Health Service Award may be presented annually to a company or organization which, through public policy activities, makes a significant contribution to the mission of public health and/or environmental improvement in Kansas.

To submit a nomination, visit the KPHA website, www.kpha.us to obtain a nomination form, and submit it to KPHA headquarters by July 15.

KANSAS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

*submitted by Melissa Armstrong
Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA)*



The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is currently accepting scientific poster submissions for the 2008 KPHA Conference "Small Steps Toward Great Change" on Sept. 16-18 at the Topeka Capitol Plaza in Topeka.

Scientific posters will be evaluated on significance, clarity, content, quality and newness of approach or concept. The winning poster in each of the three categories (public health practitioner, public health researcher, or student) will win a trip to the Annual Public Health Association (APHA) Conference in San Diego, California. In



order to submit an abstract for the poster competition, click on the picture of Balboa Park in San Diego, fill out the form and return it to marmstro@kumc.edu by July 15.

For more information about the annual KPHA conference, visit the KPHA Web-site click logo above.

SPECIAL NW KANSAS LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH BILLING MEETING

Just a reminder of the NEXT NW Kansas Local Public Health Billing meeting on Tuesday, July 1, at the Hoxie Presbyterian Church, 1101 Sheridan Ave, Hoxie, from 10:00 a.m. to about 3:00 p.m. This special meeting is mainly for the seasoned billers to help the many new billers that have come on board at the local agencies the past few months. The billing clerks will meet in the morning and then will be joined by the insurance representatives at 1:00 pm. The noon meal is being catered. Please RSVP to Heather Brack at heather@scpublichealth.com for a meal count. (The meal will cost approximately \$7.50 per person). Seasoned billers, be sure to bring any 'cheat sheets' you use for billing to share with the new billers. Hope to see you there.

JOHNSON COUNTY JOB OPENINGS



The Johnson County Public Health Department, located in the Kansas City Metro area is seeking applicants for the following position:

- Dental Hygienist (contract) #104300
- Public Health Nurse #103737

To review the job specifications click on the Johnson County logo on the left and scroll down the page. Interested applicants may send resume and cover letter to Stacy Barr, Recruiter; stacy.barr@jocogov.org or for complete details and to apply online, visit <http://hr.jocogov.org>; or fax resume to (913) 715-1419; or mail to: Johnson County Human Resources; 111 S. Cherry, Suite 2600; Olathe, KS 66061. EOE

JOB OPENING AT SEDGWICK COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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

- ARNP / PA General Clinic (20002324052808).

For more information click the Sedgwick County Seal on the right, or contact Jeff Goetzing, Human Resource Assistant, Sedgwick County Health Department at (316) 660-7333.



**LOCAL HEALTH SECTION
OFFICE OF LOCAL & RURAL HEALTH**

<p>Shirley Orr Director, Local Health 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-7100 Cell phone –316-250-6940 Fax number 785-296-1231 E-mail address – sorr@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Jon Anderson Public Health Capacity Development Manager 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-8435 Cell Phone – 785-231-4502 Fax number – 785-296-1231 E-mail address – janderso@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Linda Frazier PH Nurse Specialist 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-296-3641 Cell phone – 785-231-4504 Fax number - 785-296-1231 E-mail address – lfrazier@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Debbie Whitmer PH Nurse Specialist 2501-D Market Place Salina, KS 67401-7699 Office phone –785-827-9639 Cell phone – 785-452-5986 Fax number – 785-827-1544 Email address – dwhitmer@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>
<p>Debbie Nickels Kansas TRAIN Administrator 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone – 785-291-3457 Cell phone – 785-231-4503 Fax number – 785-296-1231 E-mail address – dnickels@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>	<p>Jacob Jackson KS-TRAIN Instructional Specialist 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 340 Topeka, KS 66612-1365 Office phone - 785-291-3241 Fax number – 785-29-1231 E-mail address – jjackson@kdhe.state.ks.us</p>