



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

The former Bureau of Public Health Preparedness newsletter, "Preparedness Times," has been merged with the Bureau of Community Health Systems newsletter, "Public Health Connections." We look forward to communicating partner preparedness announcements and articles via the monthly E-Newsletter. If you would like to be on the distribution list for Public Health Connections please send an email to pbehnke@kdheks.gov or if you have information to contribute for the August 1 edition please contact Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov or 785-291-3457.

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KDHE Announces Center for Health Equity and Bureau of Community Health Systems



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would like to announce that the Center for Health Disparities is now called the Center for Health Equity. The name change reflects a broader and more positive framing of the purpose for Center initiatives, which is to promote better health for individuals, families and communities.

The mission of the Center is to promote and improve the health status of all Kansans through shared leadership and collaboration across the public health system. One way to accomplish this is to reduce identified and emerging health disparities among racial, ethnic, tribal and underserved populations. The Center specifically supports identification, leveraging, training and communication about existing resources within the Division of Health to address reduction of disparities.

Accomplishments of the Center since January 2011 include:

- Coordination of the "Healthy Baby Begins with You" campaign tour in Kansas with Tonya Lewis Lee, national Office of Minority Health spokesperson for the campaign during April, Minority Health Awareness Month.
- Merger of the former annual Center for Health Disparities conference with the Governor's Public Health Conference.
- Hosted the OMH Region VII launch (Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas) of the National Partnership for Action (NPA) and Health and Human Services.

"The Center's name change reflects a broader purpose for its initiatives," explained Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary of KDHE. "Achieving health equity requires promoting better health and quality of life for everyone. I am confident that the Center for Health Equity will continue its work to improve health outcomes for all Kansans."

Linda Kenney, Director, Bureau of Family Health Retires

*by the Bureau of Community Health Systems
and Brenda Nickel, Director
Office of Performance Management, KDHE*



Linda Kenney, MPH, the Director of the Bureau of Family Health, KDHE, retired June 24 after a distinguished career in public health service. Linda's many accomplishments include, vision and groundwork for creation of the Bureau of Oral Health, innovative conceptual planning to collect and analyze maternal child health (MCH) data, key contributions to the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Grant and collaboration with stakeholders and policy-makers creating a comprehensive statewide newborn screening program.

One of the highlights of her career came in 2009 when she was awarded the prestigious Crumaine Medal, the highest award conferred by the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), for meritorious service and national recognition related to the improvement of the health of Kansans. KPHA awarded the medal for Linda's dedication and achievement in the field of MCH in which she has provided leadership for priority setting, planning and policy development, as well as mentoring of practitioners at the local and state level.

Robert Moser, Secretary, Kansas Department of Health and Environment appointed David Thomason to serve as Acting Director of the Bureau of Family Health following Linda Kenney's retirement. Thomason has served as Director of the Kansas WIC Program since 1998, providing leadership for Nutrition and WIC-related programs, which provide nutrition education and nutritious, supplemental food to over 77,000 Kansas mothers, infants and children each month.

In the Spotlight - Brown County Selected for CDC's National Health Examination Survey

*by Karla Harter, Nursing Supervisor
Brown County Health Department*



The Center's for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC's National Center for Health Statistics](#)) is conducting a major study of the health of persons living in the United States. Brown County, Kansas has been selected as one of the survey locations during the current [National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey](#) (NHANES).

The NHANES program began in the early 1960s and has been conducted as a series of surveys focusing on different population groups or health topics. In 1999, the survey became a continuous program that has a changing focus on a variety of

health and nutrition measurements to meet emerging needs. The survey examines a nationally representative sample of about 5,000 persons each year. These persons are located in counties across the country, 15 of which are visited each year.

CDC personnel will be conducting the survey in [Brown County](#) from Aug. 1 through Oct. 3. A sample of approximately 420 people will be asked to participate in the survey. Data are collected through household interviews and standardized medical exams in mobile examination centers. Interviewers will be calling on designated households throughout the area. They will obtain the demographic information used to identify and select people for the examination.

The NHANES interview includes demographic, socioeconomic, dietary and health related questions. The diseases, medical conditions and health indicators to be studied include: anemia, body composition, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, environmental exposures, hearing loss, infectious diseases, kidney disease, nutrition, obesity, oral health, physical activity and physical functioning, reproductive history, sexual behavior, respiratory disease, sexually transmitted diseases and taste and smell.

