



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

October - 2013 Volume 13, Issue 10

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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KPHA Honors Public Health Workforce at Annual Conference

by KPHA Conference Committee



The winner of the Crumbine Medal Tim Norton with Shirley Orr the President's Awardee

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) recently awarded its public health service awards at the 70th Annual KPHA Conference. The Samuel J. Crumbine Medal, KPHA's highest award was presented to Sedgwick County Commissioner Tim Norton, Haysville for his meritorious service. Since 2001, Norton has served as a Sedgwick County Commissioner, in which capacity he is a member of the County Board of Health. Through this role, he became interested in public health, and over the past decade has dedicated himself to community health improvement and education not only within Kansas, but through national outreach. He has deeply devoted him-

self to serve and promote public health as his primary platform as an elected official.

The Dorothy Woodin Public Health Nursing Award was bestowed on Yvonne Gibbons, Salina, of the Salina-Saline County Health Department, and Ruth Wetta, Wichita, of the University of Kansas (KU), School of Medicine Wichita.

Yvonne Gibbons has worked for the Salina-Saline County Health Department since 1973 and is the director and Public Health Officer. Gibbons was one of the originators of the Salina Cares Clinic, a volunteer-staffed indigent care clinic that has evolved into Salina Family Health Care, now a free-standing Federally Qualified Health Center affiliated with the University of Kansas Family Practice Medical Residency Program. She started Salina Community Services Council, an organization that is still active today as an information-sharing and collaboration incubator organization for the community.

Dr. Wetta is an associate professor at the KU Medical School-Wichita, teaching public health administration, program planning, program evaluation and quality improvement in the Master of Public Health program. She also teaches for the KU School of Nursing in the master and doctorate of Nursing Practice programs, supporting students interested in public health. Wetta began her public health career as an MPH student, supporting data collection for the 1997 Sedgwick County Community Health Assessment. After graduation, she became the Coordinator for the Sedgwick County Community Health Improvement Plan.



The Dorothy Woodin Award winner Yvonne Gibbons with Ellen Avertt, KPHA President

The 2013 recipient of the Virginia Lockhart Health Education Award was Dr. Deborah Ballard-Reisch, Wichita, of Wichita State University. Since coming to WSU in 2007, Dr. Deborah Ballard-Reisch, the Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Chair in Strategic Communication, has had an enormous impact on the community, the campus, and the students. Dr. Ballard-Reisch includes students in her research and community-based projects, building their skills in these areas both within and outside the classroom. In 2008, she joined an interdisciplinary team of WSU researchers and community organizations to develop a falls prevention toolkit for older

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adults in Harvey County. The "Falling Less In Kansas" toolkit is aimed at people who want to maintain their active lives and prevent falls.



Special Service Awardee Greg Crawford with Charles Hunt.

Greg Crawford, Topeka, Director of Vital Statistics Data Analysis for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is the 2013 recipient of a Special Service Award. During his 24 years at KDHE year tenure in public health, his work has focused on ways to make health information available in state and federal health data systems to the public for use in public health program management and policy making for informed decision-making. Crawford has been instrumental in the formation of the Kansas Partnership for Improving Community Health and Kansas Health Matters, and led efforts to make vital records information lawfully available for public health surveillance.

The Corporate Service Award recipient was the Kansas Association of Counties (KAC), Topeka. KAC is an association that seeks to advance the public interest by promoting effective, responsive county government in Kansas. Randall Allen is Executive Director. Under his leadership, KAC has worked with partners at the Kansas Health Foundation, Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and others to raise awareness among Board of County Commissioners regarding their role as Board of Health.

KPHA Board President Ellen Averett presented the President's Award to Shirley Orr, MHS, ARNP, NEA-BC, a Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Executive Nurse Fellow and Public Health Consultant, Wichita. She is Past President of the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (ASTDN) and currently a candidate for the American Public Health Association (APHA) Executive Board. She has served twice as President of the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), most recently leading KPHA through a major reorganization.

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), a professional association for Kansas's public health practitioners, professionals, and advocates, is the voice for public health in the state. KPHA provides a forum for individuals and organizations to work collectively to assure conditions in which Kansans live will be healthy. KPHA's diverse membership is unified by a shared mission of promoting and improving population health in Kansas. Created by Dr. Samuel Crumbine in 1920, KPHA is the oldest and largest public health organization in Kansas. The association is a unique, multidisciplinary environment of professional exchange, study, and action, in public health practice and the public health policy process. To learn more about becoming a KPHA member [click here](#).

In the Spotlight: Kiowa County Health Department Promotes Adding Color to a Healthy Lifestyle

*by Mitzi Hesser, RN, Administrator
Kiowa County Health Department*



Over the summer the Kiowa County Health Department (KCHD) staff began to think about something different they would like to do for their community that would "Promote a Healthy Lifestyle" concept. The department set about to offer a Color Try-Athlon that would be fun for all ages and would get folks to see that physical activity could be

fun. By July plans were in place to begin enlisting sponsors and having participants register for the event.

KCHD was able to enlist sponsor support to pay for the t-shirts that were offered to anyone five years and up, free of charge. The department also had donation money from the past that was used to pay for the colored powder and other supplies.

