



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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Governor's Weight Loss Challenge Celebrates Pounds Lost

by the Office of Communications

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)



The Governor's Weight Loss Challenge is complete! Governor Sam Brownback announced that the more than 5,000 Kansans participating in the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge lost a total of 44,409 pounds (more than 22 tons)! A celebration with an awards presentation was held May 21 in Topeka. Governor Brownback said in a public statement: "Congratulations to everyone from across the state who accepted this challenge to begin eating healthier and exercising regularly. It's important to your well-being that you maintain a lifestyle that keeps the weight off, so don't stop today. I am extremely impressed by the success of individuals and teams during the past four months."

The Governor's team finished 184th out of 1,026 teams. The team in first place on the leader board at the closing of the competition hailed from the Kansas Department of Corrections. Prizes were awarded to State of Kansas employees who were members of the first- and second-place teams and for the State employee teams finishing ahead of the Governor's team. Additionally, an award was presented to the individual who lost the highest percentage of weight: 33.72 percent! Prize money in the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge totaled \$44,500.

The following sponsors made the monetary prizes possible: Coventry Health Care, UnitedHealth Group and Kansas Beverage Association. The Governor also said: "I appreciate our sponsors for their commitment to a healthier Kansas. Our obesity rate for adults is approximately 30 percent, and I'm glad we were able to bring awareness to this epidemic and work together to reduce our risk for chronic illness like diabetes and heart disease."

Stay tuned for a follow up program to encourage commitment to fitness successes achieved during the Governor's Weight Loss Challenge. The program is, "Move Across Kansas," and is sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas.

Impacting Population Health: Regional Listening Sessions

by the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



Kansas, along with many national and regional organizations, is exploring options to improve health in communities through increasing collaborative relationships between primary care providers and public health. Successful models of integration share common goals of improving population health, involving the community in defining and addressing needs, relying on strong leadership across disciplines and sharing data and analysis.

Please join the Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) and partner organizations for this important conversation, which is designed to bring together individuals to:

- Provide information about potential opportunities in cross-sector collaboration
- Explore current integrated delivery system examples in Kansas communities
- Discuss potential opportunities and perceived challenges

Dr. Robert Moser, a family physician serving as the State Health Officer and Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, will attend each session to provide comments and rationale for this discussion. Collaborative cross-sector work underway in Kansas communities will be highlighted, challenges and opportunities will be discussed, and participants will receive answers to their questions.

We hope to see you at one of the following locations from 5:00-8:30 p.m. (dinner will be provided)

- Wed., June 26 – Wichita, Wichita State University Hughes Metropolitan Complex
- Mon., July 1 – Chanute, Memorial Building
- Mon., July 8 – Garden City, Clarion Inn
- Tues., July 16 – Salina, Courtyard by Marriott
- Thurs., Aug. 1 – Colby, City Limits Convention Center

- Tues., Aug. 6 – Topeka, Ramada Inn Convention Center

There is no charge to participate, pre-registration is required on [KS-TRAIN](#) Course ID 1044011. Space is limited so register early. For more information contact Jane Shirley, Local Public Health Director at 785-296-6549 or <mailto:jshirley@kdheks.gov>.

Local Public Health Leadership Series – Presented by KDHE & KALHD



*by Jane Shirley, Director Local Health
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) are offering a new leadership development opportunity for local public health department administrators in Western Kansas for the Summer and Fall 2013.

The purpose of the Local Public Health Leadership Series is to equip individuals to exercise leadership for the enhancement of the Medicaid service system in their local agencies.

Leadership involves mobilizing others, sometimes without direct authority to do so, in an effort to address difficult community challenges. These difficult, daunting, adaptive challenges do not have a single expert or manager that can fix them. Progress can be made to address adaptive challenges but it will require learning, involvement of stakeholders and persistent efforts. Public health professionals are in key positions to provide this kind of leadership.

