



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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## East Central Kansas Public Health Coalition Receives Grant for Accreditation

*by Julian Pecquet, Reporter  
The Hill*



Twelve local health departments across the United States are receiving grants to work with community members and local public health system partners in preparation for the new voluntary accreditation process starting in September. One of these esteemed entities is the East Central Kansas Public Health Coalition

made up of Chase, Coffey, Greenwood, Lyon, Osage, Morris, Franklin and Wabaunsee Counties.

The \$35,000 grants, supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), were announced by the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

"This is a critical step toward getting our nation's health departments ready for public health accreditation," RWJF Program Officer Pamela Russo said in a statement. "The lessons learned from this project will help other local health departments prioritize health needs in their communities based on evidence and community input and act on those priorities in collaboration with a wide range of partners."

The demonstration sites are:

- Alachua County Health Department (Gainesville, Fla.)
- Barry-Eaton District Health Department (Charlotte/Hastings, Mich.)
- Central Valley Health District (Jamestown, N.D.)
- City of Austin Health and Human Services
- Gallatin City-County Health Department (Bozeman, Mont.)
- Kittitas County Public Health Department (Ellensburg, Wash.)
- East Central Kansas Public Health Coalition
- New Orleans Health Department
- Norwalk Health Department (Conn.)
- Plumas County Public Health Agency (Chester, Calif.)
- San Francisco Department of Public Health;
- Thomas Jefferson Health District (Charlottesville area, Va.)

### In the Spotlight – Early Detection Does Work

*by Linda Redding, Regional Nurse  
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*

The [Early Detection Works \(EDW\)](#) program through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Bureau of Health Promotion, Cancer Prevention and Control seeks to reduce the morbidity and mortality from cancer through prevention of cancer when possible and routine screening when appropriate. EDW pays for clinical breast exams, mammograms, Pap tests and diagnostic services for women who qualify through service providers located across the state. Regular screening and prompt treatment can reduce deaths from breast and cervical cancer.

Just updated! "Early Detection Works: Kansas Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program" online training program has been updated to include more current data on breast and cervical cancer screenings. If you are an Early Detection Works Provider and would like to learn more about the importance of breast and cervical cancer screening as well as in-depth program information, please visit KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course #1020117. The course will provide essential information needed to understand breast and cervical cancer screening, as well as the ins and outs of how the program works.

Free continuing nursing education credits is available to those nurses who complete the course. The KDHE Children and Family Section is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course offering is approved for 1.5 contact hours applicable for RN, LPN or LMHT relicensure. Kansas State Board of Nursing Provider Number: LT 0252-0972.



## In the Spotlight – Life Changes for Montgomery County Health Department Administrator

*by Ruth Bardwell, Administrator  
Montgomery County Health Department*



During the last few weeks as Administrator of Montgomery County Health Department, I have stopped to think about all the changes that have happen during my almost 33 years in public health. To quote Charles Dickens, "It was the best of times; it was the worst of times....." We have learned to overcome disasters and emergencies and to come out amazed at what was accomplished. Our neighbors have come to our aid and we have come to theirs. None of us knew what bioterrorism or public health emergency preparedness was or how it would take over our lives but we learned and learned well.

In 1978, we protected children from seven diseases. Today there are 16 or more diseases that children can receive protection from. For those of us who are old enough to remember measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, etc. and have suffered through having them, we are thankful that today's children can be protected from them and the consequences those diseases bring.

Public health will always remain close to my heart as I retire. Steve and I are planning on doing some volunteer work and I am sure some of it may involve working in local public health endeavors. Remember as you continue to serve those in your communities, that public health is a calling. You are one of the ones called to promote wellness and protect our communities from disease. I will think of you, my friends, as my life changes and I will be watching to see what new innovations come about in the future.

### Lower 8 Public Health Region Says Farewell

On July 15, the Lower 8 of SEK (Chautauqua, Cherokee, Crawford Elk, Labette, Montgomery, Neosho and Wilson counties) had a retirement celebration for Ruth Bardwell, Montgomery County Health Department Administrator. We are very sorry to lose Ruth's expertise, but wish her a long, full and happy retirement. Ruth retired on July 22.