On Aug. 31, they had volunteers in place at 8 a.m. to shout "Ready, Set, Go" to over 220 attendees. KCHD did not have an exact distance in mind for the run, as they just wanted to be sure that the course would be something that even a five year old could achieve.

The course started with a leg for bikes and the second leg was an obstacle course. The last leg of the race was to walk or run through the finish line. The healthy lifestyle event had an additional leg that participants could run to make the total Color Try-Athlon about 4.5 miles. At the end of each leg of the race folks would run through the color lane.

There were many families who participated in the event together which was exciting to see. The 220 participants ranged in age from two months to 64 years of age. Some ran the whole course, some rode their bikes or scooters the whole race, but most of all everyone was laughing and have a great time.

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KCHD has had many wonderful comments about the event like:

- “You ARE going to do this next year Right?”
- “So nice to have something our whole family could do together.”
- “Was great that we didn’t have to pay out a lot of money to have this much fun with family and friends.”
- “Next year, I’m going to bring my grandkids with me.”

“We are not so sure that it wasn’t our volunteers who weren’t the ones having the most fun,” said Hesser, “The effort of three local health department staff blossomed into a great event for our community.” If you have questions please contact Mitzi Hesser at mitzi.hesser@kiowacountyks.org or 620-723-2136.



In the Spotlight: Logan County Health Department Medication Management Program

*by Georgetta Schoenfeld, RN, Administrator
Logan County Health Department*



In response to a community need in Logan County, the Logan County Health Department (LCHD) provides a program that is focused on managing and maintaining community member’s health care from the home setting. Assisted living facilities and Medicare certified home health agencies are unavailable in the county; therefore there has been an on-going need for health care maintenance services within the county. This program enables clients to stay at home and live a more independent lifestyle as well as serving all

types of community members and their individual health care needs.

The Medication Management Program (MMP) at LCHD assists all community members that have a need for medication management. The program is delivered and implemented by LCHD registered nurses and takes place in the home setting or at the office. The program consists of setting up medications in manual dispensing medication boxes that can be set up to comply with any medication regimen that the client is on. In addition to the manual dispensing boxes, the program also supplies Electronic Medication Boxes (EMB) for clients. The EMB is an essential tool for clients that have memory problems and need some extra support for getting their necessary medications on time. The EMB also prevents any medication error occurrences. The nursing staff is responsible for set up, delivery, and reordering of the client’s medications. The clients’ are served on a weekly or bi-weekly schedule depending on their individual needs.

The program is implemented by personal, familial, caregiver or physician referrals. If there is a concern that someone is not taking their medications correctly then a referral will be made. An initial assessment is completed and depending on the client’s individual needs, a personal MMP is implemented. At the time of the MMP visit, the RN obtains vital signs along with an assessment on how the client is feeling about their current health status. If at any time there are abnormalities noted by the RN, the client’s medical provider is contacted, a referral is made for an appointment or new orders are received and implemented. The RN is in direct collaboration with the medical providers and is able to implement any new orders or nursing interventions that the client needs at that time.

In addition to delivering medication boxes or setting-up medications at a client’s home, the program also provides other services including the following: blood draws, foot and nail care, wound care, ostomy care, insulin management, and administration of injections and immunizations. The program also provides any needed nursing services within skill and scope of practice.

These services as explained are generally by private pay, but in some cases can be billed to Kansas Medicaid and private insurance companies. For more information on the MMP program contact Georgetta Schoenfeld at 785-671-4502 or lchogs@st-tel.net.

In the Spotlight:

Greeley County Health Department Administrator Receives Health Champion Award



*by the Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

Kansas Governor Sam Brownback presented, the 2013 Kansas Health Champion Awards on Sept. 30, to five individuals and organizations during the second annual Council on Fitness, Kansas Obesity Summit.

Congratulations to Lisa Moritz, Unified Greeley County Health Nurse and USD 200 Greeley County Schools nurse in receiving the Individual Health Champion Award. In her dual role she promotes healthy eating, physical activity and general health issues to students and school personnel. In addition to her full-time job, Moritz spearheaded an annual community family 2 mile walk, 5K run and 10K run "Full Moon in June Run" that has been held since 2009. In 2011 she created an eight-week program "Shoot for the Moon" to help community members build the stamina to run a 5K. In 2012 she created the "The Solution to Your Resolution Wellness Program" designed to help people improve their eating, monitor blood pressure and increase their activity level in the winter.

Other Health Champions recognized are:

- Organizational Health Champion: Lawrence Parks and Recreation Department
- Individual Honorable Mention: Scott Wadle (Wichita)
- Organizational Honorable Mentions: HaysMed and Garden City Schools Wellness Team USD 457

The Health Champion Award was developed by the Governor's Council on Fitness to recognize and promote exemplary contributions to fitness in Kansas. Eligible nominees include volunteers, schools, communities, employers, media organizations and policy makers who go above and beyond what is expected through normal job or organizational responsibilities related to modeling, encouraging and promoting fitness.

To read the full announcement, click the Kansas Governor's Council on Fitness logo.