The Local Public Health Leadership Series will develop core knowledge and skills related to identifying and responding to adaptive challenges. The focus will be on development of leadership competencies identified by the Kansas Leadership Center: Diagnosing the Situation, Managing Self, Energizing Others and Intervening Skillfully. The Wichita State University Center for Community Support and Research (WSU-CCSR) will serve as faculty and coaches for the series which is modeled after the Kansas Leadership Center's training curriculum and methods. If you want to know more, click on the Kansas Leadership Center logo or email seth.bate@wichita.edu.



Materials, hotel accommodations, travel stipends and most meals are provided. This will require attendance at four, 1 ½-day sessions which will take place in the Agmax Crop Insurance meeting room, 815 W Fifth, Scott City:

- July 22 afternoon and evening; July 23 morning and afternoon
- Aug. 26 afternoon and evening; Aug. 27 morning and afternoon
- Sept. 30 afternoon and evening; Oct. 1 morning and afternoon
- Nov. 4 afternoon and evening; Nov. 5 morning and afternoon

If interested, please complete the application by clicking on the KALHD logo above by June 30 and return to michelle.ponce@kalhd.org. Enrollment is limited; administrators who cannot attend the summer may apply for future development opportunities. Funding for the Local Public Health Leadership Series is provided through a Medicaid contract through KDHE to WSU-CCSR.

Bureau of Community Health Systems Announces Frazee's Retirement



*Mindee Reece, Administrator, Director
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Linda Frazee RN BSN, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist in the Local Public Health Program, officially announced her retirement – her last day in the office will be June 10. Linda has been employed by the State of Kansas since 1991 and for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) since 1998. Ms. Reece, stated, "I've had the pleasure of working with Linda on an ongoing basis since 1998, and want to acknowledge her outstanding contributions to the agency, bureau, and entire public health system. From my perspective, of special note is Linda's work as a Safety Officer during the agency's response to the 2009 Influenza A Pandemic, which lasted nine months. She helped many of her KDHE peers through very long and challenging days, weeks, and months". Please join me in congratulating Linda on her upcoming retirement and thanking her for her amazing work. Linda's retirement celebration will be June 10, from 2-4 p.m. in the Flint Hills Conference Room, Curtis State Office Building in Topeka.

Empower Patients to Talk with Their Doctors for Help Quitting Smoking

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



In April 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) launched a continuation of its groundbreaking national tobacco education campaign to increase awareness about the negative health effects caused by smoking and secondhand smoke exposure and to encourage smokers to quit. The campaign, *Tips From Former Smokers*, features former smokers who have experienced smoking-related diseases at a relatively young age. The ads, which first aired in 2012, have been highly effective in motivating smokers to quit, with calls to the toll-free 1-800-QUIT-NOW Quitline (1-800-784-8669) more than doubling compared with the same 12-week period in 2011.

As part of the this year's *Tips* campaign, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is partnering with CDC to support a new initiative called, "Talk With Your Doctor," which encourages smokers to talk with their health care providers about quitting. The goal of this initiative is to engage health care providers and encourage them to use the *Tips* campaign as an opportunity to talk with their patients who smoke about quitting. The initiative can also serve as a reminder for smokers to talk with their health care providers about effective methods to help them quit.

"Physicians play an important role in helping patients take steps to improve their health," said Tim McAfee, MD, MPH, director of the Office on Smoking and Health at CDC, and a primary care physician. "Patients with tobacco dependence should be identified and treated in the same way that patients with diabetes, hypertension or other health issues are identified and treated. We hope that this initiative provides a conversation starter for physicians to proactively talk with their patients about how they can quit smoking."

Studies show that when health care providers offer patients brief, motivational advice to quit smoking, patients are more likely to try to quit and to succeed. Physicians can play an important role in helping patients to quit by asking them whether they use tobacco, advising those who use tobacco to quit and referring them to cessation resources such as the Kansas Tobacco Quitline 1-800-QUIT-NOW or click on the KanQuit logo above.