Lower 8 Health Department Administrators (l to r) Jeanie Beason, Ed Garner, Ruth Bardwell, Betha Elliott, Janis Goedeke, Teresa Starr and Kandy Dowell.

## Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds – Fall 2011

*by Mary Beth Warren, Statewide Director  
Area Health Education Center, University of Kansas*



The Kansas Association for Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and University of Kansas Medical Center's Department of Preventive Medicine and Area Health Education Centers are once again collaborating to make available the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds series. The fall 2011 series will occur live on Wednesdays Aug. 24 to Dec. 14 from 12:00–1:00 P.M. via the internet utilizing the Adobe Connect webconferencing system. A total of 15 sessions will be included. Based upon feedback from participants in previous series, as well as current issues in public health, topics identified for the fall 2011 series include:

- Antibiotic use in food animals
- Emergency preparedness
- Use of social media for public health messaging
- Public health issues as a result of the Joplin, MO
- KDHE strategic planning update
- STI trends
- Community breakfast norovirus outbreak
- National biomonitoring program
- Environmental tracking tornado
- Pediatric environmental health

The fee for the entire fall series (a total of 15 sessions) will be \$100 per organization per computer and will include continuing education credit for physicians and nurses employed by your organization and attending at your location. Click the KU Medical Center logo to find a document covering details of the course as well as information regarding a "technology test" with the Adobe Connect webconferencing system. This is a new system, so all organizations will need to complete a technology test. Information will be provided after enrollment.

Enrollment for the fall 2011 series will begin on Aug. 1. Your organization may enroll by e-mailing our office at [kspghr@kumc.edu](mailto:kspghr@kumc.edu) or calling us at 620-235-4040. If you have questions, please feel free to contact John Neuberger at 913-588-2745 or Mary Beth Warren at 620-235-4040.



### 2011 KPHA Conference

The 68th Annual Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) Fall Conference will be held Sept. 21-22 at the Hyatt Regency in Wichita. For more information and registration click the logo to the left.

### Bridging the Gap – Medical Interpreter Training

*by Cathy Anderson, Manager*

*Language and Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)*

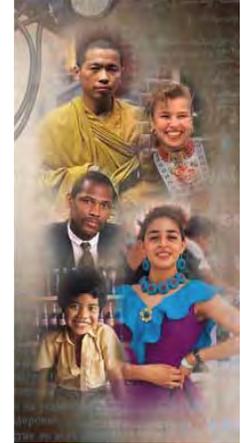
Bridging the Gap – Medical Interpreter Training is a five-day training in healthcare and social services interpreting for bilingual interpreters. After attending all classes and passing a final exam, participants will earn a "Certificate of Completion in Bridging the Gap." The course runs from 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. and is free of charge through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. If Continuing Education Unit's (CEU's) are required, please inform JVS ahead of time and they will prepare a letter outlining the course teaching points.

This session's training will be held on Oct. 17-21 at Lawrence Memorial Hospital, 325 Main Street, Lawrence.

To register, please follow these steps:

1. Register on-line for Bridging the Gap course through KS TRAIN: <http://ks.train.org>
2. Complete the JVS application form/survey linked to the KS TRAIN, 'Go to Step 2 of Registration' button.
3. Send or email your application and survey to JVS, 1608 Baltimore Ave., Kansas City, MO 64108, [canders@jvskc.org](mailto:canders@jvskc.org), or fax it to 816-471-2930.
4. Cathy Anderson, the manager of Language and Cultural Services or Raul O. Guerrero, the course instructor, will conduct a short interview with you by phone. You will need to include a phone number where we can be reached during the day.
5. JVS will inform you when your registration is complete once you have registered through KS TRAIN, completed the JVS application and survey and conducted an interview with Cathy or Raul.

For more information about the course or application process contact Cathy Anderson at 816-471-2808. JVS is available to assist you in registering through KS-TRAIN.