Center for Health Equity Hosts Tribal Health Summit



by the Office of Communication, KDHE

The Center for Health Equity with tribal partners convened a summit of the four Kansas sovereign nations in Sept. Participants included the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas, Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, and Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri in Kansas and Nebraska along with Governor Brownback, Secretary Robert Moser, other state and local officials.

The Tribal Health Summit allowed tribal leadership to come together to focus on health priorities, challenges, assets, available resources, partners and needs as sovereign nations in Kansas. The summit also provided an opportunity to learn about the benefits of a tribally designed community health assessment process offered through the National Indian Health Board in order that each tribe has the information and resources needed to conduct an assessment following the summit.

KDHE, as the lead state agency coordinating the Healthy Kansans 2020 health improvement plan, is already demonstrating progress towards better health outcomes based on collaborative partnerships that find solutions to tough problems in an environment of stretched resources. Healthy Kansas 2020 was highlighted at the summit in order for tribal members to explore benefits of Healthy Kansas Tribes 2020 inter-tribal health improvement plan. This collaboration between tribal leaders has led to a larger and more unified voice for tribes in Kansas in order to leverage more resources together for better health.

2013 Walk to School Day to be Celebrated Oct. 9

*by Daina Hodges, Safe Kids Kansas
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



It's time for your community to celebrate the 2013 Walk to School Day. This year, Walk to School Day is Oct. 9. Walk to School Day is a great opportunity to encourage students to build physical activity into their day and teach them how to be safe pedestrians.

For ideas and information to plan your event click the Walk to School Day and Walk Bike to School logos. Complete the Safe Kids Kansas sign-up sheet for your school and you may receive reflective zipper pulls for students. Quantities are limited and sent out on a first-come basis.

Schools that register for Walk to School Day through Safe Kids Kansas will automatically be registered with the Walk to School Day web site. Click here to [register your school](#) to join Safe Kids Kansas.



Rural Health Network Grants & Rural Assistance Center Hosting Oct. 7 Webinar

by Ashley Muninger, Rural Health Program Analyst, Rural Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



The State Office of Rural Health is hosting the webinar "Navigating Rural Health Resources: Rural Health Network Grants & Rural Assistance Center" on Mon., Oct. 7, from 12:00-12:45 p.m. Participants will have the opportunity to learn more about:

- Rural health programs, funding, research and other resources available through the Rural Assistance Center (RAC) (www.raonline.org)
- Funding opportunities from the Office of Rural Health Policy
- National Rural Health Day activities

To register for the webinar, click the RAC logo.

NHSC 2014 Site Application Cycle Opens

by Barbara Huske, Director, Primary Care Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) [2014 New Site Application Cycle](#) is now open. This is an opportunity for eligible sites to apply to become approved NHSC sites. For information regarding [Eligibility Requirements](#) and an [Applicant Checklist](#) please visit the NHSC website. In addition, the application cycle for all NHSC sites requires submission of a [2014 recertification application](#). Both application cycles will remain open until 6:30 p.m. on

Nov. 1. The Kansas NHSC contact is Barbara Huske at 785-296-2742 or bhuske@kdheks.gov.

ASTHO Promotes Primary Care and Public Health Integration Stories

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



Two Kansas programs have been included in the Primary Care and Public Health Integration Submitted Stories on the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) website. Click the ASTHO logo to see the Salina/Saline County story on, "[Pre-natal Education and Support Collaboration](#)" and the Wyandotte County Unified Government, "[Kansas Linking Services between a Public Health Department and an FQHC](#) (Federally Qualified Health Center)."

We would love to see additional integration practices from Kansas included on the site. The submission is very easy and the document for that process can be found by clicking on the Duke Medicine logo.



Kansas Special Health Care Needs and CPRF Hold Outreach Clinics

by Heather Smith, Director for Special Health Services Section
Bureau of Family Health, KDHE



The Kansas Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) program is partnering with the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation (CPRF) to hold outreach seating clinics in Garden City, Hays and Salina. These include both consultation and evaluation appointments for children and youth in need of seating supports and services.

Please note the various dates and opportunities available in your community and share with consumers in your area. Individuals may contact David Sierra at the Cerebral Palsy Research Foundation at 316-651-5211 for an appointment. Questions can be directed to CPRF or to the SHCN Program at 1-800-332-6262.

Salina - OCCK, Inc., 1710 W. Schilling Road

- Oct. 23, 2013 - Consultation Day
- Nov. 27, 2013 - Evaluation Day

Hays - LINK, Inc., 2401 E 13th Street

- Jan. 22, 2014 - Consultation Day
- Feb. 26, 2014 - Evaluation Day

Garden City - Southwest Development Services, Inc., 1808 Palace Drive, Suite C

- March 26, 2014 - Consultation Day
- April 23, 2014 - Evaluation Day

Do You Need a Referral Resource for Your Client?



*Kristina Helmer, Public Health Initiatives Program Associate
Center for Community Support and Research*

Did you know, more than 84 percent of service providers surveyed refer their clients to support groups on a monthly basis?

Wichita State University's Center for Community Support and Research serves as custodian to a large online database with over 2,500 local and national support group resources. Support groups meet in most Kansas counties and organize themselves around a variety of topics including medical conditions, relationship issues, parenting, grief and addiction, among many others. The database may be found online by clicking the WSU logo.

