



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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Battling the Extreme Heat

*by Robert Moser, MD, Secretary, State Health Officer
 Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

Triple digit temperatures have become almost commonplace in Kansas as the summer of 2012 hits high gear. As the sun beats down and the temperature climbs so do the incidents of heat related illness, injury and death in our state. Unfortunately many of our residents have already fallen victim to the effects of this extreme heat, and we hope that you will continue to help us monitor and prevent this environmentally related negative health affect.



Each week we ask our hospitals to update us through the EM Resource report system about extreme heat effects in your locales. So far, we know that more than 270 people have taken ill and three have died due to heat related issues. We also realize that the number of people who have suffered is truly much greater than that. Thank you for keeping us informed so that we can not only record this data from year to year but so we can provide Kansans with information about the conditions in their state.

As you interact with your communities, remind residents of the hazards associated with extreme heat. We see daily that dehydration can occur quickly and lead to heat exhaustion. Left untreated, an individual who suffers from preexisting conditions can quickly deteriorate to heat stroke and even face death.

All too often we believe we are tougher than the weather. As the summer progresses we think we have acclimated and are used to the heat! Sometimes we are our own worst enemy. Remind our residents to hydrate, seek shade often if they have to be outside, and be vigilant to what their body is telling them. Everyone will likely perspire heavily on hot days, but if lightheadedness, headache or nausea manifests they are in danger and need attention. Even those of us who feel most fit and who choose to work and play outdoors during the summer must remain alert. Remind everyone to maintain a healthy diet and drink plenty of fluids. Athletes and workers out in the sun should drink even if they do not feel thirsty. Children engaged in sports or outdoor play much be monitored closely and made to take frequent breaks. The adage that an ounce of prevention is greater than a pound of cure was never more correct.

Summertime should be a period when we all enjoy the longer days, warm temperatures and the great Kansas outdoors. Don't let the heat ruin your day. Stay alert, stay hydrated, stay cool and enjoy the summer.

In the Spotlight - Johnson County Department of Health and Environment

*by Lougene Marsh, Administrator
 Johnson County Health Department*

Since 1943, the Johnson County Health Department has been the official public health agency for the county, with the Board of County Commissioners serving as the Board of Health. In March 2012, the Health Department merged with the Environmental Department to become the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE). The Director is Lougene Marsh and Deputy Director is James Joerke. The Department is comprised of six divisions: Administrative Services, Childcare Licensing, Disease Containment, Environment, Family Health Services and Health Education.

Services include: Immunizations, communicable disease surveillance and investigation, TB testing, Refugee Health, Prenatal, Women's Infants and Children's (WIC) food supplemental program, Women's/Men's Health: reproductive health, STD screening, and HIV testing, Child Care Facilities' licensure, Health Education: classes, workshops/trainings, injury prevention activities (Safe Kids Johnson County), chronic disease risk reduction activities, senior and community wellness activities.

Programs include: Outreach Nurse, Public Health Emergency Program, Targeted Case Management, Making a Difference, Air Quality, Household Hazardous Waste, Solid Waste Management, On-site Sewage Treatment, Ozone Reduction and Pool Inspections. JCDHE is also a continuing nursing education provider.

Services are provided at three sites, 11875 S. Sunset and 11811 S. Sunset in Olathe and 6000 Lamar in Mission.

JCDHE and several community partners completed a five year community health assessment in 2011, where three priority areas were chosen: Physical Activity/Nutrition, Access to Health Care and Mental Health/Substance Abuse. A community health improvement plan has been recently finalized and work groups are now meeting and planning activities for the identified priority areas.

Other highlights include:

- JCDHE is approved to be an Early Detection Works (EDW) site for breast and cervical screenings for low income, medically underserved women and is designated as a Safe Haven Site for Newborns (per Kansas State law), where parents can safely hand over a newborn without prosecution.
- All JCDHE medical records, including lab orders and front desk forms and childcare survey forms are now electronic.
- JCDHE received a score of 100% on the 2011 and 2012 annual Division of Strategic National Stockpile Local Technical Assistance Review for emergency preparedness procedures.
- JCDHE has begun preparing our accreditation application!



Members of the JCDHE Leadership Team

In the Spotlight - Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS)

Preparedness Program

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



L-R: Jamie Hamler, Michael McNulty and Michelle Peterson

Bureau of Community Health Systems is pleased to announce the appointment of Michael McNulty, as the Acting Preparedness Program Director. He has worked in the program through its many iterations since 2004 and is very knowledgeable about all facets of public health and medical preparedness and response.

Additional organizational changes have also been made to better sync the program's structure with the newly aligned hospital/public health preparedness grant. Jamie Hamler will serve as the program's grant manager to oversee the aligned Hospital Preparedness Program (HPP) and Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEP) grant development, management and reporting processes. Michelle Peterson will continue to serve as the program's manager for planning and outreach, and will also be engaged in program operations and response activities. Tabettha Mallonee (not pictured), who has served as the program's PHEP fiscal manager, is now also assuming responsibility for HPP fiscal management.