All participants visit a physician for an extensive physical examination, a dentist for oral health and trained lab personnel for blood, urine and hair samples.

Transportation is provided to and from the mobile center if necessary. Participants receive compensation and a copy of medical findings. All information collected in the survey is kept strictly confidential. Privacy is protected by public laws. Survey results are available for the total number surveyed nationally and will not be available at the county level.

In the Spotlight - Responsibilities and Activities of the Solid Waste Permits Section

*by Dennis Degner, Section Chief
Bureau of Waste Management, KDHE*



The Solid Waste Permits Section (SWPS), one of three sections, in the Bureau of Waste Management, Kansas Department of Health and Environment administers permits to assure that all solid waste facilities are designed, constructed and operated in a manner that protects human health and the environment. Permitted and approved facility types include composting, construction/demolition, household hazardous waste, incinerator, industrial, landfarm, medical waste, mobile tire processor, municipal solid waste-small arid

landfill, municipal solid waste-Subtitle D landfill, solid waste processor, tire collection center, tire monofill, tire processing facility, tire transporter and transfer station.

The Solid Waste Permits Section is comprised of three units - Solid Waste Landfills Unit, Solid Waste Processing and Planning Unit and the Solid Waste Hydrogeologic Unit. The corresponding unit chiefs are Sam Sunderraj, P.E., Joe Cronin, P.E. and Juan Sexton, L.G. Section management and staff review proposed site hydrologic evaluations, engineering designs, construction quality assurance reports, operating plan updates, permit issuance/denials, county and regional solid waste management plans and provide administration for 489 active permits.

Recent major activities have involved meetings with project managers of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and with owners and operators of landfills in southeast Kansas to clarify the regulations, operating requirements and technical guidance that apply to emergency debris management and disposal activities. An analysis is being done to determine the estimated remaining capacity of these facilities, and to assess their ability to be able to dispose of the large quantities, possibly 1.5 to 2 million cubic yards, of demolition debris that will likely be coming to Kansas over the next 3-6 months as the result of the Joplin, Missouri tornado of May 22.

For questions regarding solid waste activities and permits contact the section staff by calling 785-296-1600.

Response to Joplin Tornado



*by Janis Goedeke, Administrator
Crawford County Health Department*

Crawford, Cherokee and Labette counties have participated in the Four Corners Emergency Preparedness for the past several years. This is a group that meets on a quarterly basis with members from Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri and Oklahoma. On May 22, the preplanning of this preparedness group was put to a full test. As a neighboring county to Jasper County, Missouri, Crawford County Health Department (CCHD) assisted in the needed response to the city of Joplin. On Monday, May 23,

CCHD received a request to transport portable vaccine refrigerators to the Joplin Memorial Hall and Tuesday, May 24, CCHD responded as a part of the search and rescue teams. As agency staff boarded a bus, they were given an orange bracelet to identify them as volunteers. The first bus stop was to the police department where credentialing information was verified. Volunteers were then transported to St John's Medical Center where everyone was divided into teams of ten members. Teams were given names and each team member was assigned a letter for identification purposes. The team name and letter was written in a Sharpie pen on their left forearm, along with a cell phone number on the right forearm, to call if any survivors or bodies were found. After being briefed, CCHD volunteers were transported to an assigned grid search area. Once volunteers had completed the search, they were bussed back to the police station, checked out and given a hot meal. From the police department, volunteers were then transported to Missouri Southern University for overnight lodging. On Wednesday, May 25, CCHD received a call for medical assistance. However, once they arrived medical assistance was not needed, but there was a need for volunteer support at the distribution center. Two people served as members of a chain saw team. On Friday, May 26, CCHD volunteers were called to assist with tetanus vaccinations. Two of the nurses responded to this request and assisted with tetanus vaccinations until the storms threatened again and volunteers were sent home.