For more information please contact Angela at Angela.gaughan@wichita.edu or 800-445-0116 (toll free in Kansas) or 316-978-5496 or.

Calling All Health and Medical Professionals to Serve Kansas in Times of an Emergency

*by Emily Nickel, Planning & Volunteer Coordinator, Preparedness Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) hosts several preparedness Information Technology (IT) systems which can be utilized at state and local levels to assist and support preparedness efforts. Two of those systems are the Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN) and the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV).

KS-HAN is a secure, web-based electronic communication system that enables local and state health and safety entities to share public and environmental health information rapidly. The system allows users to send, receive and discuss information of public and environmental health importance in a secure environment. It also allows for the rapid notification of any and all users in the event of an emergency, when the timely distribution of recommendations on investigation, prevention and treatment is critical.

"By receiving advance alerts about disease outbreaks through the Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN), health and medical professionals will have crucial information for patient diagnosis, treatment and prevention. KS-HAN is a fast, easy and reliable way to be notified of developing illnesses impacting the work of Kansas health care providers." – Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer

KS-HAN contains over 3,000 participants from local health departments, hospitals, emergency medical services, animal health, clinics, state agencies, private and public health laboratories and other first responders across the state.

KS-HAN is an invitation-only system. An invitation code sent from KS-HAN administrator is required prior to registration. To be considered for participation, email your name, employer, employer phone number, job title or description to kshanadmin@kdheks.gov.

The Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers, K-SERV, is a secure registration system and database for volunteers willing to respond to public health emergencies and disasters in Kansas or other areas across the country. It can be utilized as a volunteer management system at the local and state levels.

During an event, a community may need to use K-SERV to get the assistance of volunteers to aid in response. K-SERV improves the efficiency of volunteer deployment and utilization by verifying in advance the credentials of volunteer healthcare professionals. This pre-registration and pre-verification of potential volunteers enhances the state's ability to quickly and efficiently send and receive appropriate health professionals as needed to assist with an emergency response.

If you are interested in volunteering to help Kansans, register today by clicking the K-SERV logo above. For more information, email kservadmin@kdheks.gov.

KDHE to Launch New Laboratory Information Management System

by the Office of Communications and Kansas Health Environmental Laboratories, KDHE



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories (KHEL) will soon begin using a new Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), called Horizon, to track and report the results of submitted laboratory specimens. This is a major undertaking that will provide the laboratory with a more robust data system as well as opportunities to improve communication with

partners and clients throughout the state.

Along with the LIMS implementation, KHEL has changed the look of the test submission forms for a more streamlined approach for ordering analysis. Also improved is the format of the result reports. The new reports will in some cases, contain additional results not captured in the past because of limitations with the old infor-

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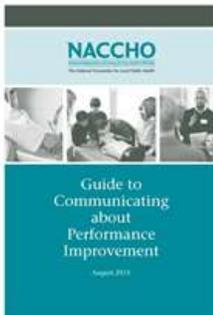
mation system. Over the next several months KHEL will begin rolling out electronic submission and reporting options with an online portal that is part of the new system. These enhancements will greatly improve the laboratory's ability to report out public health information in a timely manner that is not dependent on mail or staffing.

KHEL is excited for the opportunity to improve laboratory services and increase efficiencies. For updates on the Horizon implementation, access to training or general information, please refer to KHEL by clicking on the KDHE logo.

Accreditation Corner

New Resource: Guide to Communicating about Performance Improvement

from the NACCHO website



As local health departments (LHDs) engage in performance improvement activities, including quality improvement, community health improvement planning, and accreditation preparation, they may encounter challenges communicating about the benefits of these activities. These challenges can be internal, with agency leads and staff, or external, with governing entities, community partners and the public. To help LHDs overcome these challenges, the National Association of county and city Health Officials (NACCHO) has developed a Guide to Communicating about Performance Improvement. This easy-to-read guide is designed to help LHDs share their performance improvement stories with key audiences. The guide uses a step by step approach to help LHDs craft tailor-made messages and strategies to help build support and understanding of performance improvement with staff members before reaching out to governing bodies and the media. Download a PDF of the

guide by clicking the booklet cover on the left.

KDHE Conducts Advanced Tools of QI Workshop

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



A significant portion of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Strategic Plan focuses on improving the quality of services at the state health department. During the last year KDHE has been engaged in Quality Improvement (QI), with leadership and various staff participating in training to learn to use the QI tools. This training has assisted in identifying procedural problems and discover some potential solutions to improve the output and the outcome. Improving processes and delivering quality services, especially when the budget and other resources are stretched, is how KDHE demonstrates value of its public service to Kansans.

"Quality improvement in public health is the use of a deliberate and defined improvement process, such as Plan-Do-Check-Act, which is focused on activities that are responsive to community needs and improving population health. It refers to a continuous and ongoing effort to achieve measurable improvements in the efficiency, effectiveness, performance, accountability, outcomes and other indicators of quality in services or processes which achieve equity and improve the health of the community," says Jack Moran, et al, "Defining Quality Improvement in Public Health."