### New Director for Local Health Program

*by Mindee Reece, Director*

*Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

After three years in the Bureau of Health Promotions as the Program Manager for Kansas Coordinated School Health (KCSH), as of July 24, Jane Shirley assumed the role of Local Health Program Director in the Bureau of Community Health Systems. Previous to her work with KCSH, Ms Shirley served Jefferson County Health Department for 20 years as a staff nurse. Her education includes a BS in Nursing and a MS in Health Education, both from the University of Kansas. Ms Shirley is the mother of four young adult men and wishes she had a nickel for every basketball game she has watched from the stands. She can be reached at [jshirley@kdheks.gov](mailto:jshirley@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-6549.



### Public Health Department Accreditation Launches This Fall

*by Kay Bender, President and CEO*

*Public Health Accreditation Board*

The Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) is almost ready. The pre-launch materials have been completed and are now on the PHAB website. This is the first in a series of events in support of PHAB's launch of public health department accreditation coming this fall. To view the pre-launch materials click the PHAB logo.

PHAB is updating their website to better serve customers, developing the online accreditation information system, called e-PHAB and is completing the finishing touches



to the online orientation. The online orientation will be available before PHAB accepts applications in 2012.

PHAB appreciates national partners, funders and all of the many volunteers who have assisted the organization in the development of a public health accreditation system process. It truly has been and continues to be, your public health accreditation program. The board hopes that you find your comments, feedback, creativity and hard work reflected in Version 1.0 of the materials.

PHAB values quality improvement as the foundation of their work. Therefore, you will continue to see plans for future 'Think Tanks,' so that the board can continually refine and improve standards, measures and processes.

Keep working on the accreditation pre-requisites! PHAB wants to see your organization's application as soon as the board is ready to accept them.

All potential health department applicants planning to apply for accreditation anytime between the fall of 2011 and Dec. 2012 should review these materials carefully for any changes from the previous versions. Other supporting materials that will be made available by the end of summer include:

- PHAB Acronyms and Glossary of Terms Version 1.0
- Accreditation Readiness Checklists
- e-PHAB Statement of Intent Information
- e-PHAB Application Information

Learn more about accreditation and these materials directly by listening to NACCHO's newly archived webinar: "[What's New with Accreditation?](#)" View all of the Accreditation Preparation and Quality Improvement (APQI) webinar recordings on NACCHO's [APQI webinars page](#).

### Preparedness Needs of the Whole Community

*by Cat Howland, Manager  
Bureau of Child Research, University of Kansas*

One of the key concepts of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)'s "Whole Community" approach to emergency management is to understand and meet the true needs of the entire community. To assist with understanding and meeting the disaster-related needs of persons with disabilities, the staff at the University of Kansas Research Training Center on Independent Living (RTCIL) have been developing free continuing education courses.

The newest course has just been released on the TRAIN internet educational system, click the TRAIN on the right for registration information. This course is designed for trainers and non-trainers. For trainers, the core curriculum can be used and modified with local information to be taught to local targeted audiences.

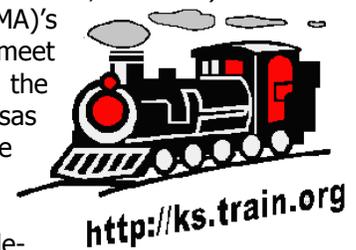
The 75-minute course for trainers is: "Planning for Disaster-Related Risk and Functional Needs of People with Disabilities: Train-The-Trainer," course #1026720. For persons not planning to ever teach, a one-hour course is available under the following title and course number: "Planning for Disaster-Related Risk and Functional Needs of People with Disabilities," course #1026403.



These courses identify functional needs and seven risk factors associated with disasters, the health and safety of people with disabilities and how to prepare accordingly. Cat Howland, M.A., RTC/IL and Carol Ferguson, Ed.D., RN consultant, are the course developers. Continuing education credits from the Kansas State Nursing Association is currently being sought for each course.