KDHE's Tobacco Use Prevention Program provides trainings to health and dental care providers on strategies to encourage patients to quit smoking and the process to refer patients to the Quitline for additional cessation support. Additionally, a health care provider section on CDC's *Tips From Former Smokers* website now features a range of useful resources such as fact sheets, downloadable posters, intervention scripting cards, and other training materials and resources. For more information about the campaign, click the *Tips From Former Smokers* logo. For more information about how to talk with your patients about smoking, go to www.cdc.gov/tips/hcp/. To schedule a presentation on the Kansas Tobacco Quitline or to receive Kansas Quitline materials contact Matthew Schrock, KDHE Cessation Coordinator, at mschrock@kdheks.gov or 316-337-6056.



What to do During an Emergency: Social Media 101

by Aimee Rosenow, Public Health Information Officer
Office of Communication, KDHE



Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is pleased to announce Social Media 101, a guide to assist with communication during an emergency using social media. Whether in preparation for, in response to, or recovery from an emergency event, conversations are occurring on social media networks. We can look at social media as a means (one of many) by which emergency preparedness partners can provide service to the public, achieving a successful mutual outcome of protecting the public and mitigating the impact of disasters. The participation in social media is the bridge between the means and the end when the emergency preparedness community and the public work together. We can all play a role in using social media to seek emergency information and share it to help our family, friends, neighbors, work colleagues and communities. Click the KDHE logo to view the social media guide.

Bureau of Health Promotion Announces New Public Health Reports

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

The Bureau of Health Promotion is pleased to announce the recent posting of the following publications to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website. The reports provide the most recent Kansas statistics on diseases, health conditions and related risk factors to help guide public health stakeholders at the state and local levels in their public health activities by identifying gaps and establishing baselines for planning objectives. Copies of the new reports will be mailed to local health department administrators.

[Health Risk Behaviors of Kansans, 2011 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System](#)
[Depression and Anxiety Status in Kansas](#)
[Obesity, Physical Activity and Nutrition in Kansas](#)

Repowered Locomotive Event for Cleaner Air

by the Bureau of Air, KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), in partnership with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF), recently unveiled one of three repowered locomotives that feature significantly reduced emissions. The event was held in recognition of National Air Quality Awareness Week. Robert Moser, MD, Secretary, spoke about KDHE's strides in the improvement of air quality in the state and highlighted the

partnership with BNSF to repower the three locomotives.

Through support from KDHE, BNSF secured more than \$2.5 million in federal funds for their \$4.8 million project. One locomotive repower reduces emissions by 111 tons of carbon dioxide, 21 tons of nitrogen oxide, and 3.3 tons of particulate matter per year, and it uses approximately 10,000 gallons less fuel for the same operations. As part of this project, BNSF installed five automatic engine start/stop devices, which shut down the locomotive to prevent unnecessary idling. In total, these BNSF locomotives are set to reduce air pollutions by 50 to 60 percent. This project is one of several Bureau of Air has undertaken with the \$4 million in federal grant funds KDHE was awarded to improve air quality across Kansas.



KPHA Partners With APHA

*by Eldonna Chesnut
APHA Representative*



Did you know that you can join the American Public Health Association (APHA) and the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) at the same time for less than joining both separately? Kansas is one of four states involved in this pilot project. You can reap the benefits of membership in both organizations, including conference discounts, newsletters, advocacy updates and more. If you are or have been an APHA member only, the only difference is that you will receive the electronic copy of the journal verses a paper copy. Other than that you would still receive all the same benefits. Join before July to beat the cost increase that is coming.

Click the APHA logo to learn more and how to become a member of both KPHA and APHA. For other questions you may contact Eldonna Chestnut at Eldonna.chesnut@jocogov.org.

