



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Office of Local and Rural Health



Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

Kathleen Sebelius, Governor

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THE 2009 KANSAS CORE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

submitted by Linda Frazier

KDHE, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist



The Kansas Public Health Certificate Program has a new look and a new name. The Kansas University School of Medicine (KUSM) - Wichita, Department of Preventative Medicine and Public Health (PMPH) will be coordinating the Kansas Core Public Health (CPH) Program sessions in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Office of Local and Rural Health. The year long program will begin in January 2009 and applications are now being accepted. Information about

the program, the CPH brochure, and application will be located on the WALD web site Oct. 7 at: <http://www.waldcenter.org/cph.html>. Questions may be directed to Kelly Kabler (316) 293-1817 or kkabler@kumc.edu. The application deadline is November 15, 2008.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KPHLI CYCLE V GRADUATES AND CYCLE VI SCHOLARS

submitted by Shirley Orr, Director

KDHE, Office of Local & Rural Health



The Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute (KPHLI) held its capstone presentation Sept. 16 in Topeka for the Cycle V Graduates. During the Kansas Public Health Association Fall Conference Sept. 17-18 the graduates received recognition for their accomplishments at the association's award luncheon, and the KPHLI 2008-2009 Scholars were introduced.

Cycle V Graduates 2007-2008: Christie Befort, Janet Brandes, Sandy Cline, Irving Cohen, Sue Cooper, Heather Henke, Tanya Honderick, Elaine Johannes, James Keller, Michael Kopf, Karen Luckett, Charlotte Marthaler, Shauna Nelson, Susan Norton, Tom Pletcher, Dana Rickley, Donald "Buck" Rowland, Lou Saadi, Swapam Saha, Sara Spinks, Becky Springer, Janet Wertzberger, Cindy Winters, and Dave Young.



Heather Henke giving her Capstone Presentation



Janet Wertzberger, Cycle V Graduate, discussing her Capstone Project with Bruce Miyahara

Cycle VI Scholars for 2008-09: Lorraine Baughman, Leslie Berryhill, Julie Broski, Teri Caudle, April Dixon, Will Evans, Rebecca Gillam, Mary Glassburner, Nicole Heim, Sharolyn Jackson, Christine McPheter, Tim Norton, Kelley Rogers-Graham, Paula Rowden, Katie Schatte, Christy Schunn, Shannon Steinbauer, Chris Tilden, and Pat Williams.

WORKING ON REDUCING THE COST OF HEALTH CARE SUPPLIES

*submitted by Kathleen Harnish-Doucet, TeamTech, Inc.
Founders and Project Managers for The Kansas Collaborative*



The Kansas Collaborative is a joint venture between the state, county and local governments with the purpose of saving money, solving problems and networking leaders. These goals are achieved through the work of facilitated cross-government Breakthrough Teams. All of these collaborative efforts are facilitated and managed by TeamTech, Inc., a Kansas-based firm and the founders of The Kansas Collaborative.

One collaborative team, The Health Care Purchasing Breakthrough Team, is now at work on savings for medical supplies. This is the team that brought county and state governments, the prescription drug savings program for inmate populations, as well as partnered with the Kansas Sheriffs' Association on legislation to obtain Medicaid rates for inmate medical care. To date these two efforts have saved over \$13.5 million statewide with 35 percent of those savings accruing to local governments.

This collaborative medical supplies purchasing effort is available to any unit of local government that purchases medical supplies for most counties. This includes the local health department, jail, and government-based ambulance services. An initial look at some local pricing versus what is available via the state contract indicates an average potential savings of 23 percent with a range of savings per item from a negative savings to over 80 percent.



For now, we would like to ask for your help...

- We are gathering information on what health departments are currently paying for their top five to 10 medical supplies. You might put in your top 10 that you purchase most often, those you pay the most for or those items you think would be beneficial to have available at lower costs statewide...you decide the criteria.
- If you would be willing to participate in getting comparison pricing for your top five or 10 items, then contact me, Kathleen Harnish-Doucet at kathleen@teammtechinc.com or (913) 492-4797. I will then send you a brief spreadsheet that asks for product description, manufacturer, manufacturer number and current cost.
- With this information, we will do some comparison pricing and share this information with you. At a minimum, you will all be better informed about pricing so you can be better negotiators. In addition, we will look to offer statewide contracting options for purchasing these items at a reduced price.

Look for more information in future articles about state contracts that are available for medical supplies as well as information about pricing comparisons. Together we can all be more informed and better negotiators with local and state vendors.