Other courses by RTC/IL staff on KS-TRAIN included a two-hour introductory course titled, "Ready, Willing, & Able," course #1010882, by Becca Goodin Gagliano. It is on disability etiquette, terminology, communication methods and evacuation tips to assist people with physical, sensory or cognitive disabilities. A one-hour course titled, "Animal Emergency Preparedness: How to Keep Your Service Animals and Pets Safe in Natural and Manmade Disasters," course #1025307, by Valerie A. Renault, describes how to prepare service animals and pets in the event of a disaster and what to expect after a disaster.

For more information contact Cat Howland at 785-864-0495 or [catr@ku.edu](mailto:catr@ku.edu). For more information about RTCIL click the image above.



## Kansas MRC Program on the Rise

*by Emily Nickel, Planning and Volunteer Coordinator  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



In June 2011, the Osage County Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) unit was approved. The unit is sponsored by the Osage County Health Department. Currently, there are 17 MRC units located throughout the state, including one statewide Kansas Veterinary MRC unit. The image of the state of Kansas to the right depicts the location of each unit. The same-colored counties indicate one unit with multiple counties.

In addition to the new Osage County MRC unit, the Kansas MRC program would like to welcome several new Kansas MRC unit coordinators: Jennifer Zeller, Shawnee County MRC; Cheryl Skalla, Marshall County MRC; Broc Plattner, Nemaha County MRC; Dani Holliday, Geary County MRC and Anne Gray, Osage County MRC.

The MRC units are recruiting interested individuals throughout Kansas who wish to become active volunteers in their communities. MRC is a community-based volunteer organization for health professionals and others who wish to engage in response and public health based volunteerism. While many believe the MRC can only utilize healthcare professionals, volunteers from a wide range of backgrounds are needed, including interpreters, chaplains, office workers, legal advisors or those that simply want to be involved in healthy living and disaster preparedness and response.

If you would like more information about joining an MRC unit or starting one in your community, visit the Kansas MRC website at [www.KansasMRC.org](http://www.KansasMRC.org) or contact Emily Nickel at [enickel@kdheks.gov](mailto:enickel@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-5201.

## Save Gas and the Environment

*by the Kansas Green Team*



Summer is here and people are on the go! Millions of Americans are hitting the road to visit beaches, parks, friends and family. Are you aware that following a few simple steps at the gas pump – and on the road – can keep money in your wallet?

Reduced consumption of gasoline is also important because it translates into environmental benefits and natural resource conservation. Every barrel of oil saved reduces the generation of air and water pollutants and conserves finite energy resources for future generations. It makes good financial sense to follow these simple tips and by doing so, you will help the environment.

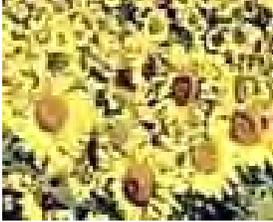
1. Trip chain more often – It's easy! Just combine your errands into one trip. It helps you get things done faster and helps reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. When you first start a car after it has been sitting for more than an hour, it pollutes up to five times more than when the engine's warm.
2. Care for your car – Regular maintenance and tune-ups, changing the oil and checking tire inflation can improve gas mileage, extend your car's life and increase its resale value. It can also reduce traffic congestion due to preventable breakdowns and reduce pollutants by more than half.
3. Get fuel when it's cool – Refueling during cooler periods of the day or in the evening can prevent gas fumes from heating up and creating ozone. Heat and sunlight convert gas fumes into ground-level ozone. You can reduce pollution by refueling in the evening. This gives gas vapors a chance to dissipate overnight, making it less likely that they'll be around during the heat of the following day.
4. Don't top off the tank – It releases gas fumes into the air and cancels the benefits of the pump's anti-pollution devices. Overfilling your gas tank can also increase the likelihood of spills. Remove the nozzle from your gas tank when it shuts off automatically.
5. Know before you go – If you are traveling to an unfamiliar area make sure you have a plan in place before you leave. Plan out routes using maps or Global Positioning System (GPS) systems so you don't spend time driving around looking for your destination. If the area has a travel and transit information network, use it by calling or visiting the web site.