Local Health Program Welcomes New Team Member



The Local Public Health Program in the Bureau of Community Health Systems at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would like to welcome Teri Caudle, RN, BSN to the staff as a Public Health Nurse Specialist. Teri has worked in the KDHE Bureau of Health Promotion's Diabetes Prevention & Control Program as a Nurse Administrator since 2004. She also worked overseas in community health and for local health departments in Wyoming and Missouri, and brings a wealth of public health knowledge and experience to the program. Teri will also be providing her expertise to the Refugee and Farmworker Health programs.

New Director of Health Facilities Program Welcomed to KDHE



Joyce Smith began work on July 9 as Director of the Health Facilities Program within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Community Health Systems. Prior to joining the agency, she served as the Director of Community-Based Services for the Kansas Department on Aging (KDOA). Prior to that, she served in management-level positions for the Kansas Departments of Commerce and SRS.

Joyce has significant experience in program and budget management; developing, interpreting, and implementing policies and regulations; and a strong working relationship with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). She also has extensive experience working through the regulation promulgation and legislative processes. As a supervisor, Joyce holds the record for maintaining the longest consistent program staffing in KDOA history.

"Joyce is already becoming a great asset for the program and bureau," said Mindee Reece, BCHS director. "Her knowledge of and experience in the regulatory process and the inter-workings of CMS will serve us well."

NACCHO Honors 39 Local Health Departments for Exemplary and Innovative Programs

*by Linda Frazee, Public Health Workforce Specialist
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



As part of its July 2012 annual conference in Los Angeles, CA, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) honored 39 local health departments across the country for implementing programs that demonstrate exemplary and replicable outcomes in response to an identified public health need. Each project receiving a Model Practice award was reviewed by a committee of peers (other local health department professionals) and selected from a group of 166 applications (up by more than a quarter from last year).

"Local health departments nationwide are great sources of innovative ideas and programs," said NACCHO Executive Director Robert M. Pestronk. "With this award, NACCHO recognizes exceptional work and shares it broadly. The beauty of these programs is that they can be replicated or adapted by other local health departments."

Among this year's Model Practice award winners were the following Kansas programs:

Sedgwick County Health Department: Community Health Navigators Program - The goals of the Community Health Navigator Project are to:

- Recruit, train, and deploy prepared volunteers to take information and materials to their peer groups and organizations.
- Educate residents on the importance of having a medical home for seeking primary care and preventative care.
- Provide health access education information and materials to community residents through one-on-one conversations or group settings.
- Collect demographic data for evaluation purposes of the Health Access Projects.
- Collaborate with county residents, public and private agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions to improve health status, healthcare access, and reduce health disparities.
- Increase the proportion of persons who have a medical home.



This project began in March of 2009, and it has achieved several milestones. To-date, 52 navigators have been recruited and they have reached nearly 4,000 residents (far exceeding initial goals of 500) with health care information and materials.

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment: Dispense-Assist - Dispense-Assist provides algorithm-based screening for Category A agents and seasonal influenza. Once a user has entered their demographic and health screening information into the website, a printable voucher is created that can be exchanged for vaccine or medication. This screening tool is open to the public and any interested agency at any time, free of charge. Internet access is also not a barrier to using D-A as a plug-and-play version is also available.

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment - Technical Assistance Review Assignment, Documentation, and Tracking Tool & Documentation Organization Process. In 2008, JCHD developed a systematic approach for their Cities Readiness Initiative (CRI) Program to assign, manage, and document completion of each Technical Assistance Review (TAR) task and has continued to perfect this approach in the following years. JCHD was awarded a perfect score of 100% for their 2010 review. As this system was created within JCHD, there has been no associated cost for this tool. The tool is merely a well-formatted, easy-to-use spreadsheet created by an Emergency Planner with the capability to share assignments, status updates, and document locations among the other members of the Emergency Preparedness Program. JCHD is looking to share this approach with other local health departments who are interested in improving their TAR score and their overall ability to document preparedness efforts.

The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) represents the nation's 2,800 local governmental health departments. These city, county, metropolitan, district and tribal departments work every day to protect and promote health and well-being for all people in their communities.

Congratulations to Sedgwick and Junction City Geary County Health Departments



*by Linda Frazee, Workforce Development Coordinator
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Lead by the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) and funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) awards of \$5,000 each were given to the Sedgwick and Junction City-Geary County Health Departments for Quality Improvement (QI). The health departments also received 15 hours of individualized QI assistance from an experienced QI Coach, to conduct a QI project that results in measureable change.

The purpose of the QI Award Program is to support health departments to become more proficient in the adoption and application of QI and to meet the accreditation standards and measures set by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Also being provided with additional opportunities, such as educational webinars with QI experts and sponsored attendance at a national accreditation and QI-focused meeting (the "Open Forum" meeting).