Last year, the management and staff QI training focused on building a "QI Culture," with several teams of KDHE staff across the agency who worked on program-specific issues using QI tools such as the fishbone diagram and flow chart. Secretary Robert Moser, M.D., and Kate Watson, MPA, Director for the Center for Performance Management, along with Jack Moran, PhD, of the Public Health Foundation, facilitated a two-day "Advanced Tools of QI" workshop for the agency's senior leaders in Sept. The purpose of this training was to work as a team in addressing broad issues using QI tools and concepts. Next steps are to transition the work accomplished during the leadership training to the KDHE "WeKanQI" Train-the-Trainer workshops that will begin this fall as well as develop a KDHE QI Plan and Performance Management System. For more information please contact Kate Watson at 785-296-1418.

Kansas Health Matters, Your Data Central for Community Health Assessments

by the Office of Communications, KDHE



The web-based tool Kansas Health Matters can be accessed by anyone interested in actionable information for community health improvement in Kansas. Kansas Health Matters, is a website that contains county, regional and state health indicators. In addition, the site provides

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tools and resources for community health assessment and community health improvement efforts. The site is made possible by the Kansas Partnership for Improving Community Health. To learn more about Kansas Health Matters, click on their logo.

PHAB to Implement Version 1.5 of Standards and Measures July 2014



from the PHAB website

The current version of the Public Health Accreditation Board's (PHAB) Standards and Measures is Version 1.0. PHAB will release [Version 1.5](#) of the PHAB Standards and Measures on the PHAB website in Jan. 2014. They will become effective for health departments' accreditation on July 1, 2014. Hard copies of the Standards and Measures will be available July 1, 2014.

Deadline for health departments that wish to be assessed using [Version 1.0](#) of the Standards and Measures must submit their application in e-PHAB by 10:59 p.m. CDT on June 2, 2014 to be assessed under Version 1.0 of the Standards and Measures.

This will provide sufficient time for the PHAB review of the application, the health department's correction of any errors noted by PHAB staff, and the final review and acceptance of the application before July 1, 2014. It is necessary to provide 30 days for the application to be reviewed by PHAB and accepted because historically, 53 percent of applications have required a change after the PHAB staff review. Health departments that submit their applications on June 3, 2014 or after will be reviewed and assessed using Version 1.5 of the Standards and Measures.

PHAB strongly recommends that health departments wanting to apply under Standards and Measures, Version 1.0 submit their Statement of Intent (SOI) as soon as possible. That way, the initial step will be complete, the health department will have access to the application form, and the health department Accreditation Coordinator and health department director will have time to complete and submit the application before June 2, 2014. Receiving your SOI also helps PHAB in planning its internal workload in order to serve you better.

PHAB recommends that health departments review the proposed changes to the Standards and Measures before they automatically decide that they will apply under Version 1.0. The proposed changes contained in Version 1.5 include many improvements in clarity of requirements. Also, the topic areas specifically addressed in the proposed changes, while not numerous, are important public health issues. PHAB believes that it will serve many health departments well to wait and apply under Version 1.5.

This next version of the Standards and Measures will be called Version 1.5 because there will not be a complete overhaul of Version 1.0. Version 1.5 is designed to enhance, strengthen, expand, and clarify the Standards and Measures document, including the following:

- Number of Examples needed and Timeframes for each Required Documentation.
- Edits for clarity and consistency, based on frequently asked questions.
- New Measures and revised content to advance public health practice based on suggestions from PHAB Think Tanks conducted on special topics including: health equity, communication science, public health informatics, public health ethics, public health workforce and emergency preparedness.

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

BCBSKS Foundation - Healthy Habits for Life - Deadline Oct. 10



Healthy Habits for Life is a major grant-giving program of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas (BCBSKS) 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.

The Foundation recognizes that schools have a unique opportunity to teach students about healthy habits through curriculum and programs that reach them where they spend so much of their time: school. As a young, captive audience, students can be more easily influenced to develop life-long healthy habits and behaviors. The Foundation hopes that curbing childhood obesity now will translate into healthy adults later, saving health care dollars for all Kansans.

The Foundation is seeking programs that will help Kansas youth:

- Reduce their cardiovascular risk,
- Increase their physical activity or
- Learn healthy eating habits

CVS Caremark Community Grants - Deadline Oct. 31



The CVS Caremark Community Grants program awards funds to nonprofit organizations targeting children with disabilities under age 21, academic and enrichment programs at public schools and programs that provide access to quality health care services and health education for at risk and underserved populations of all ages. Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to select applicants. Nonprofit organizations are eligible to apply.

Click the CVS Caremark logo to learn more.

Sunflower Foundation New Funding for its Sunflower Trails Program - Deadline Nov. 1



The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans announces a new Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Sunflower Trails program, as well as a change in the submission process that should enhance the experience for all applicants. The trail funding initiative is designed to support the concept of the "built environment"

as a strategy to increase opportunities for outdoor physical activity and therefore reduce the prevalence of obesity. The foundation invites Kansas communities and schools to submit proposals for the development or improvement of trails. For further details about this RFP click the Sunflower Foundation logo.