Here are some of the lessons learned:

- Volunteer coordination is one of the most urgent needs in a disaster of any size. Volunteer coordination in itself may need to be subdivided to make it more manageable.
- Portable vaccine refrigerators are a necessity in a disaster.
- Volunteers need to wait to be requested (no self deployment).
- Pre-event registration on a volunteer data base is essential.
- Child care is needed at a distribution center.
- Implement a method of identification of parents and their children when a child is left for care at the distribution center.
- Warehouse is a preferable distribution point over a church or otherwise occupied building.
- All volunteers should be self sufficient (not require food or lodging).
- You can never have enough contact information from neighboring municipalities, counties or states.

Crawford County Health Department Challenges You!

*by Janis Goedeke, Administrator
Crawford County Health Department*

On May 22, Joplin, Missouri was hit by an F5 tornado. It was the deadliest tornado in sixty years. The death toll today stands at 157, and even though it is more than thirty days later, the death toll may still rise.

According to the Federal Emergency Management Agency there are 9,802 disaster survivors, 652,121 cubic yards of debris removed by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, over 49,000 containers of household hazardous waste removed from Joplin, and through the [Corporation for National and Community Service](#) and AmeriCorps, more than 32,000 volunteers have worked over 190,000 hours.

A catastrophe risk modeling firm, Catastrophe Risk Models, Software & Consulting (EQECAT) has estimated the insured losses for Joplin could be between 1 and 3 billion dollars.

The Joplin School District was especially hit hard as one teacher and seven students were killed in the tornado. The school's infrastructure was severely damaged with the total destruction of three buildings, and damage to seven others. Two hundred sixty teachers have lost their classroom supplies, and 3,000 students were in the destruction path of the tornado.

History has taught us that the lifeline of the community is the schools. Helping rebuild the schools will help rebuild Joplin. What happens in Joplin does not stay in Joplin. Kansans are directly or indirectly affected as well.

The Joplin School has developed a program to adopt an Eagle that will purchase school supplies for the new school year. Crawford County will be adopting as many Eagles as possible and we challenge public health in the state of Kansas to do the same and/or contribute to Joplin in any way possible. Let's show a strong public health support for our neighboring state and assist them in their recovery effort by adopting an Eagle, adopting a classroom, giving to the response agency of your choice, or donating your time.

Ways to help Joplin:

- <http://rebuildjoplin.org/donate>
- <http://brightfuturesjoplin.org/adopt-an-eagle>
- <http://brightfuturesjoplin.org/adopt-a-classroom/>

For personal stories about May 22 in Joplin please click the image on above.



What's New with Accreditation?

by NACCHO's Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement Team

The National Association of City and County Health Officers' (NACCHO) Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement team is hosting a two-part webinar focused on the [Public Health Accreditation](#) Program. This national voluntary program will be launched this fall. Materials for the launch, including version 1.0 of the standards and measures,

the fee schedule and the accreditation process, will be available in advance of the webinar. The first 90-minute webinar is intended for local health departments (LHDs) seeking to understand these documents and learn more about the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB).

Kaye Bender, President and CEO of PHAB, will share information about the standards and measures for accreditation, the accreditation process, the prerequisites to applying, accreditation incentives and the fee structure. She will also respond to live questions from the participants. Additionally, NACCHO staff will present an introduction to technical assistance resources available to LHDs.

Don't miss this exciting opportunity to be among the first to hear the "hot off the press" details about PHAB accreditation and the assistance available for your health department. Registration is limited and available only on a first-come, first-served basis, so [register now](#).

The first of these webinars, "[What's New with Accreditation?](#)" is scheduled for Thursday, July 7, at 1:00 PM. Click the NACCHO logo for more information. The second part of this webinar will focus on organizing for accreditation: stay tuned for details about content and scheduling.

Kansans Optimizing Health Program (KOHP)

by the Bureau of Health Promotion

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA) are pleased to offer leader trainings in the Kansans Optimizing Health Program (KOHP) based on the Stanford model.

The Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program trains leaders dealing with people with different chronic health problems. The content of the workshop is the result of focus groups with people with chronic disease, in which the participants discussed which content areas were the most important for them.

Subjects covered include:

- 1) techniques to deal with problems such as frustration, fatigue, pain and isolation
- 2) appropriate exercise for maintaining and improving strength, flexibility and endurance
- 3) appropriate use of medications
- 4) communicating effectively with family, friends and health professionals
- 5) nutrition
- 6) how to evaluate new treatments

Stanford strongly recommends that leaders be individuals living with a chronic condition and that at least one of the two leaders must be a peer leader and not a health or social service provider. Applications must be received by the registration deadline associated with the training you are applying for. Applicants will be notified by e-mail when their application has been received by the coordinating agency either KDHE or KDOA. Applicants accepted into the training will be screened and notified by e-mail near the registration deadline date.