SHORTAGE AREA REPORT

*submitted by Barbara Huske, Workforce Analyst
KDHE, Office of Local and Rural Health*



The KDHE Office of Local and Rural Health was established in 1989 to assist communities in ensuring access to primary and preventive health care services for all Kansans. Among the earliest priorities was the identification of areas of the state that had health professional shortages or populations that were medically underserved.

The Kansas 2008, "Primary Care – Health Professionals Underserved Areas Report" is now available on-line through the Office of Local and Rural Health (OLRH) Web site. To view the document click the OLRH logo.

As in previous years, this annual report will provide data on the status of the state in regard to various types of health care provider shortage designations. Specifically, it will:

1. Define the various federal and state underserved designations.
2. Explain the qualifying criteria for each.
3. Summarize the benefits to counties or individuals available with each designation.
4. Identify counties qualified for each designation as of May, 2008.
5. Provide contact information for each program.
6. Describe the proposed new federal method for designating HPSAs and Medically Underserved Populations. For a complete copy of the proposed regulations and background information, go online to: <http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/>.

Questions related to the report and health professional shortages in Kansas may be directed to Barbara Huske at bhuske@kdhe.state.ks.us or contact her at (785) 296-2742.

An updated Shortage Area Report is now available on-line through the OLRH Web site. To view this report click on the OLRH logo.

KANSAS FOOD SAFETY UNDER ONE ROOF

*submitted by Pamela S. Barnum, M.Ed.
Public Health Educator, Division of Food Safety and Lodging
Kansas Department of Agriculture*



All food safety and lodging sanitation responsibilities are now housed under one roof as 38 staff positions transferred from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to the Kansas Department of Agriculture (KDA).

The change is the result of Senate Bill 584 passed by the 2008 Legislature, which transferred authority for the Food Service and Lodging Act from KDHE to KDA effective Oct. 1. To ensure uninterrupted inspections and a seamless transition for KDHE employees, staff made the transfer a little ahead of schedule on Sept. 21.

This final consolidation of food safety responsibilities follows a transfer of duties initiated by Governor Kathleen Sebelius in 2004, when she issued Executive Reorganization Order (ERO) 32. ERO 32, and companion Senate Bill 296, moved food safety duties involving retail food stores, food service establishments in retail food stores, food processing plants, vending machines and ice cream trucks from KDHE to KDA.

Before 2004, KDA was responsible for food safety involving eggs, milk and dairy products, and meat and poultry from state-licensed facilities.

Food safety and lodging sanitation have come a long way since the first State Board of Health was established in 1885. From the early days of the Typhoid Fever and the "Swat the Fly" campaigns, to improving public drinking water, to improved dairy production and slaughterhouse reforms, Kansas has maintained – and will continue to maintain – its commitment to keep consumers safe.

The Kansas Department of Agriculture is located at 109 SW Ninth Street in Topeka and can be reached at (785) 296-5600.



ORAL HEALTH TIPS AND TRICKS

submitted by Marcia A. Manter

Community Development Specialist, Oral Health Kansas

The Oral Health Association presents "Tips & Tricks" to share with your families.

HEALTHY MOUTHS, HEALTH BABIES – TIPS AND TRICKS ON TEETHING

Good oral health in babies is as important as it is in adults. This practice of good oral hygiene begins before your baby has his first teeth and continues for a lifetime. Parents and caregivers are the first to recognize any changes with their children, noticeable when teething begins.

Teething starts in babies at an average age of six months (as early as three months, or up to a year old). They will usually get their last baby teeth around the age of two. Children with special health care needs may have a delay in tooth eruption. Signs of teething that your baby might display are:

- ☞ fussiness/irritability
- ☞ swollen gums
- ☞ a need to chew or gnaw on something
- ☞ excessive drooling
- ☞ a low grade temperature/diarrhea
- ☞ seemingly a loss of appetite, which stems from soreness in the mouth
- ☞ ear pulling--while this can indicate an ear infection, teething can cause jaw pain around ears

There are many safe methods you can choose to help soothe the pain during teething for your baby. These include:

- ☞ chewing on
 - ☞ a cold, wet washcloth
 - ☞ a cold (not frozen or warm) teething ring or pacifier
 - ☞ a clean, soft plastic toy with no sharp edges
- ☞ giving infant ibuprofen or acetaminophen as directed by your baby's doctor
- ☞ rubbing the area with
 - ☞ Baby Orajel
 - ☞ a clean finger and gentle pressure

When your baby's first tooth comes in, decay can start quickly. Keep your baby's mouth and teeth clean, right from the start. It is important for anyone feeding baby to clean milk or formula from the gums and cheeks with a soft cloth or soft finger swab.