Sedgwick County's plans to increase the number of community partners formally engaged in the community health improvement process. They will also increase by 10 percent the quality of those collaborations that will improve as evidenced by results of the Center for the Advancement of Collaborative Strategies in Health (CACSH) Partnership Self Assessment.

Junction City-Geary County Health Department plans to increase the health department medical staff's percentage of youth ages 18 and below who receive preventive dental exams and dental referrals from 14 percent to 24 percent.

Potential Exposure to Hepatitis C

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



Kansas Department of Health and Environment and HaysMed hospital in Hays are working together to notify patients who underwent cardiac catheterization from May 24, 2010, to Sept. 22, 2010, of potential exposure to hepatitis C. The U.S. Attorney for the District of New Hampshire announced that David Kwiatkowski was arrested and charged with obtaining controlled substances by fraud and tampering with a consumer product. According to an affidavit filed in federal court in New Hampshire, Kwiatkowski allegedly engaged in drug diversion and infected patients with hepatitis C while employed at Exeter Hospital in New Hampshire.

Due to the fact that Kwiatkowski worked as a contract radiology technician in the HaysMed cardiac catheterization laboratory from May 24, 2010, to Sept. 22, 2010, the hospital and KDHE are working together to notify all patients who were treated at the cardiac catheterization lab during this time and recommend they receive testing for hepatitis C. Only those patients who underwent cardiac catheterization procedures between May 24, 2010, and Sept. 22, 2010, at HaysMed were potentially put at risk.

Approximately 460 patients had procedures at the HaysMed cardiac catheterization laboratory during this time period. Those patients who were potentially exposed at HaysMed are being contacted by mail with information on how to receive free testing for hepatitis C through KDHE and who to contact to answer questions and address concerns. Hepatitis C is a virus that is passed through blood and affects the liver. Approximately 2,000 confirmed cases are reported in Kansas each year. Only about one in five persons who become infected with hepatitis C virus initially becomes ill, with symptoms ranging from a mild illness to more severe disease.



Most persons with hepatitis C virus develop a chronic infection, which is a serious disease that can cause long-term health problems. There is no vaccine against hepatitis C virus. For additional information on hepatitis C, visit the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website by clicking their logo.

Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Program

*By Barbara Hersh, Public Information Officer
Office of the Secretary, KDHE*



As of June 18, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has paid 417 eligible health care professionals a total of \$8.8M. These eligible professionals have attested to adopting, implementing or upgrading an Electronic Health Records (EHR) system. Twenty-six eligible hospitals have also received \$12.9M. The first payments were made to 22 hospitals and 10 eligible professionals in March.

Providers who are eligible for the program include physicians, dentists, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and physician assistants who practice in a Federally Qualified Health Center. Providers cannot have any current sanctions and must meet the patient volume requirement. Providers that see 30 percent or more Medicaid patients in a 90 day period in the previous calendar year can qualify. Pediatricians can qualify with 20 percent Medicaid patient volume in a 90 day period in the previous calendar year; pediatricians who qualify at the reduced Medicaid patient volume will receive a reduced payment amount.

Eligible professionals may receive up to \$63,750 in six payments by participating in six program years over the life of the program. Providers' first-year payment will be \$21,250 for attesting to adoption, implementation or upgrade of a certified EHR system. Providers will receive \$8,500 in program years two through five after attesting to meaningful use. The first step in applying for incentive payments is to register with Centers for Medical and Medicaid Services (CMS) Registration and Attestation (R & A) system. Click the EHR logo.



For assistance with the application process or for more information about the Medicaid EHR incentive payment program, visit the KDHE website by clicking their logo or call the EHR phone number at 800-933-6593.

Because the Kansas Medicaid program currently covers nearly 13.3 percent of the Kansas population, the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program plays a key role in supporting widespread Health Information Technology (HIT) adoption in Kansas.

KDHE Revitalizing Performance Management Efforts

*by Brenda Nickel, M.S., R.N., Director
Center for Performance Management, KDHE*

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

<p>Step 1: Performance Objectives The identification of relevant measurable goals and targets, one set and commensurate to address select indicators.</p> <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SF3500 Process • Agency • State Health Improvement Plan • Organizational Strategic Plan (OSM) • Governor's Road Map and legislative priorities • Disparities 	<p>Step 2: Performance Measures The ongoing monitoring and reporting of program accomplishments, particularly program toward pre-established goals or targets.</p> <p>Use of state and national measures with consideration for global health measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health Status SF3500 Health Measures • Public Health System Quality • Agency Public Dashboard and Measures
<p>Step 3: Reviews or Reviews The intentional sharing and monitoring of performance indicators and outcome results with leadership entities and stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a system for regular monitoring • Develop a regular reporting cycle • Analyze data collected and document extent of progress based on agency performance measures • Determine if performance standards being met and if not, consider a formal quality improvement process • Share report with leadership, stakeholders, and/or advisory groups 	<p>Step 4: Continuous Quality Improvement (CQI) A formal process that can be used for almost every plan, policy, or program implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work involves with leadership from on-quality improvement and creating a culture of CQI • Survey agency staff regarding CQI knowledge, expertise, and interest • Agency teams select a CQI project and receive training to assist in implementing, maintaining, and sharing CQI "best practices" • Implement organizational CQI advisory Council • Develop and implement an CQI Plan