Participants must attend the full four days of training and facilitate a program to become a leader. Organizations offering this program through leader training from KDHE and the KDOA must do so under the KDHE and KDOA Chronic Disease Self-Management Program licenses with Stanford.

The four-day leader training is offered at no cost. KDHE or KDOA will cover mileage to and from the training at .50 a mile as well as hotel expenses at \$99.00 plus tax a night. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided at the training. Evening meals will be the responsibility of the participant. Participants will receive the leader manual and the, "Living a Healthy Life with a Chronic Disease" book.

For general information about the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program click the Stanford Patient Education Research Center logo above.

For more information please contact Lisa Williams at 785-296-2330 or lwilliams@kdheks.gov; or Tamara Tiemann at 785-296-6445 or Tamara.Tiemann@aging.ks.gov.

Month/Dates	Registration Deadline	Location
September 22, 23, 29 & 30	September 8	Wichita
October 20, 21, 27 & 28	October 5	Kansas City
November 10, 11, 17 & 18	October 27	Manhattan

Collaborative Kansas Partnership to Improve Community Health (KanPICH)

Brenda Nickel, Director

Center for Performance Management, KDHE



For the past year a group called the Kansas Collaborative for Community Health Assessment and Improvement (CIM) has been meeting to discuss the data and resource needs of local public health departments and their community and county health partners. With the new requirements for not-for-profit hospitals to conduct Community Health Needs Assessments with local public health partners, the CIM group has welcomed new members into the collaborative to strengthen efforts to identify community needs and resources. The Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) has a PowerPoint discussing the requirement to conduct community health needs assessment with public health. Click the KHA logo to view the PowerPoint.

On May 6, CIM was renamed *Kansas Partnership to Improve Community Health*, or "KanPICH". The group is comprised of the following partners coordinated by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI), Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) and Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The group's organizational members include:

1. Kansas Health Foundation (KHF)
2. Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU)
3. KALHD
4. KDHE
5. KHI
6. KHA

The Kan-PICH is working with public and private health organizations to develop a system for use in conducting health needs assessments with community hospitals, primary care providers and local health departments working collaboratively. The group has identified the Healthy Communities Network (HCN) as the system to be used for conducting health needs assessment and implementing evidence-supported interventions based on community health needs. KDHE, along with the Kan-PICH members are currently working on funding for the HCN anticipating system development over the course of this fall.

KALHD and KHA have been discussing with their members the process of community health needs assessments and resources to assist communities as they begin the work over the next few months. To learn more about the proposed HCN and to explore states and organizations currently using the system, click the logo on the right.



For questions or more information, contact Brenda Nickel at bnickel@kdheks.gov.

National Compendium of Candidate Practices for Community Health Assessment

by Linda Frazee, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist
Bureau of Community Health Systems
Kansas Department of Health and Environment



The University of Kansas (KU) [Work Group for Community Health and Development](#) is working with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC) and the [Public Health Institute](#) (PHI) to develop a national compendium of candidate practices for supporting community health assessments (CHA). When completed this summer/early fall, this compendium will offer guidance for non-profit hospitals in meeting [990 Schedule H](#) requirements for conducting community health assessments.

The KU Work Group's [Community Tool Box](#) is the world's largest resource (over 7,000 pages of content) for building capacity for community health and development. Stephen Fawcett, Jerry Schultz and Christina Holt, KU Work Group, recently shared the news with members of the Kansas Hospital Association Community Health Needs Assessment Work Group and the Kansas Public Health Workforce Committee:

"We are honored to be serving in this role nationally, and are hopeful that what we are learning and contributing will be helpful in Kansas. Like the approach in Kansas, it will be critical that CHA meet hospital, local health department and community interests. We have just developed the first draft of guidance for 13 candidate practices for community health improvement. This will undergo intensive review and critique by CDC and outside experts from the hospital community in the next weeks. We will have more to share on this practice guidance after the July 11 expert meeting in Atlanta. We suspect that it could be quite useful for technical assistance for monitoring of CHA implementation in Kansas."