6. Limit vehicle idling – Waiting to-pick someone up? Turn off engine if stopped more than one minute. Avoid the long drive-through-lines, go inside.
7. Spread the word – If everyone took just a few of these simple, easy steps, it could make a big difference. Check out [this article](#) from *The Wichita Eagle* for more details on the cause of air pollution and ways to prevent it.

### **K-SERV Ready for Local Administration Use**

*by Emily Nickel, Planning and Volunteer Coordinator  
BCHS, KDHE*



Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV) a secure registration system and database for volunteers willing to respond to public health emergencies, has registered over 1,400 interested volunteers throughout Kansas since going live in 2007. The Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers, is part of a national program, K-SERV called Emergency System for the Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP), which encourages the pre-registration and pre-credentialing of volunteer health professionals. The aim is to have a list of pre-identified volunteers whose healthcare credentials have been verified and are available for ready deployment in case of a disaster or incident. The K-SERV system also allows for the registration of non-healthcare volunteers in addition to volunteer health professionals.

The database is maintained by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. System administrators, however, will be located throughout the state. If an event requiring volunteer assistance occurs, appropriate local public health officials will use K-SERV to generate a list of potential volunteers based on information provided during registration, minimizing the role of the state in local incidents. Volunteer data entered onto the system is considered highly confidential and is protected by federal, state and local laws governing security and confidentiality.

On Sept. 21 at the 68th Annual Kansas Public Health Association Fall Conference, participants will have the opportunity to attend a K-SERV Local Administration Training Breakout Session. The session will focus on providing an overview of K-SERV, how to request and coordinate volunteers within K-SERV and it will provide an overview of how to alert volunteers using the Kansas Health Alert Network.

For more information on K-SERV, please contact Emily Nickel at [enickel@kdheks.gov](mailto:enickel@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-5201.



### **Office of Communications**

This week, KDHE kicked off its 2011-2014 Strategic Planning process with about 40 management staff and nearly 10 representatives from external partner organizations meeting at the SRS Learning Center. The objective of this meeting was to begin the strategic mapping process, kicking off the important work that's ahead of all of us as we craft and implement our agency's 3-year strategic plan. Everyone at KDHE will continue to play a vital role in our ability to achieve the mission of KDHE. This plan will provide the strategy to best achieve our mission. The content resulting from the discussions on July 26 and 27 will be presented to KDHE staff by Secretary Moser in the coming weeks. The format(s) for presenting the material to everyone within KDHE is yet to be determined, but it will more than likely involve a webinar conducted by the Secretary, along with various program-level meetings. The strategic mapping process led to the following areas being considered as strategic priorities: Coordination of programs and functions, Policy development, Statewide health and environment infrastructure development, Resources identification and alignment, Enhanced communication and Organizational effectiveness. We're excited about this plan and where it can take us.

### **Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics (BEPHI)**

The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics has issued the first set of annual statistical tables for 2010 vital events. The tables are available online at [www.kdheks.gov/phi/index.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/phi/index.htm). The 25 annual tables available at <http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us/kic/OHA/anntable10.html> represent the most frequently requested tables of statistics on births, deaths, marriages and divorces. BEPHI has also created a new page with maps of selected regional groupings of counties. Bureau statistics are frequently based on these county groupings. In light

of the new census data, the population density peer groups have been revised to reflect changes in county population statistics.

BEPHI has issued the [Infant Mortality Kansas, 2010 Provisional Findings](#), which provides selected Infant mortality statistics and was issued at the Blue Ribbon Infant Mortality Panel meeting on July 15. The publication details changes in infant mortality between 2009 and 2010 and reports on selected trends. Infant mortality dropped from 290 in 2009 to 254 in 2010. Final statistics on infant mortality will be contained in the "2010 Kansas Annual Summary of Vital Statistics and Selected Special Statistics, Stillbirths and Infant Deaths, Kansas, 2010" published later this year.