Do not let your child chew on dirty washcloths cubes, chewy foods like bagels, and use caution in teething biscuit like zwieback. Do not rub the child's gums with any alcohol, such as whiskey, vodka, or wine. Whatever you do, do not put your baby to bed with a bottle or nurse him to sleep once his teeth come in, since they are now prone to cavities.

This may be a tough time for you and your baby, but with a little patience, your child will have a lifetime of happy smiles.

ORAL HEALTH KANSAS 5TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

submitted by Marcia A. Manter

Community Development Specialist, Oral Health Kansas



ORAL HEALTH KANSAS

This year's Oral Health Conference will be held on Friday, Nov. 7, in Overland Park. Featured speakers at this year's conference include, Barbara J. Steinberg, DDS, Clinical Professor of Surgery, Drexel University and Greory Folse, DDS, Community Dentist from Lafayette, Louisiana. "How to Influence Decisions at the State and Community Levels," will be presented by Tami

Bradley and Vera Bothner, Public Communication Specialists, Wichita, KS. Continuing education credits will be offered for this conference. To learn more, and register on-line, go to www.oralhealthkansas.org.



2008 KANSAS TOBACCO COALITION SUMMIT: CREATING A TOBACCO-FREE FUTURE

submitted by Mary Jayne Hellebust

Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition



Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition (TFKC) is now taking registrations for the *2008 Kansas Tobacco Control Summit: Creating A Tobacco-Free Future* scheduled for Oct. 13 and 14 at the Marriott in Overland Park. Please check out the Summit brochure by clicking on the graphic for great plenary and breakout speakers featuring, Dr. Michael Burke with the Mayo Clinic; Rear Admiral John Babb, U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services in Region 7; and Dana Shelton with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention – Office on Smoking and Health. Registrations are due to TFKC by Oct. 6.

The Youth Track will only be offered on Monday, Oct. 13 only. Please see the brochure for specific breakout sessions and fees. We encourage youth to attend both days of the training, but we understand with school commitments that this may not be possible.

For more information contact Mary Jayne Hellebust at the Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition at (785) 272-8396 or e-mail at mjhellebust@tobaccofreekansas.org.

KANSAS HEALTH SUMMIT: BUILDING ENVIRONMENT AND THE OUTDOORS

submitted by Jennifer Church, MS, RD

KDHE, Office of Health Promotion



This year's summit will be held at the Hyatt Regency Wichita/Century II from Oct. 6-7.

The design of a community, where people live, work, learn, and play, heavily influences their well-being. The built environment, whether it is conducive to walking and biking, includes plenty of opportunities to access fresh fruits and vegetables, has varied outdoor opportunities that include trail systems, and is safe, affects an individual's ability to be active and

eat healthy. Many factors affect the built environment, including policy, city planning, coalition work, zoning, and citizen involvement.

This summit will address how we can affect the built environment and enhance our current and planned trail systems to ensure our communities support healthy eating and active living and that this support stretches equally across all neighborhoods within a community and across the state of Kansas.

For questions regarding the Summit, contact Jennifer Church, jchurch@kdhe.state.ks.us or (785) 296-8060. To see the complete agenda and to register for this conference, go to:

http://www.kdheks.gov/bhp/healthy_ks_comm/

FLUORIDE VARNISH EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATED

submitted by Chris Steege, Executive Director

Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics



The Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) has updated the on-line course, "Bright Smiles for Kansas Kids." The Bright Smiles program through a grant from the United Health Methodist Ministry Health Fund will provide you with a free toolkit which includes 50 free fluoride varnish applications and reimbursement coding information. This will be delivered to your office by the KDHE Oral Health Outreach Coordinator. "Bright Smiles for Kansas Kids" is a one-hour online educational program, found on [KS-TRAIN](#), Course #1013066, for pediatric providers on fluoride varnish application. Program goals: provide education to providers on applying fluoride varnish for children ages 0-3, a free toolkit—that includes 50 free varnish applications, and coding reimbursement information.

Free Nursing Continuing Education (CE) credits are available. This program helps providers implement application of fluoride varnish as a part of the integration of oral health into physician's offices. Check aapkansas.org for updates on the Bright Smiles program!