The KU Work Group also intends for this collaboration to be reflected in the online curriculum on community health improvement they are developing to be available later this year on the KS-TRAIN learning management system, with support from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's [Office of Rural Health](#) and [KS-TRAIN](#) staff.

Mid-America Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit

by Dr. Jennifer Lowry, Director
Poison Control Center, University of Kansas



The Mid-America Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit (MAPEHSU) is dedicated to providing expert clinical, consultative, educational and referral services to improve the recognition and treatment of children's environmental health problems in the mid-America region.

Specifically, we provide medical consultation or advice from a physician or other health care provider with expertise in pediatric environmental health. In addition, pediatric environmental health-focused education and outreach to the medical community and the general public is provided.

MAPEHSU serves Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region seven states, which include Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska and is located at the Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO. MAPEHSU is one of 11 Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSUs) located in the continental United States. It is administered by the Association of Occupational and Environmental Clinics and funded by the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the EPA. Dr. Jennifer Lowry is the Director of the Program which collaborates with the University of Kansas Hospital Poison Control Center.

The regional toll-free number, serving the four-state area, is: 800-421-9916 or email mapehsu@cmh.edu. To learn more click the MAPEHSU logo.

Douglas County Public Information Center

by Charlie Bryan, Community Health Planner
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department



Emergency service agencies in Douglas County are developing an additional method for providing public health, disaster and emergency information to the public. The Douglas County Public Information Center is an outgrowth of the Together Prepared Coalition in Douglas County, which focuses on serving vulnerable populations in the area. Aided by grant funding provided to the Lawrence Public Library and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, the Public Information Center comprises a telephone information hotline that local officials can activate during an emergency or disaster situation,

an information outreach program provided via the bookmobile from the Lawrence Public Library and the Together Prepared website, click logo above.

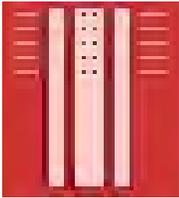
The Together Prepared Coalition (TCP), formed in 2007, comprises city and county agencies, the University of Kansas and community-based organizations and strives to ensure that vulnerable populations in the community are included in emergency planning. This may include economically disadvantaged, culturally or geographically isolated, limited English proficiency, older adults, very young children, physically, cognitively or sensory-disabled or mentally ill residents.

The new TCP information hotline will provide an additional means for these populations, as well as the general public, to receive emergency information during a public health threat, natural or man-made disaster, terrorism or other designated event. When the information hotline is activated by local officials, the telephone number will be announced via local media and trained volunteers will staff a bank of telephones located at the Lawrence Public Library to provide information to citizens by telephone. Information about the event will be released by the Douglas County Emergency Operations Center to local media, the Together Prepared website and provided to the call-takers for the information hotline. When the information hotline is not active, a recorded message will refer callers to the Together Prepared website.

Training for community volunteers interested in staffing the information hotline during emergency event activations will begin soon. Local citizens interested in volunteering for this service should contact Pattie Johnston at the Lawrence Public Library at 785-843-3833 or at johnston@lawrence.lib.ks.us.

Choose Water Instead Of Pop, Sports Drinks, Caffeine Drinks

*by Marcia Manter, Community Development Specialist
Oral Health Kansas*



Summertime is the ideal time to encourage kids of all ages to drink more water. During hot weather children can become dehydrated but not recognize the risks. Signs include feeling lightheaded, dizzy or tired... or having dry mouth, throat and lips.

Kids tend not to notice the heat if they are outside having fun or participating in sports. Children will cool off after being hot and sweaty by running under a sprinkler or jumping in a pool, but may not think to drink water.

The big temptation is to drink soda pop, sports or energy drinks, just like professional athletes. The American Academy of Pediatrics encourages parents and caregivers to give children water to drink for hydration. They warn against other beverages.

On May 30 the American Academy of Pediatrics issued this press release: "Energy drinks pose potential health risks because of the stimulants they contain and should never be consumed by children or adolescents. Routine ingestion of carbohydrate-containing sports drinks by children and adolescents should be avoided or restricted, because they can increase the risk of overweight and obesity, as well as dental erosion." Click the Oral Health Kansas logo above to read the complete press release.