### **Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL)**

During the week of July 11, the Kansas Health & Environmental Laboratories had their clinical laboratory certification assessment. The laboratory is required to be certified by the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) in order to test human samples. KHEL was evaluated for multiple standards including accuracy, reliability and timeliness of patient test results. At the end of the four-day assessment, KHEL was recommended for their efforts and improvements over the past two years. The laboratory passed the assessment and can now continue to produce the best quality test results for the 138,000 patient samples they receive annually.

### **Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH)**



The excessive heat warnings across the state continue and this is prompting Kansans to beat the heat at the lake. BEH reminds you that blue-green algae is rampant this time of the year. KDHE samples water when we're alerted to a potential blue-green algae bloom and we currently have several lakes either under a Warning or Advisory. Click the image to the left to check out current warnings and advisories. Take precaution and know the latest before going out.

### **Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS)**

The Health Preparedness team met with CDC visitors on July 21 for the State's Strategic National Stockpile Technical Assistance Review. This yearly assessment looks at how KDHE would respond in an emergency, especially when a mass distribution of medication was needed. The review went very well and BCHS thanks everyone who played a role. We will let you know when the final results are presented to agency. Thank you!

### **Bureau of Health Promotions (BHP)**

Be sure to check out the SafeKids safety tips posted this week on the KDHE Facebook. Tips include "Mower and Backyard Safety" and "Never Leave Your Child in the Vehicle."

## **News and Updates**

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### **Local Health Department Administration Changes**

<b>County</b>	<b>Former Administrator</b>	<b>New Administrator/Director</b>
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
Lyon County	Liz Conrade	Phillip Davis
Mitchell County	Pat Dowlin	Sondra Hone
Montgomery County	Ruth Bardwell	Alison Kelley
Shawnee County	Anne Freeze	Allison Alejos – Health Agency
		Alice Weingartner – Community Health Center
Sheridan County	Melanie Cooper	Kerri Schippers

Smith County  
Wallace County

Elizabeth Hill  
L DeAnn Applehans

Laura Hageman  
Brenda Drennan

The [Kansas Public Health Directory](#) is in the process of being updated with local and state health department changes in personnel. Click here to navigate to the directory.

### LactMed App



Need to know more about drugs and breastfeeding? LactMed can help. Find information about maternal and infant drug levels, possible effects on lactation and on breastfed infants and alternative drugs to consider. Toxnet provides free application for you iPhone/iPad. Click the LactMed logo to download the application.

### CDC Releases Infection Prevention Guide to Promote Safe Outpatient Care



Medical care in outpatient settings has surged in recent years, yet in many cases, adherence to standard infection prevention practices in outpatient settings is lacking. To protect patients and help educate clinicians about minimum expectations of safe care, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has released a new, concise guide and checklist specifically for health care providers in outpatient care settings such as endoscopy clinics, surgery centers, primary care offices and pain management clinics. To read more about this prevention guide click the CDC logo.

### Knowledge Path in Children and Adolescents



The Maternal Child Health (MCH) Library at Georgetown University presents a new knowledge path, Emotional, Behavioral and Mental Health Challenges in Children and Adolescents. The knowledge path points to a selection of resources that analyze data, describe effective programs and report on policy and research aimed at improving access to and quality of care for children and adolescents with emotional, behavioral and mental health challenges. Resources tap into the health, education, social services and juvenile justice literature. To read more about this knowledge path click the MCH Library logo above.

### Pediatric Environmental Health Toolkit



This toolkit provided by the Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) is a combination of easy-to-use reference guides for health providers and user friendly health education materials on preventing exposures to toxic chemicals and other substances that affect infant and child health. The materials are visually appealing, practical and easy to use. The toolkit is endorsed by the [American Academy of Pediatrics \(AAP\)](#). To download this toolkit, click the image on the left.

### Diabetes HealthSense



The National Diabetes Education Program (NDEP) has explored ways to help people with diabetes and those at risk for the disease make and sustain healthy lifestyle changes that help prevent or control diabetes. Diabetes HealthSense is designed to provide easy access to useful tools and programs that exist within the public domain and facilitate the behavior change process. To find learn more about Diabetes HealthSense click on the NDEP logo above.