National Institutes of Health Grants

Developing Healthy Behaviors in Children and Adolescents - Ongoing



The Healthy Habits Small Grant Program funds research that identifies mechanisms of influence and/or promotes positive sustainable health behaviors in children and youth. Positive health behaviors may include practicing proper dental hygiene, eating a balanced diet and engaging in physical activity. Applications to promote these behaviors should target social and cultural factors such as schools, families and communities.

Awards of up to \$50,000 a year for two years will be available. Eligible organizations include public and private institutions of higher education, non-profit organizations, government agencies and faith-based or community-based organization. Contact the National Institutes of Health (NIH) for more information and to apply for funding by clicking the NIH logo.

Chronic Illness Self-Management in Children and Adolescents - Deadline Varies



The Chronic Illness Self-Management in Children and Adolescents grant program funds research to improve self-management and quality of life in children and adolescents, ages eight to 21, with chronic illnesses. Research related to sociocultural, environmental and behavioral mechanisms that contribute to successful and ongoing self-management of chronic illnesses in children is encouraged.

Awards of up to \$50,000 a year, for two years, are available. Eligible organizations include public and private institutions of higher education, nonprofits, for-profit organizations, government agencies at all levels, and faith-based or community-based organizations. Click the NIH logo to learn more.

Healthy Habits



MetLife Foundation supports projects to empower people to lead healthy, productive lives and strengthen communities. The Foundation makes grants in health, education, civic affairs and culture. Underlying the Foundation's programs is a focus on education at all ages and a commitment to increasing access and opportunity. The Healthy Habits program seeks to promote healthy habits and physical fitness for illness prevention; especially among children. Requests are accepted and reviewed throughout the year.

Do Something Grants



American Express and dosomething.org provides grants of \$250-500 to spearhead national campaigns so 13 to 25 year-olds can make an impact. Applications are accepted on an on-going basis. To learn more click the Do Something logo.

Training and Conference Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

ASHA 2013 Annual School Health Conference - Oct. 9-12



The American School Health Association (ASHA) conference will be held Oct. 9-12 in Myrtle Beach, S.C. The annual conference, "Charting a New Course for School Health," will provide school health professionals and interested stakeholders with stimulating workshops and speakers, and opportunities to network with like-minded colleagues across the various school health disciplines. For more information and registration instructions click the ASHA logo.

Governor's Water Conference - Oct. 24-25



The Kansas Water Office (KWO) is excited to announce the Governor's Water Conference will be held Oct. 24-25 at the Hilton Garden Inn and Conference Center in Manhattan. The Governor's Conference on the Future of Water in Kansas will highlight the latest policy and research developments of water issues in Kansas. Many great speakers and topics are planned.

Register now by clicking the KWO logo above. Registration deadline is Oct. 15. Conference details, brochure, speakers and sponsors can be found online as well.

LPHP Offers Orientation Guide for Nursing Students



School is back in session and many local health departments will host student nurses from time to time for community and public health experience.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Local Public Health Program (LPHP) has compiled a short list of suggested courses which are maintained on KS-TRAIN and available to the public that could be offered to students when they are in local agencies and have a few minutes of "down" time. They would also provide a nice introduction to public health.

To view the document, click on the KDHE Bureau of Community Health Systems logo for the list of courses.

Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Archived Sessions Available on TRAIN



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the University of Kansas (KU) Medical Center's Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health and Area Health Education Centers are making available the *Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds series as Archived Webcasts* via TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> for Kansas learners or www.train.org for national learners. Click the KU logo to download the archived grand round session information.

EpiTrax Disease Surveillance System Modules Now Available on KS-TRAIN



The EpiTrax Disease Surveillance System Modules posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org> via the EpiTrax Training Plan provide an introduction to the Kansas electronic surveillance system to help new users get started in EpiTrax and for the experienced user to refresh their skills and knowledge about the system. Twenty modules are included that represent five major areas; Security, Navigation of System, User Settings, Confidential Morbidity Report (CMR)*management and CMR* Editing.

New users should complete modules one through six before attempting other modules. Modules seven, eight, nine, ten and those associated to CMR editing (Modules 11-20) are not useful unless CMR's have been created and assigned to the user's jurisdiction. Other users may wish to focus on more specific modules based on their experience with the system. Click the EpiTrax logo for the EpiTrax Training Plan information. Click the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to learn more.





NICHD SIDS Risk-Reduction Curriculum for Nurses

The National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) is providing a free program that provides nurses with the most current and accurate information to communicate risk factors and answer parents' questions about Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Nurses who successfully complete the course will earn 1.1 contact hours of continuing education credit. To learn more click on the NICHD logo.

News and Resources

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Steps to Program Sustainability: Stanford Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP)



Integrated strategy • Real results

The long-term sustainability of evidence-based programs such as the CDSMP is a growing concern for state and local public health agencies, healthy aging agencies, and community-based organizations that deliver these programs. A new article from Nonprofit Impact, The Path to Program Sustainability, outlines three steps that can lead to program sustainability. The article includes a new holistic model for sustainability, guidance for defining a sustainability model that works for your program, and steps for developing a sustainability (or business) plan to guide your program toward a more sustainable future. Click the Nonprofit Impact logo to learn more.