2013 Health Champion Award Nominations

from the Kansas Governor's Council on Fitness website



As part of the effort to help Kansans improve their health, each year the Governor recognizes an individual and an organization for their exceptional efforts to model, encourage and promote fitness in Kansas. Take the opportunity now to [nominate your favorite health champion](#) for this award and special recognition by Governor Sam Brownback. The deadline for nominations is June 28.

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Safe Routes to School Program - Deadline June 7

by Becky Pepper, State Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator
Kansas Department of Transportation



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

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

Run for Good - Deadline June 13



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

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

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



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

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

Coalition Development Grant - Deadline June 15

AWARENESS + TOOLS = CHANGE

The Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention Coalition Development Planning Grant Program is accepting, "Coalition Development," grant applications. The purpose of this

grant is to promote the development of geographically-diverse suicide prevention coalitions in order to build a statewide network of safety and hope to prevent suicide deaths and suicidal behaviors in Kansas youth aged 10-24. It supports one year of planning to assist youth suicide prevention coalitions in becoming operational. Funding Range is up to \$10,000. Click the logo above to download the application.

Local Activities Grant - Deadline June 15



The Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention Local Activities Grant Program is also accepting applications for "Local Activities." The purpose of this grant is to fund activities planned by Kansas organizations to prevent suicide deaths and suicidal behaviors in youth aged 10-24 years. The time period for this grant is July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Funding range is up to \$3,000.

NLM Disaster Health Information Outreach and Collaboration Projects - Deadline June 20



The National Library of Medicine (NLM) through its Disaster Information Management Research Center and the National Network of Libraries of Medicine has provided funding support for outreach and collaboration projects related to disaster health information. These projects are intended to improve disaster medicine and public health information access for health professionals, first responders, community members and others that play a role in health-related disaster preparedness, response and recovery. To learn more click the NLM logo.

Understanding and Promoting Health Literacy - Deadline Sept. 25



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

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

Baseball Tomorrow Fund - Deadline Oct. 1



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

Training and Conference Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

State of Men's Heart Health Webinar - June 3



The Men's Health Network (MHN) is providing a webinar for entities interested in improving men's heart health on June 3 from noon to 1:00 p.m. Participants will learn about the current status of men's heart health in the United States, discover effective tools and strategies for involving men in improving their own heart health and gain insights from the perspective of a male heart attack survivor. This webinar is intended for doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dietitians, public health professionals, community health workers, representatives of health care systems and other entities interested in improving men's heart health. Click the MHN logo for more information and to register for the webinar.

Know, Grow, and Eat Your Vegetables - June 19



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) is presenting a webinar on June 19 from 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. The Know, Grow, and Eat Your Vegetables program in Schenectady County, New York was developed to address obesity and other related health burdens disproportionately faced by people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Join this webinar to learn about the collaboration between Schenectady County Public Health Services and Schenectady Advocacy, Resources, Choices which was recognized as a Model Practice by NACCHO in 2012. To join this webinar, click on the NACCHO logo.

Ethics in Public Health: A Closer Look at Current Issues - June 20



The University at Albany, State University of New York's School of Public Health is providing a free webinar on June 20 from 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. The webinar will focus on defining public health ethics, the differences

between clinical ethics and public health ethics and current issues in public health ethics. To learn more about this webinar or to register click the School of Public Health logo.

Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention Statewide Summit - July 30-31



**FORT HAYS STATE
UNIVERSITY**

Forward thinking. World ready.

The Kansas Youth Suicide Prevention (KYSP) will be hosting their first statewide conference July 30-31, on the campus of Fort Hays State University (FHSU). Plan to join your peers for engaging and thought-provoking workshops that will give you more tools to use in your critically important work. KYSP will also introduce a number of resources

for you to draw upon. To register, click the FHSU logo.

Kansas Evidence-Based Public Health Course - August 5-8

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

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's Bureau of Health Promotion is offering training on the use of evidence-based public health interventions for local and state public health professionals. The training is a four-day course that will be offered in both Kansas City and Wichita on Aug. 5-8.