To learn more about healthy beverages for children, click the Extension logo to view a report from the University of Minnesota Extension Service: Healthy Beverage Choices – University of Minnesota Extension Service.

New Online Training for Healthcare Organizations and Emergency Managers

*by Dustin Benac, EMS and Disaster Preparedness Coordinator
American College of Emergency Physicians*



"Building Collaborative Disaster Planning Processes Between Hospitals and Emergency Management," a free, first-of-its-kind, four hour online awareness-level training thru KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course #1028263, addresses the importance of creating and maintaining collaborative relationships before a disaster occurs in your community, as well as how to effectively recover before the next disaster happens. The all hazards approach ensures that the content presented is relevant to any large-scale event, including terrorism, a natural disaster, or other significant activity.

When a disaster occurs, it is imperative that local and state agencies and medical professionals caring for the sick and injured coordinate their response. Many professionals in these areas may not be aware of the processes required for effective community disaster planning and response.

The four modules are directed toward those working in emergency management agencies and healthcare organizations, especially in small communities and rural areas, which have primary job responsibilities other than disaster preparedness. It is also useful for those in public health, EMS, fire services and other organizations involved in disaster preparedness.

In this course, you will focus on how to plan, exercise and coordinate medical and public health incident responses by effective collaboration among emergency management and other response partners. We will encourage ongoing planning and training to test your disaster plans and the sharing of information and resources to ensure an effective response.

Module topics include:

- How *mitigation* relates to the collaborative planning process and development of both a Hazard Vulnerability Analysis and an Emergency Operations Plan
- How *preparedness* relates to resource agreements and information systems set in place before an event
- How *response* relates to risk communication, resource requests and tracking of resources and patients
- How *recovery* relates to documentation, lessons learned, an exercise program and sustainability of both an emergency management program and of the community



For more information, click the American College of Emergency Physicians logo or contact Dustin Benac, EMS/Disaster Preparedness Coordinator, at dbeac@acep.org.

Quality Improvement Capacity Building in Public Health



by Katy Korchik

School of Public Health, University of Minnesota

Public Health organizations are currently operating in an environment of limited funding and increased expectations. As a consequence it's imperative to understand how to efficiently and effectively create and perform community-based services using intentionally designed system processes to maximize performance. Training key workforce members in quality improvement concepts and techniques can help achieve this end. In contrast to private industry, most public health professionals have not had the benefit of training and development in this area. Currently, there are too few training programs available that are oriented to the unique environment of public health.

Public health organizations across the nation are taking steps to become accredited. One of the major requirements of the new accreditation standards (Domain 9) is the formation of a quality and performance improvement program. The University of Minnesota School Of Public Health will offer an online certificate program this fall which is intended specifically for health departments to be fully competent in meeting and exceeding the requirements for Domain 9. The program is designed for working professionals in public health quality improvement (QI). This 12-credit certificate can be completed part-time in five terms and the program offers students the opportunity to lead a QI effort at their own organization. For more information visit the University of Minnesota, School of Public Health by clicking the logo above or contact Katy Korchik at korc0004@umn.edu or 612-626-3740.

PHEP 101 is on TRAIN

by Cait Purinton, Exercise and Training Coordinator

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

"PHEP 101 – Introduction to the Public Health Preparedness Capabilities (PHEP)," [KS-TRAIN](#) course # 1028235, is the first of a series of courses to provide learners with training on the 2011 Public Health Emergency Preparedness program and capabilities-based approach. Although the course is open to everyone, the target audience is PHEP Program Awardees, National Partners, Professional Organization Staff associated with the field of public health preparedness, Division of State and Local Readiness (DSLRL) Staff and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Subject Matter Experts.

CDC's [Public Health Preparedness Capabilities: National Standards for State and Local Planning](#) now provides a guide that state and local jurisdictions can use to better organize their work, plan their priorities, and decide which capabilities they have the resources to build or sustain. The capabilities also help ensure that federal preparedness funds are directed to priority areas within individual jurisdictions.

What is Grasscycling?