Adapted from the National Center of Public Health Performance Management System

Kansas uses an adapted version of the Turning Point Performance Management System Framework to engage employees, and serve to guide, measure, and improve the agency's efficiency and effectiveness of services

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is in the process of revitalizing its performance management efforts using the Turning Point Performance Management System Framework. As the KDHE continues work across three divisions to improve effectiveness and efficiency of services and public health accreditation readiness activities, the one-page performance application document will be a visual tool to illustrate for staff and partners how the Turning Point work done previously Image serves to guide and build our future performance management endeavors. Click the image on left to view.

Performance management occurs when there is a systematic effort to improve program and process across a department using quality improvement and monitoring progress towards identified goals. The process of performance management involves staff within the department, governing bodies, external partners and the com-

munities or populations served. As the KDHE reviews the agency's first year efforts on organizational strategic plan implementation www.kdheks.gov/administration/index.html, the agency is thinking about, "what's next," as Kansas stakeholders identify state health priorities through the Healthy People / Healthy Kansans 2020 process.

For health departments and communities planning for or conducting community health needs assessments and strategic planning, the process of identifying problems and developing a framework for tackling problems benefit from a structured approach to managing programs and services through quality improvement efforts. This structured approach for developing and monitoring progress is, "performance management." An important outcome of this process is identifying processes or programs that could benefit from quality improvement. There are free resources available through the, "Journal of Public Health Management and Practice," (2012) that provides ideas and information about both performance management, QI, and the links to strengthening public health department services. Click the Journal of public Health Management and Practice logo for to view these resources.



To view the one-page description of the KDHE's performance management work and other examples of performance applications being utilized by health departments visit the Public Health Foundation's logo. For more information and links to resources on performance management go to http://kdheks.gov/cpm/perf_mgmt.htm

Never Leave a Child Alone with a Dog

*by Joan Leavens, Integration/Outreach Leader
Research and Sponsored Program, K-State University*

Pet ownership has many emotional and physical health benefits for children, including teaching nurturing behaviors and increasing physical activity. However, it is important to monitor interactions between small children and the family dog. The majority of dog bites to children 0-4 years old are to the head and neck, potentially causing serious injury. Most children are bitten by dogs familiar to them with no history of biting.

One Health Kansas at Kansas State University cautions:

- Don't leave a child alone with a dog.
- Any dog can bite!

To learn more or download posters and brochures, click the "Any dog can bite" logo.



Current Lake Warnings and Advisories for Blue-Green Algae

Warning status:

- Chisholm Creek North Lake, Sedgwick County
- Harvey County East Lake, Harvey County
- Logan City Lake, Phillips County
- Memorial/Veterans Lake – Great Bend, Barton County
- South Lake Park, Johnson County

Advisory status:

- Atchison County Park Lake, Atchison County
- Brown County State Fishing Lake, Brown County
- Centralia Lake, Nemaha County
- Deanna Rose Farmstead, Johnson County
- Lake Scott State Park, Scott County
- Marion Reservoir, Marion County
- Milford Reservoir- north of School Creek is under an advisory, south of School Creek is not under an advisory.



Picture courtesy of KDHE - Bureau of Environmental Field Services, Veteran's Lake, Barton County, KS

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



Injury Prevention Mini-Grant – Deadline Aug. 3

Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is pleased to announce the opportunity for private or public non-profit community-based organizations, or units of local and state government to submit application for an Injury Prevention Mini-Grant. This is a competitive grant process and applications are due no later than Fri., Aug. 3, by 5 P.M. Click the KDHE logo for additional information.

The purpose of this grant is to develop or enhance unintentional injury prevention interventions in the community. Awards will not exceed \$5,000.00 per community with all grants pending availability of funding. Please review the attached Request for Proposal and application. Questions can be directed to Daina Hodges, Outreach Coordinator, Injury Prevention and Disability Programs, at dhodges@kdheks.gov or 785-296-0351.

Second Cycle of the QI Award Program – Deadline for Intent, Aug. 20



The National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) is pleased to announce a new Call for Proposals (CFP) to participate in the second cycle of the QI Award Program. Through the Program, NNPHI will provide health departments with

\$5,000 awards coupled with 15 hours of individualized quality improvement (QI) assistance from an experienced QI Coach to conduct a QI project that results in measureable change. Selected health departments will also be provided with additional opportunities such as educational webinars with QI experts and sponsored attendance at a national accreditation and QI-focused meeting (the "Open Forum Meeting for Quality Improvement in Public Health").