Tips from Former Smokers



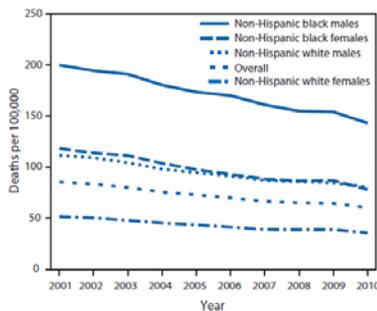
More than 100,000 Americans quit smoking due to national media campaign. Landmark tobacco education ad campaign more than doubled goals. An estimated 1.6 million smokers attempted to quit smoking because of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) "Tips from Former Smokers" national ad campaign, according to a study released by the CDC. As a result of the 2012 campaign, more than 200,000 Americans had quit smoking immediately following the three-month campaign, of which researchers estimated that more than 100,000 will likely quit smoking permanently. These results exceed the campaign's original goals of 500,000 quit attempts and 50,000 successful quits. To read more click on the CDC logo above. To read more click on the CDC logo.

Reintegrating Health Care and Public Health



The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) President José Montero, MD, MPH, MHCDS (NH) and Senior Director of Family and Community Health Albert Terrillon, DrPH, CPH, have published an article, "Reintegrating Health Care and Public Health: A Population Health Imperative," in the Journal of Public Health Management and Practice's latest edition. The article discusses Montero's President's challenge and how public health can play a role in transforming health systems and work toward a shared vision for population health. Click on the ASTHO logo to learn more.

Avoidable Deaths from Health Disease, Stroke and Hypertensive Disease



graph on the left. [Learn more](#) about the science behind this issue and how it can be addressed.

According to a new Vital Signs report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 200,000 preventable deaths from heart disease and stroke occurred in the United States in 2010. More than half of these deaths happened to people younger than 65 years of age. Although the number of preventable deaths has declined in people ages 65-74, it has remained virtually unchanged in people under 65. Blacks are twice as likely as whites - and Hispanics slightly less likely than whites - to die from preventable heart disease and stroke. Men are at highest risk of death across all races and ethnic groups. Risk varies by county, even within the same state. These deaths could have been avoided by more effective public health measures, lifestyle changes, or medical care. To learn more about this report click the

Not-for-Profit Hospital Medians for FY 2012 Show Weaker Performance, Rising Expenses



Not-for-profit hospital expenses grew faster than revenues in fiscal year 2012, according to a report by Moody's. The report indicates that the expenses grew by 5.5 percent, while revenue grew by 5.2 percent, and the median operating cash flow margin decreased from 9.2 percent in fiscal year 2011 to 8.9 percent in FY 2012. Moody's maintained a poor FY 2013 operating outlook for not-for-profit hospitals. The agency concluded that Medicare's recent finalization of the inpatient rates are increasing at a small enough rate to count as a "credit negative" in future credit ratings for not-for-profit debt. To read more click on the Moody's logo.

Top Citations Issued by The Joint Commission



Recently, the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) received a summary of the top citations issued by The Joint Commission. These findings are important to all hospitals, as seven out of the top 10 citations stemmed from the health care physical environment. KHA expressed appreciation to Health Facilities Program Director Joyce Smith for sharing information for this report. To learn more about this report click the KHA logo.

Study Estimates Costs of Healthcare-Associated Infections



The Journal of the American Medical Association (*JAMA Internal Medicine*) published a study that estimated infections most frequently acquired in health care settings cost more than \$10 billion per year. Five major health care-associated infections make up the majority of this cost amounting to \$9.8 billion, with surgical site infections topping the list. The top five most expensive cost per case follow:

- Central line-associated bloodstream infections - \$45,814
- Ventilator-associated pneumonia - \$40,144
- Surgical site infections - \$20,785
- Clostridium difficile infections - \$11,285
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections - \$896

To learn more about this study click the JAMA logo.

Local Health Departments Budget Cuts and Job Losses



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) periodically surveys a representative sample of America's 2,800 local health departments to measure the impact of the economic recession. According to the latest survey, 48 percent of local health departments reduced or eliminated services in at least one program area during 2012. Although workforce losses and gains were roughly equal in 2012, 41 percent of local health departments experienced some type of reduction in workforce capacity. More than a quarter (27 percent) reported budget cuts in 2012, a sizeable drop compared to the percentage reporting cuts in previous years. However, local health departments reporting cuts still exceed the percentage reporting budget increases (23 percent). These findings are the first to be released from the 2013 NACCHO Profile Study; additional findings will be released by the end of the year. Click the NACCHO logo to view the survey report.

Reports Released on Tobacco Campaign and Students Use of E-Cigarettes



Two significant reports on tobacco have recently been released. The first, a study on the impact of the Centers for Disease Center and Prevention (CDC) Tips from Former Smokers campaign, was published this week in the medical journal "The Lancet." According to the study, an estimated 1.6 million smokers attempted to quit because of the 2012 national ad campaign. Furthermore, more than 200,000 Americans quit smoking immediately following the three-month campaign, of which more than 100,000 will likely quit permanently. According to Tim McAfee, director of the CDC Office on Smoking and Health and lead author of the study, "This study shows that we save a year of life for less than \$200. That makes it one of the most cost-effective prevention efforts." View "The Lancet" article by clicking on their logo.