Grasscycling is recycling grass clippings by leaving them on your lawn instead of collecting them for disposal. In Kansas, grass clippings make up approximately five percent of the waste in our landfills. With nearly three million tons of municipal solid waste landfilled in 2010, over 145,000 tons of grass clippings could have been diverted! Grasscycling is a practice that can help produce a healthy lawn while at the same time benefit you, your community and the environment.

by the Kansas Green Team

Grasscycling works. Did you know that the first bag mowers made their debut in the 1950s? This was immediately followed by the time-honored American tradition of collecting grass clippings and placing them at the curb – sometimes in a bag – to be picked up with the rest of the yard trimmings to be disposed of at a landfill.

You may not have thought of it, but bagging and placing yard trimmings at the curb is a wasteful behavior in many ways. It can be an expensive practice with the cost of the bags as well as transportation to pick up the clippings. It also robs your lawn of natural fertilizer. Consider changing that behavior. Consider grasscycling.

What are the benefits of grasscycling?

- Saves time and is less work (no more bagging, less time maintaining lawn).
- Saves money (less water and fertilizer are needed).
- Encourages a healthier lawn (clippings contain valuable nutrients).

There are other hidden benefits. By not handling heavy bags of grass clippings, back and other injuries can be avoided. Grasscycling helps reduce water use. Grass clippings, which are 75 to 85 percent water, decompose rapidly and return that moisture to the soil. Grass clippings can reduce water evaporation from the lawn and promote better growth by not only providing nutrients but also by keeping the soil temperature cooler. Grasscycling also reduces the need for chemical fertilizers. Grass clippings contain nutrients including nitrogen. The nitrogen and other nutrients provide up to 50 percent of your lawn's fertilizer needs. That's good for the environment. That helps protect local streams, rivers and lakes from runoff pollution from yards and gardens.



Grasscycling is simple:

- Cut your grass when it's dry.
- Cut your grass regularly – A good rule is to cut no more than one-third of the grass height at any one mowing. Cutting off more than one-third at a time can stop roots from growing and require frequent watering during dry summers to keep the grass alive. In addition, the one-third rule produces smaller clippings that disappear quickly by filtering down to the soil surface.
- Cut your grass with a sharp blade – Sharp blades cut the grass cleanly and that helps ensure rapid healing and regrowth. Dull blades tear and bruise the grass. The wounded grass becomes weakened and is less able to prevent invading weeds and recover from disease.

To maximize the benefits of grasscycling, aerate your lawn. In the spring, rent an aerator, which removes small cores of soil from the lawn. This opens the soil and permits greater movement of water, fertilizer and air – which speeds decomposition of the grass clippings and improves deep root growth. Water thoroughly when needed. Make sure you follow proper lawn care for your type of grass.

Professional Training to Meet Healthy People 2020 Goals

by Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator

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The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP) and [KS-TRAIN](#) have partnered the last four years to provide online education opportunities for the public health and healthcare workforce. These course offerings focus on several of the identified [Healthy People 2020 Goals](#), based on evidence that experiences in the first years of life are extremely important for a child's healthy development and lifelong learning.

The KAAP online courses have also recently been approved or reapproved for nursing continuing education credit.

Included in the KS-TRAIN course listing are:

- Bright Smiles for Kansas Kids, course # 1013066, focuses on: defining, etiology, consequences and risks for developing early childhood caries; recognizing early dental deterioration in its various stages;

- implementing prevention; performing a knee-to knee oral screening examination; the rationale for use of fluoride varnish in pediatric patients and common developmental issues and oral pathology in children.
- Healthy Habits Modules 1-4, course #1015996, 1016561, 1016562 and 1016563 includes objectives on how to: calculate overweight and obesity in children from toddlers to teens; ask evidence-based nutrition and physical activity questions when taking a history; conduct a visit using motivational interviewing techniques and a physical assessment of overweight & obese children and adolescents; demonstrate the use of Body Mass Index (BMI) in diagnosis & discussions with care givers and describe key nutrition, physical activity and behavioral topics to discuss with parents at each well child visit.
 - Healthy Futures-Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings-Child Care Providers course #1025817 and Healthy Futures-Medication Administration in Early Education and Child Care Settings-TRAIN the TRAINER course #1026929 offers child care providers and professional nurses information on: types of medications, reasons to give medications and responsibilities of the parent, child care provider and health care professional; state and federal laws and regulations related to medication administration; 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; reviews medication requests and physician orders to identify information needed to assure safe medication administration practices; practice on medication administration documentation and recording of medication incidents and medication administration educational resources to assist child care providers and health professionals in assisting parents and staff in safe administration practices.