- Deadline to indicate intent to apply: Aug. 20 at 2p.m.
- Proposal Deadline: Sept. 10 at 2p.m.

The purpose of this QI Award Program is to support health departments to become more proficient in the adoption and application of QI and to meet the accreditation standards and measures set by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). Click the NNPHI logo to review the application.

The 3rd Annual Health Literacy Innovators Award – Deadline Aug. 31



The Health Literacy Innovators Award seeks the nation's best health literacy practices in print, in practice, and in the media. It is open to any company, organization or individual that can demonstrate excellence in health literacy in one of the three contest categories. The deadline is Aug. 31. Click the Health Literacy Innovations logo to learn more.

Mini-Grant Opportunities for Youth-Led Tobacco-Use Prevention Projects – Deadline Sept. 3



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) is providing approximately 15 competitive grant awards of up to \$1000 this upcoming fall 2012 to assist in engaging youth groups in tobacco prevention and education. The grant project is part of TFKC's continuing support for a statewide youth movement to reduce youth use of tobacco products in communities

across Kansas.

"Empowering youth to develop their own tobacco prevention systems is a proven way to reduce initiation and use of cigarettes and tobacco products," says Mary Jayne Hellebust, Executive Director of TFKC. She noted that Kansas high school smoking rates have declined from 26 percent in 2000 to 17.1 percent in 2010 but that the latest Youth Tobacco Survey statistics show that 4.1 percent of middle school boys and 15.5 percent of high school boys now report using smokeless tobacco. "These competitive mini grants help youth groups design their own projects to reveal the truth about tobacco use and the misconceptions and marketing tools that still result in almost 3,000 Kansas youth beginning to smoke each year."

Tobacco use, which still remains a leading cause of death and disease in Kansas, usually begins before the age of 18. With funding from the Kansas Health Foundation, TFKC's mini grant program offers funding of up to \$1000 for youth-led tobacco prevention projects that impact other teens at the community level. Youth from 12-

17 within school, prevention, church and social groups, youth coalitions, youth sports and afterschool programs may apply for the funding by completing a short application.

The grant application can be obtained on the TFKC website by clicking on their logo above or by contacting Erica Anderson at eranderson@tobaccofreekansas.org. The deadline for this round of applications is Sept. 3, with award announcement made by Sept. 21.

Improving Our School's Together – Deadline Oct. 12



Lowe's Charitable and Educational Foundation (LCEF) knows how hard you work for your kids and your community and we're dedicated to helping your parent-teacher group achieve even more for your school. Apply for our Toolbox for Education Grant now and build on your already impressive parent group success with Lowe's. To learn more click the Toolbox for Education logo.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Healthy Habits for Life grants – Deadline Oct. 15



Healthy Habits for Life is a major grant-giving program of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation. It is offered to help schools address a current major health issue in Kansas and the nation: childhood obesity. The Healthy Habits for Life program is offering a total of \$150,000 in grants to assist schools in promoting healthy lifestyle choices to their students. School nurses, physical education teachers, principals, health or family and consumer science teachers, or other administrators are encouraged to apply.

Kansas Health Foundation Healthy Communities Initiative Round 2



*by Steve Coen, President and CEO
Kansas Health Foundation*

The Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) continually looks for creative and strategic ways in which grant making can move the organization towards its mission to improve the health of all Kansans. Time and time again, KHF has seen that one major way to accomplish this work is to partner directly with communities throughout the state in areas where Foundation goals and community goals meet.

The KHF is excited to announce a new, expanded Healthy Communities Initiative, request for proposals (RFP) that seeks to directly address specific strategies for ensuring proper nutrition, increasing physical activity and reducing use of or exposure to tobacco products and pro-tobacco marketing. Ultimately, through this work, the Kansas Health Foundation is striving to develop local infrastructure to support comprehensive community approaches to healthy behaviors.

Grants and technical assistance will help support a collaborative process that builds on existing community assets, cultivates local leadership and results in a community-supported plan for facilitating policies, practices and environmental changes.

Additionally, the Foundation invites you and up to three leadership team members to attend the Healthy Communities Initiative RFP Conference, scheduled for Oct. 3rd and 4th, at the Wichita Marriott Hotel. The conference will provide more information about the RFP to help you decide if your community would like to submit a proposal.

Interested persons can access the RFP information through the Healthy Communities Initiative by clicking on the KHF logo. If you have any questions about the RFP or the initiative as a whole, please contact Jeff Usher, program officer, at 316-262-7676 or jusher@khf.org.

Training Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

KDA and KDHE Conducting Zoonotic Disease Workshops

*by Ingrid Garrison, State Public Health Veterinarian
Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) are facilitating, "One Health Zoonotic Disease Workshops," for veterinarians, health care professionals and the public health workforce in 2012 and 2013. The day-long workshops will be held Aug. 9, Colby; Oct. 11, Dodge

City and Mar. 2, 2013 in Wichita. A workshop for the northeast area is to be announced soon. Registration for the learning events, are through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID# 1033834.