### New Guidance Addresses Information Release in Public Health Emergencies

ASTHO, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Association of Health Care Journalists (AHCJ) teamed up to develop the guidance after the 2009 H1N1 pandemic in consultation with several ASTHO Affiliated Organizations. These nonbinding recommendations, guidance on the release of information concerning deaths, epidemics or emerging diseases, will help public health officials balance the need to keep the public informed with requirements to maintain individuals' privacy. State and local health officials can consult the guidance along with their local laws

in such situations and reporters have a better idea of what to expect. Read the guidance or the joint press release by clicking the ASTHO logo.

### Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse



The CDC has a new site for zombie preparedness. There are all kinds of emergencies out there that we can prepare for. Take a zombie apocalypse for example. That's right, I said z-o-m-b-i-e a-p-o-c-a-l-y-p-s-e. You may laugh now, but when it happens you'll be happy you read this, and hey, maybe you'll even learn a thing or two about how to prepare for a real emergency. Click the image above to learn more.

### Resources to Support Lifestyle Changes for Diabetics



The National Institute of Health (NIH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced a new video series to help people make lifestyle changes and cope with the demands of diabetes. To review and learn more about this announcement, click the NIH logo.

### New Report: Adult Obesity Increases



Adult obesity rates increased in 16 states in the past year and did not decline in any state, according to "F as in Fat: How Obesity Threatens America's Future 2011," a report from Trust for America's Health (TFAH) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). Twelve states now have obesity rates above 30 percent. Four years ago, only one state was above 30 per-

cent. Click the RWJF logo to read the complete report.

### Kansas Health Homes and Lead Hazard Prevention Program Annual Report



The Bureau of Environmental Health has released its 2010 Annual Report for the Kansas Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Prevention Program and has also updated mapping for 2010 case data, investigations and elevated lead levels in Kansas children. Click the Healthy Home logo to view the report.

The mission of the Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Prevention Program (HHLHPP) is to establish an infrastructure of trained personnel to screen, identify and recommend proper medical and environmental management of lead-poisoned children. The most common cause of childhood lead poisoning today is the deterioration or disruption of a lead paint surface of a home. To learn more about how you can prevent and eliminate childhood lead hazards check out the HHLHPP website and the ToxMystery activity from the National Library of Medicine.

### Learn How to Vanish Cavities in Under a Minute



Cavity Free Kids (CFK) provides education and training during the lunch hour, free tool-kits that include 50 fluoride applications and children's toothbrushes, a flip chart and Medicaid reimbursement information. CFK has completed six presentations this year. If you would like to learn more about how CFK can help your office and to fill out an application, click the CFK logo.

### MOBI-KS is a "Whale" of a Program for Getting all Kansas Kids Vaccinated



Maximizing Office Based Immunizations in Kansas (MOBI-KS) is a "whale" of a program for getting all Kansas kids vaccinated on time.

MOBI-KS is reaching out to practices who haven't been offering vaccines in

the past. If you need assistance with funding your immunization program Maximizing Office based Immunizations (MOBI-KS) can help. Visit our website to find out more by clicking the MOBI-KS logo.

If you are interested in learning about giving immunizations and about the monetary grant that is available, please contact Leslie at 913-940-8943 or [leslie.sherman@kansasaap.org](mailto:leslie.sherman@kansasaap.org).

## Job Openings

### Butler County Health Department

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

- [Community Health Nurse](#)



### Finney County Health Department

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

- [Office Clerk](#)



### Johnson County Health Department

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

- [Health Educator](#)
- [Operations Manager](#)
- [Social Worker](#)



### Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

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

- [AmeriCorps Volunteer](#)
- [ARNP](#)



### Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Part-Time Temporary Community Health Nurse](#)



### Shawnee County Health Agency

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

- [Licensed Practical Nurse](#)
- [Medical Director](#)



### Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

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Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)