MEDICAL INTERPRETER AND CULTURAL COMPETENCY TRAININGS

submitted by Cathy Anderson, Manager

Language and Cultural Services, Jewish Vocational Service (JVS)



Jewish Vocational Service of Kansas City, Missouri is partnering with the Kansas Social and Rehabilitation services (SRS) office and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to offer medical interpreter training and cultural competency training throughout the state in 2008-09. All trainings are free of charge.

Bridging the Gap, the forty-hour medical interpreter training will be offered in Garden City, Hutchinson, Lawrence and Wichita this year, course number 1004831 on KS-TRAIN at <http://kstrain.org>. A fifth class will also be offered in the spring or summer of 2009. Location and date to be announced.

Additionally, JVS will offer "Improving the Health and Well-being of New Communities," course number 1014222 on KS-TRAIN, a six-hour cultural competency training session sponsored by the Kansas SRS office in Wichita, Hays, and Pittsburg. These three trainings will be open to all social services, health care and first-responder staff in the state. (The Pittsburg location and date in 2009 will be announced later.) Two other trainings will be offered in October for the staff of the Johnson County Health Dept. and the Wyandotte County Courts.

For the first time, JVS will offer an advanced interpreting course for graduates of Bridging the Gap. "Advanced Interpreting in Family Abuse" (1014522) is an eighteen-hour, three-day course offered Nov. 5, 6, and 7 in Great Bend. Location will be announced.

Participants may enroll through KS-TRAIN: <http://ks.train.org> to complete the JVS required registration process. For more information and an application for any course, please contact Cathy Anderson at JVS: (816) 471-2808, Ex. 1124 or canders@jvskc.org.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA CENTER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS



submitted by Linda Frazier

KDHE, Public Health Workforce Development Specialist

Established in 2002, the University of Minnesota Center for Public Health Preparedness

<http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu/cpheo/umncphp/about/home.html> seeks to improve the capacity of the Public Health System. The UMNCPPH is funded in part by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as a member of the national network of centers for public health preparedness. The primary purpose of these educational activities is to build competency for preparation, response and recovery from public health threats and emergencies.

The University of Minnesota Public Health Emergency Training (PHET)

<http://cpheo.sph.umn.edu/umncphp/online/home.html>, is a series of awareness-level online modules covering various topics related to emergency preparedness. We encourage you to explore the available trainings on their website, and then register for them through KS-TRAIN at

<http://ks.train.org> so they may become part of your learning record. You may search for the course by the course title, or also search first by the course provider and then scroll to the title. Many courses include guidebooks and exercises:

1. The National Incident Management System (NIMS) and the Incident Command System (ICS): A Primer for Volunteers
2. Protecting Our Food System from Intentional Attack
3. The Off-Site Care Facility - An Alternate Care Site: A Primer for Volunteers
4. Mass Dispensing Sites: A Primer for Volunteers
5. Decontamination
6. Zoonoses
7. Isolation and Quarantine
8. Disaster Mental Health
9. Personal Protective Equipment
10. Special Populations
11. Disease Surveillance
12. Contact Investigation
13. Application of Surveillance Principles to Food Safety
14. Emergency Preparedness and Response for Environmental Health Professionals
15. Disaster in Franklin County: A Public Health Simulation
16. Emergency Preparedness and Response Fundamentals Training for Environmental Health Professionals



NEWS AND UPDATES

United States National Library of Medicine



1. Drugs and Lactation Database (LactMed) is a peer-reviewed and fully referenced database of drugs (prescription and non-prescription) to which breast-feeding mothers may be exposed. <http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?LACT>
2. DailyMed provides the most recent submitted drug labeling information from the FDA. <http://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/about.cfm>

Essential Services Tool

We introduced the new Essential Services Tool in the August edition of Connections. The tool is located at <http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/index.html>. Last month we highlighted one of the functions it could be used for:

1. Increase understanding of Essential Services and Core Public Health Competencies

This month we will highlight another function:

2. Create job descriptions

Each Essential Service located on the tool has a list of indicators. These are the actions that would be done indicating the essential service is being provided to the community. These can be useful for writing job descriptions and communicating messages to the public about what the health department does! Here is the list of indicators for Essential Service #1. You can click on each of the other Essential Services to read their list of indicators.



Indicators for Essential Service #1:

1. Participate in a community health assessment.
2. Participate in a community environmental health assessment.
3. Promote community-wide use of community health profile and/or assessment data to assure that this information can be easily accessed and used by the community.
4. Maintain and contribute to population health registries using established criteria to report identified health events.

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

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