A [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) article was also released that reports the percentage of U.S. middle and high school students who use electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, more than doubled from 2011 to 2012. "These data show a dramatic rise in usage of e-cigarettes by youth, and this is cause for great concern, as we don't yet understand the long-term effects of these novel tobacco products," says Mitch Zeller, director of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products. "These findings reinforce why the FDA intends to expand its authority over all tobacco products and establish a comprehensive and appropriate regulatory framework to reduce disease and death from tobacco use."

U.S. Cities Providing New Lanes as Cycling Commutes Increase



The Green Lane Project is a campaign to jumpstart the development of protected bike lanes on American streets with the help of six initial partnership cities: Chicago; Washington, D.C.; San Francisco; Portland, Ore.; Austin, Texas; and Memphis, Tenn. With support from the campaign, the six cities share lessons learned, swap best practices and provide an emerging knowledge base of the benefits of protected bike lanes. Transportation planners are trying to mitigate congestion as well as support public health goals related to physical activity, obesity and chronic disease. To learn more click the Green Lane photo.

The Community Tool Box



The Community Tool Box is a global resource for free information on essential skills for building healthy communities. It offers more than 7,000 pages of practical guidance in creating change and improvement. To learn more click on the Community Tool Box logo.

SepticSmart Initiative



The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website houses resources to share with consumers on being SepticSmart. EPA's SepticSmart initiative is a nationwide public education effort that aims to inform homeowners, living on properties serviced by septic systems, on the importance of properly maintaining their septic system and provide valuable resources to help homeowners make important decisions regarding their wastewater management needs. The initiative also provides resources for [out-reach organizations and government leaders](#) who seek to promote this message locally. Resources include the basics, why should you maintain your septic system, how to properly care for your system, homeowner resources and an outreach toolbox. To learn

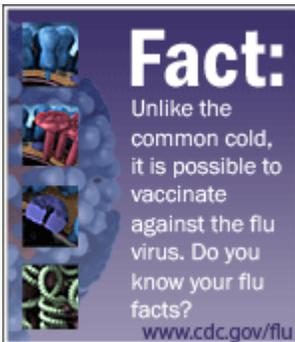
more about the SepticSmart Home click the SepticSmart Man logo.

Health Insurance Marketplace



If you are a professional learning about the Health Insurance Marketplace and helping people apply, get the latest resources at Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). There are links for training and official resources to answer to your questions about the Marketplace. Click the CMS log to learn more.

Seasonal Influenza



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintains an extensive website on Seasonal Influenza. Influenza vaccine is available now and everyone six months of age and older should get their yearly flu vaccine, ideally by Oct. Primary changes and updates in the vaccination recommendations include a new [quadrivalent attenuated influenza vaccine](#) which is now available as an acceptable alternative to other licensed vaccines. Resources available include the Flu I.Q. widget which is an interactive quiz to test your flu knowledge. Place the [Flu I.Q.](#) widget on your website, portal home page or on your blog to help others raise their Flu I.Q. too. Don't worry if you don't know all the answers at first, the Flu I.Q. widget is an easy and fun way to learn what's true about flu. To learn more about the seasonal influenza click the Fact image on the left.

KDHE Preparedness Program ESF8

The Kansas Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 Network Newsletter for Sept. 25 contains the following information:

- Kiowa County EMS wins national award
- Building Community Resilience Training Course on-line
- HHS replenishes supply of anthrax antitoxin

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 8 - Public Health and Medical Services provides the mechanism for coordinated Federal assistance to supplement State, tribal, and local resources in response to a public health and medical disaster, potential or actual incidents requiring a coordinated Federal response, and/or during a developing potential health and medical emergency. If you have any information you would like to share via the Kansas ESF 8 Network, please send a note to Michael McNulty, Kansas ESF 8 Coordinator, Kansas Department of

(Cont'd)

(Cont'd from page 14)

Health and Environment at ksef8@kdheks.gov. If you know of individuals interested in joining the Kansas ESF 8 Network, have them send an email with their name, email address, and organization to ksef8@kdheks.gov.

Job Openings

Cowley County Health Department

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

- [Environmental Health Specialist](#)



Harvey County Health Department

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

- [Community Health Nurse](#)



Johnson County Health Department

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

- [Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\)](#)
- [ARNP - Women's/Men's Health Program Supervisor](#)
- [Registered Nurse – RN](#)
- [Team Leader](#)



Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Health Promotion Specialist](#)



Reno County Health Department

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

- [Home Health Aid](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Community Health Analyst](#)
- [Registered Dietician/Registered Nurse - WIC](#)



Shawnee County Health Agency

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

- [Registered Nurse](#)
- [Social Worker-MSW](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

The Wyandotte County Health Department is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)
- [Program Aide](#)
- [Program Coordinator](#)



Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#)

[Newborn Screening Newsletter](#)

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

Public Health Connections Information

To receive the monthly E-Newsletter

Email Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov

Previous issues of Public Health Connections maybe found at

http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm

Send your public health news to

Pat Behnke at pbehnke@kdheks.gov or

Debbie Nickels at dnickels@kdheks.gov

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