The objectives of the workshop include:

- Information sharing regarding zoonotic and foreign animal disease preparedness and response measures.
- Discussion of general accepted practices regarding surveillance, disease prevention, routes of transmission, disease reporting, and biosecurity, cleaning & disinfection.
- Overview of specific zoonotic and foreign animal diseases.
- Encouraging networking and communication among the participants.

The workshop will include various presentations and conclude with an informal discussion based exercise. Please direct workshop questions to Dr. Tarrie Crnic, Kansas Department of Agriculture, call 785-296-2326 or tarrie.crnice@kda.ks.gov.



Elevated Blood Level Inspector Certification Training Available in Aug.



Health and Environment is organizing an Elevated Blood Level (EBL) investigator training event in Topeka, Aug. 13-17. HHP will pay the cost of the course, mileage and lodging for six qualified students. Students may include local health department employees, local code enforcement officers, sanitarians, or local/county staff with a good understanding of housing issues and willingness to help in the community.

The attached map provides information about current areas in Kansas that will not be served or will become under served by environmental investigators in the near future. The map shows areas where BEH assessed EBL capacity and development areas of need. The county numbers are comprised of EBL test results for children in the past year. Please note there are several areas in the state with numerous high blood lead levels that will be at great risk very soon.

If you work for a city or county in Kansas and are connected to Environmental Health and would like to attend call Jennifer at 785-296-5606.

For more information about changes in the Healthy Homes program see the July 1, 2012, issue of [Public Health Connections](#).

Enroll Your Organization in the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Fall 2012 Series

*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 (AHEC) are once again collaborating to make available the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds series. The fall 2012 series will occur live on Wed.'s from Aug. 22 to Dec. 5, 12:00–1:00 P.M. via the internet utilizing the Adobe Connect webconferencing system.

Topics for the fall series will include, parent health literacy, multi-jurisdictional accreditation for public health, future of public health nursing, tobacco cessation and other priorities for the Kansas Health Foundation, top public health concerns for Kansas, STD surveillance in Wyandotte Co., reintegration of female veterans, low/no cost comprehensive HIV care and the use of GIS in public health.

The fee for the entire fall series (a total of 13 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.

Your organization may enroll by e-mailing the AHEC office at ksphgr@kumc.edu or calling 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.

High Plains MHC Brings Mental Health First Aid to Oakley, Sept. 18-19

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) is a 12-hour course designed to give members of the public key skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The course teaches participants a five-step action plan that includes how to assess a situa-



tion, select and implement interventions, and secure appropriate care for the individual. The 12-hour training introduces participants to risk factors, potential causes, and warning signs for depression/suicide, anxiety/trauma, psychotic behavior, substance use disorders, eating disorders, and self-injury. This evidence-based public education program is often considered the mental health version of CPR.

To register for this event go to <http://ks.train.org>, course # 1034297.

New Online Training Initiative Offered by the Public Health Foundation

*by Samantha Draper, TRAIN Program Assistant
Public Health Foundation*



The Public Health Foundation would like to share with everyone the first program from Public Health Works, a new online training initiative offered by the Public Health Foundation and posted on TRAIN. Join us for, "Immunization Strategies: Using the Evidence and What Works to Improve Practice," course #1034079, on Aug. 22 at 2 P.M., to increase your knowledge of evidence-based strategies to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases. This program is the first from, "Public Health Works," a new online training initiative offered by the [Public Health Foundation](#). Public Health Works will benefit public health and health professionals by providing evidence based strategies and best practices based on the recommendations outlined in, [The Guide to Community Preventive Services \(Community Guide\)](#), as well as quality improvement methods to improve organizational performance and the health of the community.

This case study will feature interviews and examples from the County of Los Angeles Department of Public Health, the Watts Healthcare Clinic, and the Los Angeles County Women, Infants, and Children's Program. Featured experts include:

- Dr. Jonathan Fielding, M.D., M.P.H, M.B.A, Director of Public Health and Health Officer for Los Angeles County
- Dr. Ray Strikas, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Officer with the CDC's National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases
- Mrs. Lucy Wells, M.A.O.M, D.H.A. Candidate, Quality Manager with the Duval County Health Department in Florida

Why should you participate in this year's training series? After viewing the program, you will be able to:

- Describe how a local health department uses The Task Force's findings in the, "Community Guide," to save resources and improve health outcomes.
- Describe the challenges to improving immunization rates in a community setting.
- Identify three evidence-based strategies to increase immunizations.
- Describe how quality improvement techniques apply to community immunization practices.

Please refer to the [Public Health Works](#) page or contact publichealthworks@phf.org for more details about the upcoming program, including registration or submitting questions.

Continuing education is currently pending for this activity. An online registration and evaluation must be completed to receive the appropriate continuing education credit when available.