News and Updates

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Local Health Department Administration Changes

County	Former Administrator	New Administrator/Director
Barber County	Heather Henke	Pam Rickard
Butler County	Carol Borger	Janice Powers
Dickinson County	Linda Davies	Recruiting
Graham County	Vera Garrison	Sydnee Beydler
Grant County	Lynetta Medcalf	Kristy Frazee
Jefferson County	Eileen Filbert	Beth Brown
Mitchell County	Pat Downlin	Sondra Hone
Montgomery County	Ruth Bardwell (retires July 22)	Alison Kelley
Shawnee County	Anne Freeze	Allison Alejos – Health Agency Alice Weingartner – Community Health Center
Sheridan County	Melanie Cooper	Kerri Schippers
Smith County	Elizabeth Hill	Laura Hageman

Kan-ed Funded Computer Network Critical in Joplin Crisis



On June 27, Kansas Health Institute (KHI) News Service Alert sent out the following news release, "Kan-ed Funded Computer Network Critical in Joplin Crisis". Click the KHI logo to read the full article.

Revised 2011 "Quick Start to Public Health" Resource Now Available



The Quick Start to Public Health is a two page resource with links to public health information, sites and organizations. It is a great orientation resource for those new to public health and a handy reference for everyone else. Click the KDHE-BCHS logo to see the updated resource guide.



National Academies Press PDFs Available for Free Download

The National Academies Press (NAP) now offers PDF downloadable versions of books published by the National Academies Press free of charge. This includes a current catalog of more than 4,000 books plus future reports produced by the NAP. Click the NAP logo to view the PDF books to download.

Health Literacy: Accurate, Accessible and Actionable Health Information for All



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) provides information and tools to improve health literacy and public health. These resources are for all organizations that interact and communicate with people about health, including public health departments, healthcare providers and facilities, health plans, government agencies, non-profit/community and advocacy organizations, childcare and schools, the media and health-related industries. Click the CDC logo to view this resource.

Repository of Local Environmental Health Policies



The National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) has an online tool to view local codes and regulations on a variety of environmental public health topics. Click the NALBOH logo to review this tool.

Springer Offers Free Access to Research Articles on E. coli Bacteria



Springer Science+Business Media is offering all journal articles and book chapters which deal with the E. coli bacteria free of charge on its online information platform. The articles can be found by using the search terms "Enterohemorrhagic and Escherichia and coli." Click the Springer logo to view over 400 scientific articles. These articles are available to print out or download from now until Sept 1.

Job Openings

Dickinson County Health Department

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

- [Senior Health Nurse](#)



Finney County Health Department

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

- [Registered Nurse](#)



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Community Health Specialist](#)



Reno County

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

- [Public Health Preparedness Coordinator](#)
- [WIC Breastfeeding Peer Counselor](#)



Riley County

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

- [Health Department Administrator](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [WIC Registered Dietician](#)



Shawnee County Health Agency

The Shawnee County Health Agency is taking applications for the following positions:

- [Health Promotion Specialist](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse](#)
- [Medical Director](#)



Sumner County Health Department

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

- [Registered Nurse](#)



NEK Environmental Services

Northeast Kansas Environmental Services (NEKES) is seeking a progressive and dedicated individual to conduct environmental health activities. Position requires excellent communication, organizational, writing, reporting, time management and professional skills in addition to the ability to make professional judgments while working in the field. Primary work responsibilities will include a knowledge of codes and other standards that will allow the completion of inspections, investigations and audits in the areas of general environmental health, private and public water supplies, private wastewater management systems, housing, swimming pools, vectors and pests, solid and hazardous wastes, air quality, noise and disaster sanitation. The writing and completion of funding grants will also be a work responsibility.



A minimum of a B.S. in Environmental Health, Environmental Science, Microbiology, or other Biological/Sanitary Science is required. Applicant must be a Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian or be qualified and willing to become one. Two years field experience is desired. A valid driver's license is required. Excellent benefits and competitive salary. Submit resume and cover letter to NEKES P.O. Box 609, Troy, KS 66087 or by email to nekes@carsoncomm.com. Resumes accepted until position filled.

Public Health Connections Information

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www.kdheks.gov/olrh/LHD_ConnectEditor.htm

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