Applied use of evidence-based interventions at the state and local levels is critical to achieving successful public health outcomes, a skilled and adaptable workforce and more efficient and effective use of resources. As local health departments prepare for public health accreditation, the topics, techniques and tools provided through this course will enhance current understanding of principles of health assessment, improvement planning and evaluation.

The Kansas Evidence-Based Public Health course will include the following topics: selecting evidence-based interventions, action plans for results, quantitative evaluation, using qualitative data, prioritizing program and policy options and the economics of prevention.

This course is provided in collaboration with the University of Kansas School of Medicine and the St. Louis Prevention and Research Center (PRC). Adapted from the PRC's highly regarded Evidence-Based Public Health Course, the Kansas course features state specific data, insight from successful Kansas initiatives and guidance from instructors who practice public health in Kansas.

This course is ideal for tier two and tier three public health professionals. Please send your contact information to healthpromotion@kdheks.gov to receive a course application. Continuing education will be offered.

Save the Date KPHA Conference - Sept. 17-19



The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) 2013 Fall Conference will be held Sept. 17-19 at the Hyatt Regency, Wichita. Registration for this year's big event will be announced soon. Click the KPHA log for more information.

Family Planning Program Adds Online Course on Family Human Trafficking

*by Gail Chalman, Family Planning Clinical Coordinator
Bureau of Family Health, KDHE*



KDHE: Bureau of Family - Human Trafficking Course ID 1037505 is an archived webinar, available on [KS-TRAIN](#) that defines and provides tools for identifying victims of Human Trafficking. Participants will better understand the extent of the human trafficking issue in the Midwest. This webinar was presented by Sarah Grenzeback, National Human Trafficking Resource Center. Click on the Polaris Project logo to learn more about Human Trafficking.

On-line Courses Offer Continuing Education for Nurses

Looking for continuing education for nursing professionals, check out the following online courses on KS-TRAIN, <http://ks.train.org>:

- Healthcare Access for Persons with Disabilities Online Module Course ID 1025624 Continuing education approval expires May 1, 2014 (1 CNE). The overall goals for this training program are to increase the capacity of health professionals and staff to deliver culturally sensitive, quality care to adults and children with physical and sensory disabilities, to solve related problems in their practices, and to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act. By the end of this course you will gain a better understanding of health, wellness and care issues concerning people with physical disabilities; recognize the four barriers to quality healthcare, as addressed in the Americans with Disabilities Act;

learn a minimum of five skills to increase good communication and rapport to enhance accurate assessment and delivery of quality care.

- Healthy Futures-Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings-TRAIN the TRAINER, Course ID, 1026929. Continuing education approval expires Dec. 1 (7.2 CNE). At the conclusion of this online course learners will be able to describe types of medications, reasons to give medications, and responsibilities of the parent, child care provider and health care professional; identify state and federal laws and regulations related to medication administration that need to be considered; describe the need and purpose for written medication policies and resources that can be used to develop policies for medication requests, storage, administration, and medication incidents/errors; practice reviewing medication requests and physician orders to identify information needed to assure safe medication administration practices; practice medication administration documentation and recording of medication incidents and identify medication administration educational resources to assist child care providers in assisting parents and staff in safe administration practices.
- The Kansas Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics sponsors the Healthy Habits modules on KS-TRAIN. Continuing education approval expires Dec. 31, 2014 (1 CNE per module). Module 1, Course ID 1015996, focuses on obesity in Kansas children, a growing epidemic; Module 2, Course ID 1016561, discusses negotiating behavior, the road to long-term change; Module 3, Course ID, 1016562, is the expert committee recommendations on the assessment and treatment of child and adolescent overweight and obesity; and Module 4, Course ID 1016563, promotes the prevention of childhood obesity.
- Module 1: Nursing Care Coordination: How it Supports Families, Course ID, 1025049. Continuing education provided by the University of Colorado Denver, College of Nursing. One of the fundamental components to an effective medical home model is care coordination. This module, the first in a three-part series, introduces you to a nursing care coordination model and how an effective model supports families with their special health care needs. The three-part series also includes, Module 2: Nursing Care Coordination: Assessment and Care Plan, Course ID, 1025070, and Module 3: Nursing Care Coordination: Development of Interventions, Course ID, 1025072.