Local Health Program Sponsoring Quality Improvement (QI) Training

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

The Local Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, Kansas Department of Health and Environment will be hosting an interactive workshop, "KDHE-LHP: Quality Improvement (QI) in Kansas Public Health," on Oct. 18, at the Webster Center in Salina. Funding through the Kansas Health Foundation is supporting this education event to assist local health departments in development of their agency QI plans. Faculty for this event are Sonja Armbruster and Ty Kane, Sedgwick County Health Department. Registration is now open through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, course # 1034581.

At the conclusion of this workshop learners will be able to:

- Discuss the components of a Public Health Agency QI Culture Roadmap
- Describe the elements of a QI Plan
- Produce an Agency QI Plan

Local Health Departments will be encouraged to send a team to work on the development or assessment of their own local agency QI plan. Seating will be limited to two (2) representatives from 40 total local health departments. There will be no registration fee and some travel stipend will be available. Details on application for stipend and recommended pre-workshop learning activities will be communicated to all registers.

Questions on this upcoming training should be directed to Jane Shirley, Director, Local Health Program at 785-296-6549 or jshirley@kdheks.gov.

Environmental Health Workforce Development Training



Environmental health (EH) practitioners at the federal, state, local, tribal and territorial levels are on the front lines in preventing illness. They ensure the safety of food service establishments, investigate environmental causes of foodborne and waterborne outbreaks, and respond to outbreaks and other disasters. EH programs are very diverse across the country but are often the home for permitting and inspection for drinking water and wastewater, restaurants, swimming pools and other facilities. In addition to food and water, the EH service system is also engaged in sustainable development, climate change, vector control, air quality and injury prevention. To learn more about these trainings click the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention – Environmental Health logo.

What's New on the CDC Learning Connection Website

by Mary Bryant-Mason, Health Education Specialist

Educational Design and Accreditation Branch, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Learning Connection helps locate products that exemplify educational best practices and links to many CDC-sponsored activities that offer free continuing education. CDC TRAIN, along with KS-TRAIN, is part of a national network to provide access to public health learning and information. Each month, the Learning Connection presents a spotlight on a different public health topic and what CDC programs are posting new courses to TRAIN.

Just in time for summer, this month's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), "Learning Connection Spotlight," focuses on water safety. The Spotlight features a variety of learning products, resources, and social media tools to assist the public health community in preventing the transmission of waterborne diseases. Below are featured learning products. Also check out [Water Safety Resources](#) and [Water Safety Social Media](#).

- [Environmental Health Online: Water Supply and Waste Water](#) [CE]
- [Recreational Water Illness: What Every Clinician Needs to Know](#)
- [Swimming Pools and Recreational Facilities - EPHOC](#)
- [Wastewater - EPHOC](#)

[Visit the July CDC Learning Connection Spotlight](#)

In June, CDC programs listed eight courses on CDC TRAIN, and 24 CDC educational activities were awarded continuing education. Some of the new courses are listed below. Register on [CDC TRAIN](#) or [KS-TRAIN](#) to view the complete list of public health training resources available, which offers free continuing education.

[2010 STD Treatment Guidelines Webinar](#), course #1033139

[CDC's Role in Emergency Response](#), course #1034044

[Use and Misuse of Metal Chelation Therapy](#), course #1034148 [CE]

For more information on the CDC Learning Connection or this update, contact Molly Kellum at zkc7@cdc.gov or send your suggestions for the Learning Connection to learning@cdc.gov.

KPHA Grant Supports Johnson County Health Department in Online Course Development

by Laura Drake, RD, LD

Johnson County Health Department



The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment's Child Care Program student MPH intern, Michelle Routh, BSN,RN,CBE, and WIC staff members recently developed and made available via KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, "JOCO: Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care," course # 1033520.

The course creation was supported in part by the Kansas Public Health Association's 2011 Breastfeeding Grant initiative funded by the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund. It has been approved for Kansas childcare providers by the Child Care Licensing Program at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The course awards providers two KDHE approved clock hours for successful completion. Course curriculum meets the Child Care Core Competency, "Health, Safety and Nutrition, Responding to Health and Safety Needs of Children," level three.

This two hour online course is meant to inform child care professionals about best ways to care for breastfed clients. At the completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- list 3 benefits of breastfeeding

- list 3 common challenges for moms
- state how to safely handle human milk
- state best ways to feed an infant
- list 3 ways to make the facility welcoming
- list 3 ways their facility can support breastfeeding

For question about the course content, contact Laura Drake at the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, 913-826-1250, or Laura.Drake@jocogov.org

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Commissioners' Role to Protect Public Health



The Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) published in their July issue, *County Comment*, an article on the County Commissioner's role to protect the public's health. To view the complete article, "Commissioners Have Responsibility to Protect, Promote Health of Constituents," click the KAC logo.

HHS Releases Reports on the Response to the H1N1 Pandemic and Lessons for the Future



The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released two reports in June concerning the response to the H1N1 pandemic and lessons for future preparedness. One report, titled "HHS Retrospective on the 2009 H1N1 Influenza Pandemic," catalogs successes and problems in the response. The other, called the, "[H1N1 Improvement Plan](#)," is a more specific blueprint for revising previous pandemic preparedness plans. Click the HHS logo to view the report.

NLM ReferencePoint



The Reference and Web Services Section (RWS) manages the ReferencePoint blog as a portal for information from the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). This portal provides information on reference resources from the U.S. National Library of Medicine (NLM). The blog serves as a dialogue and learning exchange between NLM and you. Click the NLM logo to view more information.

Annual Report on U.S. Kids' Health a Mixed Bag



Infant mortality, preterm births and teen births have dropped across the United States as have violent crime and victimization among children. But more children are living in poverty and the fight against childhood obesity is not making much headway according to a new Federal report. To learn more about this report click the Child Stats logo.

CDC Warns of Another Emerging Tick-Borne Threat



MedlinePlus reports that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) warns about Babesiosis posing a serious threat this summer, especially in certain parts of the country, a U.S. government report warns. This parasitic illness is spread by ticks that infect red blood cells. Click the MedlinePlus logo to learn more.

FDA Approves First Drug for Reducing the Risk of Sexually Acquired HIV Infection



In a recent news release, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Truvada (emtricitabine/tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), the first drug approved to reduce the risk of HIV infection in uninfected individuals who are at high risk of HIV infection and who may engage in sexual activity with HIV-infected partners. Truvada, taken daily, is to be used for pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) in combination with safer sex practices to reduce the risk of sexually-acquired HIV infection in adults at high risk. To read more about this FDA news release click the FDA logo.

First Rapid Home-Use HIV Kit Approved for Self-Testing



The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the OraQuick In-Home HIV Test, a rapid home-use HIV test kit that does not require sending a sample to a laboratory for analysis. The kit provides a test result in 20-40 minutes, and you can test yourself in your own home. The kit, which tests a sample of fluid from your mouth, is approved for sale in stores and online to anyone age 17 and older. Click the image of OraQuick to learn more.

New AHRQ Handbook Helps Practices Implement Interactive Preventive Health Records



A new handbook from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) offers practical guidance on the implementation of interactive preventive health records (IPHRs). The handbook provides practical steps for healthcare professionals to follow when integrating IPHRs as components of electronic health records.

Informed Choices about Hospitals and Nursing Homes



Two Medicare-related websites that help Americans make informed choices about hospitals and nursing homes have been redesigned and will make more information available to the public, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Statistics (CMS) announced on July 19. The two sites – [Hospital Compare](#) and [Nursing Home Compare](#) – have been enhanced to make navigation easier by users, and have added important new comparison tools like findings from nursing home inspections. Both sites contain important data on how well these facilities perform on quality measures – such as the frequency of infections that develop in the hospital, how often patients have to be readmitted to the hospital, and the percentage of nursing residents who report having moderate to severe pain while staying in the nursing homes. Researchers will now be able to access the data on both of these sites through mobile ready applications. On both websites, navigation has been improved for consumers, who will find large and easy to use maps for pinpointing hospitals, and new search functionalities that allow the user to input the name of a hospital. Glossaries and web resources have been enhanced to make the information easier to understand. In addition, new information is available on each of the websites. Updates to Nursing Home Compare include:

- Narratives that detail specific findings from inspections of nursing home facilities;
- Two new measures that report a nursing home's use of antipsychotic medications;
- Updated data for quality measures previously available on the site; and
- Information on nursing home ownership available thanks to the Affordable Care Act.

Additions to Hospital Compare include:

- Two new measures that cover potential health risks of imaging services, such as exposure to unnecessary radiation; and
- Updated data for existing quality measures.

Cool Tools

EPA Mobile Application



The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has released a mobile application for iPhones and the Android platform which gives location-specific reports on current air quality and air quality for casts for both ozone and fine particle pollution to help people with asthma plan their day. Click the EPA logo to learn more.

Lungtropolis



The American Lung Association (ALA) has just launched Lungtropolis, an interactive web-based learning game funded by the National Institute of Health, to help children ages five-ten to control their asthma. Kids become, "Asthma Control Agents," as they fight to defeat the MucusNob. A recent study found that kids who played the game were better able to manage their asthma than the control group of kids who hadn't tried Lungtropolis. Click the Lungtropolis logo to learn more and play the game.

Job Openings

Butler County

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

- [Public Health Preparedness Coordinator](#)



Finney County

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

- [Registered Nurse - WIC Program](#)
- [Staff Registered Nurse](#)



Franklin County

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

- [ARNP \(part-time\)](#)



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Director of Community Health](#)



Sedgwick County

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

- [WIC CHN I or WIC RD I](#)
- [Registered Dietician - WIC](#)



Shawnee County Health Department

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

- [Licensed Practical Nurse - Primary Care/Women's Health/Float](#)
- [Dietitian-WIC](#)



Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov

Previous issues of Public Health Connections may be 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