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Metadata Access Tool for Climate and Health (MATCH)



MATCH is a publicly accessible online tool for researchers that offers centralized access to metadata - standardized contextual information - about thousands of government-held datasets related to health, the environment and climate-science. MATCH is one of a growing number of tools, driven by open data, that are being made available as fuel for innovation, ideas and insights - in this case, at the important intersection of climate and human health.

The Network for Public Health Law



The Network for Public Health Law provides insightful legal assistance, helpful resources and opportunities to build connections for local, tribal, state and federal officials; public health practitioners; attorneys; policy-makers and advocates. Organizations and individuals committed to improving public health can join the network by clicking on their logo.

In 2012, there were a number of challenges and opportunities in public health and the Network was at the forefront in working with state, local and tribal public health agencies, policy-makers, advocates and other partners on solutions and innovative approaches. Read the 2012 Annual Report to learn about the role the Network for Public Health Law played in improving public health and advancing the field of public health law. Click the annual report image to learn more.



Primary Care and Public Health: Exploring Integration to Improve Population Health



Primary care and public health have critical roles in providing for the health and well-being of communities across the nation. Although they each share a common goal, historically they have operated independently of each other. However, new opportunities are emerging that could bring the two sectors together in ways that will yield substantial and lasting improvements in the health of individuals, communities and populations. Because of this potential, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Health Resources and Services Administration asked the Institute of Medicine to examine the integration of primary care and public health. Click on the Primary Care and Public Health report image to learn more.

CDC Issues First Comprehensive Report on Children's Mental Health in the United States



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued the first-ever report to describe federal efforts on monitoring mental disorders and estimates the number of U.S. children with mental disorders.

This report is an important step to better understand children's mental disorders, identify gaps in data and develop public health strategies to protect and promote children's mental health, so children can reach their full potential in life. Learn what CDC is doing about mental health disorders among children and how you can help. Click the CDC logo to learn more.

Community Health Improvement Week: June 2-8



Community Health Improvement Week is a national awareness and recognition event designed to raise awareness and increase understanding of the vital role of community health improvement strategies. To learn more about the events click on the Community Health Improvement Week logo.

Health Care Quality Improving, While Some Americans Still Lack Access



The quality of U.S. health care is slowly improving, while access to health care remains a great challenge for some Americans, especially racial and ethnic minorities and low-income people, according to the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality's (AHRQ) newly-published 2012 National Healthcare Quality Report and National Healthcare Disparities Report. To read this report, click the AHRQ logo.

NACCHO Activates Critical Resources on Tornado Recovery and Response



The National Association of County and City Health Officers (NACCHO) encourage local health departments in areas prone to tornadoes to prepare for the possibility of tornadoes striking their jurisdiction. NACCHO has compiled resources to share with community partners, individuals and families to aid in their recovery and for local health department preparedness training. Click the report cover to learn more.

Healthy Swimming and Recreational Water Websites



Swimming and other water-related activities are excellent ways to get the physical activity and health benefits needed for a healthy life. Americans swim hundreds of millions of times in pools, oceans, lakes, rivers, and hot tubs/spas each year and most people have a safe and healthy time enjoying the water. However, it is important to be aware of ways to prevent recreational water illnesses (RWIs), sunburn, and drowning that can occur. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's [Healthy Swimming Program](#) and website, launched in 2001, provides information for the public, public health and medical professionals, and aquatics staff so everyone can maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of illness and injury.

In Kansas, swimming is the second most popular exercise activity, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is committed to protecting the health of all Kansans. A Recreational Water Guidelines toolkit is available through the Bureau of Environmental Health website. Click the KDHE logo to learn more.

AHRQ Oral Health Resources



Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) oral health resources include data and information on dental use, expenditures, insurance coverage, oral health literacy and dental research projects supported by AHRQ. AHRQ also supports Dental TeamSTEPPS with four modules on dental office lost and won opportunities. Click the image on the left to learn more.

Ticks, Mosquitoes and Other Unwanted Vectors



The Division of Vector-Borne Diseases (DVBD) strives to protect the nation from bacterial and viral diseases transmitted by mosquitoes, ticks and fleas. Some of these diseases have long been present in the United States while others have recently emerged. These include some of the world's most destructive diseases, many of which are increasing threats to human health as the environment changes and globalization increases. Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC)/DVBD plays a unique role, housing much of the world's expertise in the diagnosis, prevention and control of these diseases.

Looking for public education material on ticks, check out the CDC tick website for information on how to prevent and remove ticks, and symptoms of a tick-borne illness. Click on the blacklegged tick above for more information.

Extreme Weather Events Workgroup Aids in Public Health Coordination

A Kansas Extreme Weather Events Workgroup with representatives from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment programs and outside partners has been meeting to promote effective and coordinated public health interventions to preserve health and prevent death during and after extreme weather events in Kansas. The workgroup assists in identification of vulnerable populations, develop communication to prevent anticipated health impacts and translate surveillance tracking data to inform communities of emerging health threats. To learn more about the Extreme Weather Events Workgroup contact Henri Menager, Community Evaluation Coordinator, Bureau of Environmental Health, KDHE at hmenager@kdheks.gov or call 785-296-3067.

Leapfrog Group Releases Hospital Performance Scorecard

The Leapfrog Group recently released its quarterly [scorecard](#) for approximately 2,600 hospitals nationally, which assigns a letter grade for hospitals performance.

THE LEAPFROG GROUP

Advancing Effective Communication in Critical Access Hospitals



The United States Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Office for Civil Rights [announced](#) its national compliance review initiative Advancing Effective Communication in Critical Access Hospitals to support language access programs in these hospitals. In concert with the [HHS Action Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities](#), this initiative will ensure that language access is provided so that individuals who do not speak English as their primary language and who have a limited ability to read, speak, write or understand English or are limited English proficient can effectively participate in, and benefit from, quality health care services. Click the HHS log to review the national compliance review initiative.

Public Health: Are We Too Slow?

The public health system is under more pressure than ever to be relevant, timely, and right. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention uses the example of increasing Salmonella infections to discuss pros, cons, and improvements to be made in the areas of public health decision-making and public information in the following article. Click here to read more: [Public Health: Are We Too Slow?](#)

The Dialogue: Integrating Disaster Behavioral Health Into Public Health Services



The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) journal, the Dialogue, highlights how to integrate disaster behavioral health into public health. In addition there are several other disaster related articles that may be of interest, such as the Role of Social Media in Disaster Planning. Please see the SMHSA logo to view the Dialogue.

Health Department Updates

- Annie Blankinship, new Administrator Chautauqua County Health Administrator - June 1
- Brenda Nickel, new Administrator, Riley County Health Department - June 17
- Susan Belt, new CEO, NEK Multi-County Health Department - June 17
- Junction City-Geary County Health Department has become the Geary County Health Department

Job Openings

Johnson County Health Department

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

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Reno County Health Department

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

- [Assistant Director](#)
- [Certified Home Health Aide](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Registered Dietician/Registered Nurse - WIC](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

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

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)



Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

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

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter, Email Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov

Previous issues of Public Health Connections maybe found at www.kdheks.gov/olrh/publications.htm

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov or

Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov