



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

November - 2014 Volume 14, Issue 11

Bureau of Community Health Systems

Robert Moser, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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Ebola Preparedness Update

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

As the Ebola outbreak continues to dominate news headlines, I want to make sure you have access to the latest accurate information. No Ebola cases have occurred in Kansas to date but we are working with many state agencies and other stakeholders to increase our situational awareness and response plans.



Ebola is a serious viral disease, mostly found in West Africa and currently impacting the West African countries of Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone as well as the Democratic Republic of Congo. Ebola is not spread through water, air or food, nor through casual contact. People with a travel history involving those four countries and who have had direct contact with the bodily fluids of someone sick with Ebola are high risk and right now travelers are being screened prior to boarding planes and at some U.S. airports after arrival.

People who are infected with Ebola might have the following symptoms: fever, headache, joint and muscle aches, weakness, diarrhea, vomiting, stomach pain and lack of appetite. Symptoms usually appear 8-10 days after exposure to someone who is infected with Ebola, but may appear up to 21 days after exposure. A person infected with Ebola is not contagious until symptoms appear. After they are symptomatic their bodily fluids are full of active Ebola virus and thus the droplet and contact precautions that are being recommended to healthcare providers and others.

Visit the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) website, <http://kdheks.gov/ebola/index.htm>, for more details about Ebola and the state's efforts to prepare our health and medical systems for a possible case in Kansas. Website topics include:

- Kansas Ebola Virus Preparedness and Response Plan
- Ebola Population Health Calls Dial-In Information and Transcripts
- KDHE Waste Management Guidelines for Ebola Response
- Temperature Monitoring Instructions
- Ebola Health Advisory infographic
- Ebola Screening Poster
- Patient Evaluation Checklist for Healthcare Settings
- Infection Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings
- Guidance for EMS
- Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transportation, Testing Submission
- Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals
- Guidance for Travelers

KDHE has established a new email address, response2014@kdheks.gov, where all Ebola-related questions should be sent. For more information about Ebola visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola.

Kansas Public Health Workforce Assessment

by *Cristi Cain, Public Health Specialist*

Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE



The Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council has conducted a state-wide workforce assessment. Overall, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff had an 83 percent participation rate and local public health department employees had a 66 percent participation rate, for a total participation rate of 73 percent (percentages based on preliminary data).

For local health departments:

- 27 health departments had a 100 percent participation rate
- 49 health departments had a participation rate of 75 percent or above
- 70 health departments had a participation rate of 50 percent or above
- 96 percent of health departments had at least one participant
- There were 940 respondents out of a total of 1,429 employees.

Congratulations to the following health departments who were the first to reach the highest percentage of participation for their size:

Barber County

Butler County

Clark County

Geary County

Leavenworth County

Reno County

Riley County

Shawnee County

Wallace County

Cristi Cain, coordinator of the project stated, "In comparison with other states, Kansas had one of the highest participation rates of its workforce." She expressed thanks to everyone who participated in the survey and to the Masters in Public Health Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center for their assistance in hosting the survey along with managing the data. "The assessment is important for the Kansas public health workforce as the results will help us identify, prioritize and develop training opportunities in addition to supporting accreditation efforts," Cain said. The data collected from the assessment is currently being analyzed, results should be available soon.

Impacting Population Health - 2014 and 2013 Materials Available

by *Jane Shirley, Director, Center for Population Health and Local Public Health Program, Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



In 2013, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) convened a series of seven statewide listening sessions to discuss strategies to improve population health through increasing collaborative relationships between public health and primary care providers. As a follow-up to these sessions, in the summer of 2014, KDHE hosted another series of seven regional community meetings to address connecting local community health assessments and improvement plans with Healthy Kansans 2020, the state health assessment and improvement plan. The Impacting Population Health 2014 and 2013 materials can be found on the Local Public Health, [Recent News, Events and Documents](#) webpage.

2014:

- Integrating Primary Care and Behavioral Health
- Executive Summary
- Recruitment Flyer
- Data Collection Tool
- Powerpoint - Dr. Robert Moser and Brandon Skidmore
- Spreadsheet of all reported strategies
- Regional meeting reports:
 - North Central Regional Meeting Summary (Beloit)
 - Northeast Regional Meeting Summary (Topeka)
 - Southeast Regional Meeting Summary (Chanute)
 - South Central Regional Meeting Summary (Hutchinson)
 - Southwest Regional Meeting Summary (Garden City)
 - Northwest Regional Meeting Summary (Oakley)
 - Kansas City Metro Meeting Summary (Olathe)

2013:

- Impacting Population Health: Integration of Primary Care and Public Health
- The Intersection of Public Health and Primary Care
- Déjà vu Again
- Impacting Population Health: A Statewide Conversation Executive Summary and Report of Activities

KPHA Recognizes Public Health Professionals at Annual Conference



by Becky Tuttle, Award Nomination Chair, KPHA

Public Health promotes and protects the health of people and the communities where they live, learn, work and play. Public health saves money, improves quality of life, helps children thrive and reduces human suffering. The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) recently recognized the following professionals at the 2014 Annual Conference for their service and commitment to public health in Kansas.

The [KPHA Award](#) recipients are:

- Samuel J. Crumbine Medal: Won Choi, Ph.D. MPH, Executive Director of the KU Master of Public Health Program
- Dorothy Woodin Public Health Nursing Award: Nancy Wynn, R.N., Unified Government of Wyandotte County
- Jane Addams, Social Work Award: Christy Schunn, LCSW, Executive Director, Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network
- Virginia Lockhart, Health Promotion Award: Craig Barnes, BS, Health Promotions Coordinator, Shawnee County Health Agency
- Special Service Award: Robert P. Sherman, M.D., Tuberculosis Medical Consultant, Unified Government of Wyandotte County
- Special Service Award: Claudia Blackburn, former Sedgwick County Health Department Administrator
- Corporate Service Award: The Health and Wellness Coalition of Wichita
- Public Health Policy Makers of the Year: Representative Barbara Bollier, M.D., and Senator Laura Kelly, Senator Elaine Bowers
- President's Award: Ellen Averett, PhD, MHSA, KPHA Past President

Kansas Immunization Billing Strategic Plan Update

*by Stephanie Lambert-Barth, Project Manager
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care*



The immunization billing planning project was completed this summer and the project findings are now available in the Kansas Immunization Billing Strategic Plan Report. Key findings and recommendations are noted below. The full report is available on the stakeholder website by clicking the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care logo.

Key results:

- Eighty-eight percent of Kansas local health departments (LHDs) reported they bill at least one private insurer, with 59 percent reporting they bill all private insurers.
- Ninety-nine percent of Kansas LHDs reported they do some level of insurance coverage verification at the time of service. However, LHDs have reported experiencing challenges with the verification process.
- Thirty percent of Kansas LHDs reported having more than one staff member devoted to billing tasks and the majority of those staff (58 percent) spend less than half their time on billing which makes billing specialization needed for good outcomes difficult. Fifty-nine percent reported their billing staff had a full day or less of formal training in billing. There are not sufficient existing training resources, specific to the billing needs of public health clinics. Availability of accessible, affordable training resources is a barrier.
- The estimated statewide billing revenue (all sources) is \$17,522,598 and the estimated billing revenue from private insurance is \$6,559,239. Though the amount of revenue generated by LHD billing is substantial, it is believed based on the experiences of Kansas LHDs that have successfully implemented new billing technology and processes around 25 percent of potential billing revenue is not being successfully obtained.
- Implementing software solutions, such as practice management systems and electronic health records, can be very challenging in the LHD operating environment. For system implementation to work well, adequate local staffing support is needed to perform initial system set up and LHDs often don't have enough resources to handle these tasks. The cost of purchasing and implementing systems is also a substantial barrier for many Kansas LHDs.

Key recommendations:

1. Develop and launch health department specific training. We recommend contracting with American Academy of Professional Coders (AAPC) to develop billing training for Kansas LHDs.

cont'd from pg 4

2. Publish and maintain a Kansas Health Department Billing Manual. We recommend contracting with AAPC to assist with development and review of the billing manual and that the manual will be housed on the billing resources website.
3. Engage external support services to assist LHDs with system adoption. We have proposed that ten percent of Kansas LHDs be identified, through an application and selection process, to participate in an initiative to adopt new practice software that better supports billing activities. Participating LHDs would receive funding support to assist with initial system purchase and set up costs; and consultation on product assessment and selection.
4. Provide additional support to the regional billing groups, including expanded opportunities for the local facilitators to network and discuss local billing issues and trends related to billing outcomes.
5. Maintain the billing resources webpage to ensure timely billing information is readily available to LHDs.

Thanks to all who participated in the project by joining our stakeholder discussions, participating in the training pilot project, allowing us to visit, your willingness to discuss your billing processes and for responding to the billing surveys. If you would like to request a full copy of the report or have questions about the project findings, please contact Stephanie Lambert-Barth, project manager, at slambert@kfmcc.org or 785-271-4137.

Time for a Flu Vaccine - Get It and Recommend It

by the [Public Health Foundation](#)



Have you gotten your annual flu vaccination yet? Now is the ideal time for public health and healthcare professionals to get vaccinated and recommend the same to colleagues, family members and patients.

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recommends that everyone six months and older get an annual [flu vaccination](#) to help prevent the spread of flu viruses. Here's why:

1. The composition of the flu vaccine may be updated from one season to the next to keep up with constantly changing flu viruses. Even in years when the composition does not change, new flu vaccine is manufactured every season.
2. Immunity from vaccination declines over time.
3. You can spread the flu to others before you know you have it. Most healthy adults may be able to infect others beginning one day before symptoms develop and up to five to seven days after becoming sick.
4. Coughs and sneezes can spread flu to others who are up to six feet away. Even if you don't have direct contact with someone who has flu, you can still come in contact with the virus.

Anyone can get very sick from the flu, including people who are otherwise healthy. Flu is a serious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. The following groups of people are at [high risk](#) of developing serious complications from flu: [seniors 65 and older](#); [pregnant women](#); people with chronic diseases such as [asthma](#), [diabetes](#), [heart disease](#) and [cancer](#); and [children under the age of 5](#).

Regional Public Health Meetings Scheduled - Fourth Quarter of 2014

by Teri Caudle, Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Don't miss the opportunity to attend one of the upcoming regional public health meetings aimed to connect local health departments with programs and best practices that will benefit the work you do within your communities. These meetings are designed for the local public health department administrator; however, any staff person interested in a particular topic is welcome to attend. Register for the meeting through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID, #1053042.

The agenda includes the following: KDHE District Environmental Administrator from each respective region will discuss Investigating Public Health Nuisances including a group exercise to think through a hypothetical situation. Bob Medina, KDHE Environmental Scientist, will give an overview of the Illegal Dump Clean-up Program and discuss how to handle a difficult conversation when dealing with a nuisance.

The dates and locations are:

- Hutchinson November 5
- Oakley November 20
- Garden City November 21
- Beloit December 3
- Topeka December 9

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics please contact Teri Caudle at tcaudle@kdheks.gov.

KDHE Appoints Allen as Preparedness Program Director



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

Effective Monday, October 27, Carman Allen began serving as the Preparedness Program Director, in addition to her role as Trauma Program Director, in the Bureau of Community Health Systems, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. This programmatic alignment makes sense related to the many natural linkages between the work undertaken by the Trauma and Preparedness Programs - a closer working relationship between the two will benefit the state's health and medical community. Additionally, Carman's background in Emergency Medical Services (EMS), instructional design/teaching and response are a good fit for Preparedness. Carman can be reached at callen@kdheks.gov or at 785-296-1210.

Treaster Receives Recognition from KSFHP Staff



*by Kendra Baldrige, Case Manager, KSFHP
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*

The [Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Program](#) (KSFHP) was founded at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in 1994. The program celebrated in October, 20 years of service to migrant and seasonal farmworkers in the state of Kansas. The program has changed and grown in many ways over the years, but it's mission and vision remain constant. Cyndi Treaster, Program Director, KSFHP, has been with the program since its inception, first as a case manager and then for the past 13 years as the Program Director. As a part of that celebration, KSFHP staff performed a skit for the Bureau of Community Health Systems staff and also presented a plaque to Cyndi. Thank you, Cyndi, for your service to migrant and seasonal farmworkers, KSFHP staff, program partners and to KDHE.

University of Kansas Public Management Center Selects New Director



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

Laura Howard has been selected to lead the [University of Kansas Public Management Center](#) (PMC) after a nationwide search. Ms. Howard is known for building alliances to develop and sustain human services, health care policies and initiatives in communities throughout the region. She has also worked diligently to improve local health care services for children, low-income persons and persons with disabilities. Throughout her career and volunteer experiences she has been looked to as a thoughtful adviser, strategist, expert in state financing and cross-agency and cross-systems collaborator. Ms. Howard has won several awards for advocacy in human services. Most recently, she has been regional administrator for Region VII, which includes Kansas, Missouri, Iowa and Nebraska, for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Laura also served in various senior leadership roles during 15 years with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services.

The Public Management Center is the professional development arm of the University of Kansas School of Public Affairs and Administration. The PMC provides award-winning leadership training programs to the state and regional workforce: Kansas Certified Public Manager Program, Emerging Leaders Academy, Law Enforcement Leadership Academy, Supervisory Leadership Training, along with custom courses and annual training events, including the Inspiring Women in Public Administration Conference and the Kansas City/County Management Conference.

Open Access to Written Reports by KSU Public Health Students and Faculty



*by Michael Cates, Director, MPH Program
Kansas State University*

Interested professionals may view the Kansas State University Master of Public Health (MPH) Program reports and other publications related to public health practice and research from K-State Research Exchange (K-REx). Click the K-REx logo, it will take you to the overall page for the MPH Program, where you can browse by author, title, subjects or publication date. There are two collections linked from this page: MPH Faculty Research and Publications and MPH Student Reports and Theses.

Public Health Council Focuses on Workforce Development

by Lori Thompson, Workforce Development Specialist

Kansas Association of Local Health Departments and the Local Health Program, KDHE

The Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council (Council) is a group comprised of members from Kansas local health departments, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, the Kansas Public Health Association, the Kansas Environmental Health Association, the Kansas Health Institute, the Kansas Health Foundation, and three state universities, Wichita State University, Kansas State University, and the University of Kansas (KUMC). These members have a vested interest in developing training programs for those working in public health as well as college students working towards their degree in public health.

The Council has been in existence since 2003, and its mission is to provide and promote training in public health that supports the ten essential services of public health, as well as accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

A focus of the Council is to develop and coordinate public health workforce training through a variety of educational methodologies, delivery methods and opportunities. One opportunity for public health workforce training is the Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, which is provided by KUMC, a Council member. It is offered on a semester basis every Wednesday from 12-1 p.m. Currently, half of the cost for local health departments participating in the sessions is paid by the Kansas Health Foundation Public Health Practice Program, with the remaining half paid by the agency. The training is free for the attendees at the local session site and continuing education credits is available. Other training opportunities are under development by the Council and will be offered online or at live conference events in the future.

Over the next three years, the Council will continue to focus on assessing the professional development and training needs of the state and local public health workforce; identify, develop, vet and deliver educational offerings to support attainment of national public health standards; design and conduct an evaluation of the activities of the Council.

The Kansas Public Health Development Coordinating Council will provide monthly updates about its current and future activities in Public Health Connections. If you have questions or suggestions for the Council please contact Lori Thompson, Workforce Development Specialist at lthompson@kdheks.gov or call 785-296-2742.

KDHE South Central District Office Has Moved

*by Allison Herring, JD, District Environmental Administrator,
South Central District Office, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment, South Central District office in Wichita has recently relocated to 300 W. Douglas Avenue, Suite 700, Wichita, 67202. All staff phone numbers and email addresses will remain the same, except the fax number, has changed to 316-337-6050. If you have any questions, please contact the South Central District office at 316-337-6020.

A Healthier Place to Live, Work and Play Health Fair

*by Marley Sugar, RD, LD, Health and Wellness Program Manager
Midwest Dairy Council*



Start the holiday season off on a healthy foot. Take the first step toward a healthier place to live, work and play by participating in or throwing an unforgettable health fair. It's easy to get started with Midwest Dairy Council's collection of great [health fair resources](#) which you can access at MidwestDairy.com.

National Parfait Day

*by Marley Sugar, RD, LD, Health and Wellness Program Manager
Midwest Dairy Council*



November 25 is National Parfait Day! Did you know that the word "parfait" means "perfect" in French? It's no wonder that this yummy [Peanut Butter Banana Crunch Yogurt Parfait](#) makes a perfect breakfast. It's quick to make and has the ideal carbohydrate-protein-healthy fat ratio to give you energy and satiety until lunchtime.

Accreditation Corner

Accreditation Readiness Mini-Grants: Round 1



by Sarah Hartsig, Analyst
Kansas Health Institute

The Accreditation Readiness Mini-Grants: Round 1, are in the amount of approximately \$5,000 each. Funds may be used for activities related to developing a community health assessments, community health improvement plan or strategic plan. These mini-grants are awarded on a rolling basis through November 30. Applications received after that date will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All activities must be completed by March 31, 2015. For an application email Sarah Hartsig at shartsig@khi.org.

Accreditation Readiness Mini-Grants: Round 2

Accreditation Readiness Mini-Grants: Round 2, are in the amount of approximately \$5,000 each. Funds may be used for activities related to documenting how the health department meets the requirements of one or more measures in the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB) Standards. Proposals addressing any of the PHAB measures will be considered. Preferred measures for these mini-grants include the creation of quality improvement plans, performance management systems, or workforce development plans. These mini-grants are awarded on a rolling basis through November 30. Applications received after that date will be considered on a case-by-case basis. All activities must be completed by March 31, 2015. For an application email Sarah Hartsig at shartsig@khi.org.

Technical Assistance Network Offered

The Kansas Health Institute is pleased to announce the availability of our Technical Assistance (TA) network. If you are working on your Community Health Assessment, Community Health Improvement Plan or Strategic Planning and need short, focused assistance to overcome a barrier in the process, this TA is for you. It is offered at no cost. Please email Sarah Hartsig at shartsig@khi.org with questions.

Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Small Grant Funds to Promote Radon Awareness and Risk Reduction

by Brian Hanson, Kansas Radon Program
Engineering Extension, Kansas State University



The Kansas Radon Program (KRP) is pleased to announce the availability of small grant funds to promote radon awareness and risk reduction. For the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) program year of October 1, 2014 through September 30, 2015, the KRP intends to award up to \$7,500 in small grant funding. Funding will be awarded via one of two funding categories. The first category will include up to four grants with suggested budgets of \$1,250. These mini grants include both a demonstration radon mitigation system installation and local/regional public awareness campaign. The four grants are targeted to include one per geographic quadrant of the state. The second category will include up to five grants with suggested budgets of \$500 for a total of \$2,500. These grants are targeted for local/regional public awareness activities. Proposals shall be reviewed in the order by which they are received. All Kansas non-profit organizations are eligible to apply. Potential applicants could include health departments, extension programs, schools and school groups. Space is limited. Please contact Brian Hanson at bhanson@ksu.edu for an invitation or click the image on the left.

Training and Conference Announcements

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

Modified Health Care Protocols with an Emphasis on Ebola Preparedness - November 4

by Suzy Williams, Program Coordinator

Continuing Education & Professional Development, KUMC

The next session of, Guidelines for the Use of Modified Health Care Protocols in Acute Care Hospitals with an Emphasis on Ebola Preparedness, will be presented by Steven Simpson, MD, Tuesday, November 4, from 12:00 - 1:00 p.m., Beech Conference Room, Wesley Medical Center, Wichita. Registration is available through KS-TRAIN at <http://kstrain.org>, Course ID, #1050010.

Course Objectives: At the conclusion of this event, participants will be able to:

1. Describe disaster and public health emergency scenarios in which modified protocols of care might be considered for use in acute care hospitals.
2. Present information on modified health care protocols for use during disasters to their professional colleagues.
3. Explain why it is important to be aware that modified health care protocols are in place to assist in the event of an overwhelming catastrophe or pandemic.
4. Help ensure that modified health care protocols for potential use during disasters are considered for inclusion in hospital preparedness plans.

We can't imagine ever being faced with a catastrophic event or a disease outbreak of such magnitude that it would require implementing modified health care protocols. While the probability of such an occurrence is remote, the consequences of not having these guidelines included in your preparedness plan and being familiar with them leaves you, your hospital and community without the guidance and protocols to help navigate an unthinkable situation.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment has worked with a panel of experts to revise the existing modified health care protocols originally created in 2009 and most recently revised in 2013. This educational activity will overview the key points the revised protocols and provide ample opportunity for questions and discussion. The goal of this event is to raise awareness of Modified Health Care Protocols and ensure they are integrated into preparedness plans.

Target audience for this educational activity is intended for hospital executives, public health executives, chiefs of staff, chief medical officers, chief nursing officers, physicians and nurses, (trauma, pulmonary/critical care, emergency medicine, infectious disease professionals), emergency medical services (EMS) personnel, EMS directors and EMS medical directors, risk managers, pharmacists and others in positions to respond to catastrophic events or major disease outbreaks.

All participants are required to sign attendance rosters at the beginning of this event as continuing education credit is available for physicians, nurses and EMS personnel. Course questions should be directed to Suzy Williams at 913-588-4488.

Text4baby is Launching an App - November 5

by Kathleen Murph, Partner Outreach Director, Text4baby

National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition



The Healthy Babies Coalition is very excited to announce that Text4baby is launching an app. Join us for the partner webinar on November 5 to learn more and kick-off the launch of the Text4baby app. Information on how to register for the webinar can be accessed by clicking the [Text4baby logo](#).

Why an app? We know that some Text4baby moms and moms-to-be want access to even more critical health and safety information. The app provides an additional channel to access key information beyond the character limit of text messages. As a complementary tool to the short message service (SMS), the free app offers additional content and interactive features that enhance the overall Text4baby experience.

KRC 2014 Farm & Food Conference - November 7 - 8



The Kansas Rural Center (KRC) will be hosting the KRC 2014 Farming and Food Conference and 35th Anniversary Celebration, November 7 - 8, in Manhattan at the Four Points Sheraton. Keynote topics for the conference include:

- Alternative paradigms for the future of agriculture;
- What we know about climate, water, population and the future of food;
- Perspectives on the future of food and farming for healthy, sustainable communities: and
- Who will farm? The future of land stewardship in a time of transition.

To register for this conference, click the KRC logo above.

Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Training - November 17 - 20

The Kansans Optimizing Health Program (KOHP) would like to invite you to be a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) leader. As a trained leader you will be certified to facilitate CDSMP workshops; workshops meet once a week, for six weeks. Each workshop is facilitated by two trained leaders, at least one of whom is living with an ongoing health condition.

This is a great opportunity to:

- help others learn to take control of a chronic condition and improve their quality of life
- provide a valuable educational program in the community
- form new and lasting relationships

Upcoming CDSMP leader training opportunities are scheduled for:

- November 17, 18, 19, 20 in Cimarron

This training will be from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on each day listed above and registrants must attend each day of the training in full to receive certification. Training materials will be provided. Registrants may be eligible to be reimbursed for their travel expenses if they have traveled at least 20 miles to attend the training.

For more information about the program click the image above. Read and submit completed [applications](#) and questions to Ariel Capes at acapes@kdheks.gov or 785-296-1627, as soon as possible.

We would love for you to join our team. Space is limited, so don't wait. Get your application in today.



Brown Bag Webinar Series

*by Michael Pommier, Senior Coordinator for Marketing
Area Health Education Centers, KUMC*



The University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) Area Health Education Center (AHEC) is introducing the Brown Bag Webinar Series. This series was created with the goal of offering a continuing education opportunity that is easily accessible without having to travel. All sessions within this series will be one hour long and held over the lunch hour.

The series is broken up into clusters, each with its own topic. Within each cluster there will be four-six sessions over a two month period. Registration will be done by site and the cost will be dependent upon the number of people participating your site. A separate registration will be held for each cluster so you only participate in those clusters you are interested in.

Attached is an informational flyer showing the topics and tentative time frames for each of the different content clusters. The first cluster will take place during November and December and will be centered around oncology.

Each cluster will have its own informational flyer and registration, the Oncology cluster flyer and registration can be accessed through the AHEC logo.

KU Area Health Education Center

If you have any questions, please contact the AHEC Statewide office at 620-135-4040. To see what other continuing education programs are offered, visit their [online calendar](#).

Basic Public Information Officer (G290) Training - December 3 - 4

Emergency Public Information Officers (PIOs) are responsible for ensuring that the affected public receives accurate and timely information during an emergency. Armed with good information, people are better able to make good decisions and, by doing so, contribute to the overall response goal of saving lives and protecting property.

This two-day course is designed to prepare participants to function as full- or part-time PIOs. Additionally, this training is a prerequisite and foundation for more advanced training that takes participants from the awareness level to the mastery level in their public information careers. Topics include oral and written communications, understanding and working with the media, and basic tools and techniques needed to perform effectively. To register go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID, #1048211.

Joint Information System/Center Planning Course for Tribal, State and Local PIOs - December 5

The purpose of this one-day course is to build on the Public Information Officers (PIOs) competencies gained in the Basic Public Information Officer (G290) course by applying those skills in an expanding incident where coordination is enhanced through the establishment of a Joint Information System (JIS)/Joint Information Center (JIC). This training will equip PIOs with the skills needed to establish and operate in a JIS/JIC. Participants will also gain a working knowledge of operational practices for performing PIO duties within the National Incident Management system (NIMS) multiagency coordination system. The course will demonstrate how JIC concepts are applied in a flexible and scalable manner at the local level. To register go to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID, #1048214.

Save the Date: Kansas City, MO - MAPP 2015 Training - July 6 - 7, 2015



by NACCHO

Are you interested in improving your community's health and looking for practical ways to engage community partners. Join the National Association of County and City Health Officials team at the [Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships](#) (MAPP) Training to learn how to take action steps toward a healthier community in Kansas City, MO, July 6-7, 2015.

MAPP is a community-owned strategic planning process informed by comprehensive assessments for improving the public's health. MAPP works as a framework to help communities prioritize public health issues, identify resources for addressing them and take action. As a MAPP training participant, you will learn the nuts and bolts of the MAPP process, hear stories from the field from MAPP users and gain concrete skills for engaging community organizations, partners and community members in your MAPP process. These are introductory level trainings.

Registration will be launched in Fall 2014. For more information please email mapp@naccho.org or go to the MAPP Network website by clicking on the MAPP logo.

Ebola Update for Nurses Working in Schools and Early Childhood Settings

by Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

The [Ohio Department of Health, School Nursing Program](#) held on October 16, a live webinar session, Ebola Update for Nurses Working in Schools and Early Childhood Settings - October 2014. The webinar has now been archived to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID, #1053841. The purpose of this course is to provide nurses working in the school or early childhood setting with current information about the Ebola virus. Speakers addressed the current status of Ebola in West Africa and the U.S.; the role of the school nurse in education of students, staff, families and community members; the role of the school nurse in disease surveillance; emergency preparedness considerations and resources for the nurse.

New e-Learning Course - Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks

by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Learning Connections



The interactive e-learning module, Environmental Assessment of Foodborne Illness Outbreaks, to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID, #1051682, provides training on how to use a systems approach in foodborne illness outbreak environmental assessments. The free course will help prepare individuals to serve on a team that investigates foodborne illness outbreaks in restaurants and other food service venues. Course participants acquire in-depth skills and

knowledge necessary to:

- Investigate foodborne illness outbreaks as a member of a larger outbreak response team;
- Identify an outbreak's environmental causes; and
- Recommend appropriate control measures.

Environmental Public Health Tracking 101 - Free CEUs

by Janet Neff, Director

Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, KDHE



Looking for free continuing education units (CEUs)? Consider taking the "Tracking 101" on-line course. You'll learn about the National Environmental Public Health Tracking Program and environmental health in general. This opportunity will disappear in December, so if you need/desire CEU's, visit the National Environmental Health website by clicking the Tracking 101 logo.

To learn more about the Kansas Environmental Public Health Tracking Program, visit their website at <http://keap.kdhe.state.ks.us/epht/portal/> or contact Janet Neff at jneff@kdheks.gov at 785-296-3849.

Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Archived on KS-TRAIN



by Debbie Nickels, KS-TRAIN Administrator, Local Public Health Program
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Past Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds sessions, including learning events from the end of August and beginning of September, 2014 have been archived to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. Login to your TRAIN account and click the link below or add the course number to the Search by Keyword or Course ID number in the top right hand corner of the homepage. Click the TRAIN logo to download a list of archived Kansas Public Health Grand Round sessions.

- [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Fall 2014, Aug. 27, "Quality Improvement: Implementing Evidence-Based Practice" Archived WEBCAST \(1053272\)](#)
- [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Fall 2014, Sept. 3, "Learning from Experience While Looking Toward PHAB 1.5" Archived WEBCAST \(1053259\)](#)
- [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Fall 2014, Sept. 10, "Primary and Secondary Data Sources for Public Health Practice" Archived WEBCAST \(1053264\)](#)
- [Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds Fall 2014, Sept. 17, "The Health Challenge: Mental Health Disparities and Overall Health Equality" Archived WEBCAST \(1053484\)](#)

CDC Announces New Ebola Courses Posted to TRAIN

by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



Need to find the latest courses on Ebola? The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Learning Connection has announced a new listing of Ebola-related courses available on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. See the below course names and ID numbers. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment will provide updates in Public Health Connections as new courses become available. To access the latest information about Ebola and the 2014 West Africa outbreak click the Ebola image.

- [Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever - Podcast 08/08/2014 \(1052689\)](#)
- [What U.S. Hospitals Need to Know to Prepare for Ebola Virus Disease - Podcast 8/5/14 \(1052628\)](#)
- [Fiebre hemorrágica del Ébola \(Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever\) - Podcast 08/20/2014 \(1052862\)](#)
- [Ebola Update for Nurses Working in Schools and Early Childhood Settings - October 2014 \(Archived\) \(1053841\)](#)

News and Resources

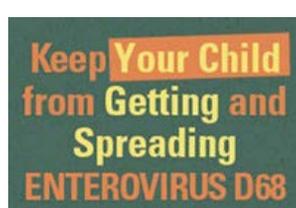
Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems



Population Health and Preparedness State Wide Call

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosts a monthly Population Health and Preparedness Statewide Call the fourth Tuesday of the month. The next call will be November 25. To view minutes from the monthly calls click the KDHE logo.

Enterovirus D68 Nation Wide Outbreak



The U. S. has been experiencing a nationwide outbreak of [enterovirus D68](#) (EV-D68) associated with severe respiratory illness: from mid-August to October 17, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state public health laboratories confirmed 825 cases of EV-D68 in 46 states and the District of Columbia. CDC expects that, as with other enteroviruses, EV-D68 infections will likely begin to decline by late fall and has received informal reports from some hospitals and states that are seeing signs of decreasing EV-D68 infections. CDC is gathering more information from states and assessing whether this represents a national trend. Symptoms of this illness are similar to those of a common cold, with runny nose, congestion, cough, fever and diarrhea. Almost all the confirmed cases this year of EV-D68 infection have been among children. Many of the children had asthma or a history of wheezing. Share CDC's webpage link with families, [What Parents Need to Know about Enterovirus D68](#) and/or click the enterovirus D69 logo to download an infographic.

Faster Lab Testing of Enterovirus D68



On October 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) [announced](#) that a faster lab test has been developed for Enterovirus D68 (EV-D68). The new test can identify all current circulating EV-D68 strains and uses fewer steps than previous tests. CDC will be providing new testing protocols to state public health labs and will explore options for providing test kits. For additional information click the image on the left.

Unexplained Weakness and Paralysis Reports in MMWR



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released two new reports regarding recent cases of unexplained weakness and paralysis in its October 3, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR): [Acute Neurologic Illness of Unknown Etiology in Children - Colorado, August-September 2014](#) and [Acute Flaccid Paralysis with Anterior Myelitis - California, June 2012-June 2014](#). Between August 9 and September 29, ten children in Colorado were hospitalized with sickness and although the cause remains unknown at this time, the MMWR offers guidance for healthcare professionals on the investigation. Additional resources are available on the CDC webpage, including a new feature, Unexplained Paralysis Hospitalizes Children, which is designed for use in communications with parents. Click the image on the left to read more.

ASTHO Launches New Blog on State Public Health



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) has launched a new blog to communicate credible, timely information on issues important to state and territorial health agencies and public health professionals. The [StatePublicHealth.org](#) blog went live on October 7 and will be updated weekly with features, state stories and public health news. The first post features an interview with ASTHO President Jewel Mullen on her motivation and vision for the 2015 ASTHO President's Challenge on Healthy Aging.

2014 Annual Progress Report on the National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released the [2014 Annual Progress Report on the National Strategy for Quality Improvement in Health Care](#). The National Quality Strategy (NQS) is an initiative led by the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality on behalf of HHS. The report details three primary areas: Priorities in Action, federal and state quality improvement efforts and updates on measurements. The NQS is focused on the Triple Aim of better care, lower costs and healthier communities and utilizes specific strategies to achieve these aims. To learn more about this report click the image above.

Regulatory Advisory on Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive Programs



The American Hospital Association (AHA) recently published a Regulatory Advisory on a [rule](#) finalized by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology. The advisory provides for flexibility in meeting meaningful use under the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record (EHR) Incentive Programs in 2014. To take advantage of the flexibility, eligible hospitals and professionals will need to attest that they could not fully implement 2014 Edition Certified EHR Technology (2014 Edition Certified Electronic Health Record Technology (CEHRT)) due to delays in availability of the technology. AHA expressed appreciation for the greater flexibility in 2014, but noted that given that the final rule was released so late in the fiscal year, it will be challenging for hospitals to take advantage of the flexibility being offered. Additionally, AHA is disappointed that most hospitals will be required to use the 2014 Edition CEHRT for FY 2015 (which began October 1) and report on a full year of performance, rather than the 90-day reporting period requested. To learn more about this advisory click the AHA logo.

Tips and Tricks for Daily Dental Care



Oral Health Kansas has posted new Tips and Tricks for daily dental care to their website. Tooth brushing is an essential part of oral health for people of all ages. Check out the new [Tooth Brushing Tips and Tricks](#) from Oral Health Kansas. These easy to follow steps can help children and adults get the most out of their daily brushing routine.

Transitioning to the ICD-10 Coding System



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) will host a national provider call on transitioning to the International Classification of Diseases (ICD)-10 coding system at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 5. CMS representatives will discuss ICD-10 implementation issues, opportunities for testing and resources available to help with the transition. To register, click the CMS logo. In July, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issued a [final rule](#) establishing October 1, 2015, as the date on which health care providers must include ICD-10 diagnosis and procedure codes on Medicare and other health care claims. The American Hospital Association has updated its [ICD-10 Executive Action Guide](#) that is designed to help with transitioning to the new ICD-10 coding system.

DEA Ruling to Encourage Hospitals Disposal of Controlled Substances



In September, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) issued a final rule intended to encourage hospitals with on-site pharmacies, narcotics treatment programs and retail pharmacies to consider joining law enforcement efforts to make it easier for those who legitimately obtained controlled substances to dispose of unused portions of their prescriptions. The rule authorizes these provider organizations to voluntarily administer mail-back and on-site collection boxes for their communities and explicitly describes how hospitals and clinics can run mail-back programs or maintain collection receptacles at their registered locations. The rule took effect October 9. To read more about this final rule click the DEA logo.

Continuing Resolution to Prevent Federal Government Shutdown



On September 19, President Obama signed into law a short-term continuing resolution (CR) to prevent a federal government shutdown at midnight on September 30. The House passed the CR 319 to 108 and the Senate cleared it 78-22. The CR adds new funding for several public health-related issues, including \$88 million for the Ebola outbreak, \$58 million will support the Department of Health and Human Services and \$30 million will support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This new funding necessitated a roughly .06 percent cut across the board to stay within the pre-established budget caps. The CR will fund the government until December 11, but further action is still unclear and will likely depend on the outcome of the November congressional elections.

National Strategy for Combating Antibiotic-Resistant Bacteria



In September, President Barack Obama issued an executive order to establish a strategy to combat antibiotic-resistant bacteria based on five interrelated goals. In the U.S., the occurrence of antibiotic-resistant bacteria kills 23,000 people annually, with an additional two million illnesses. This strategy moves beyond the traditional four walls of the hospital and considers a cross-over strategy into agricultural and environmental controls. It calls for prevention, detection and control of outbreaks recognized by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as urgent or serious threats, such as methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, ceftriaxone-resistant *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* and *Clostridium difficile*. It also calls for the strengthening of international collaborations for surveillance and control. To read more of this executive order, click the CDC logo.

The Public Health Workforce



The American Journal of Preventive Medicine's (AJPM), November supplement, The Public Health Workforce, is devoted to articles assessing the current state of the public health workforce and its potential for change and growth. Sponsored by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the University of Michigan/Center of Excellence in Public Health Workforce Studies, the supplement includes a summary of public health workforce development challenges and strategies, a taxonomy for defining and characterizing the public health workforce and an assessment of employee turnover in local health departments. To read more about this supplement, click the AJPM logo.

Fred the Preparedness Dog Now Has an App



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recently launched the [Fred the Preparedness Dog](#) app on iTunes, for children through its health and preparedness education campaign. The app includes a variety of games to increase family and pet preparedness during an emergency. In addition to the app, Fred and his owner Michael McNulty, Director of Homeland Security Operations, KDHE, make personal appearances at events and schools across Kansas to educate children about preparedness. Check out [Fred on Facebook](#) or go to Fred's logo to view his new website.

From Paper to Practice - PHF Seeking Opportunities to Pilot New Oral Health Driver Diagram



In September 2013, the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services funded the Public Health Foundation to develop the Population Health Driver Diagram to Increase Use of Oral Health Care. Click the ODPHP logo to learn more about this topic. When working with public health and health care groups in a community, this tool can be used as a framework to help align strategies to increase use of oral health care and other common health challenges. Do you have ideas about how the driver diagram can be used in your community? The Public Health Foundation is interested in hearing feedback from those working in the field about the driver diagram and ways it may be used in practice. Read more about this [initiative](#) and leave a comment to share your thoughts. Click the PHF logo to view and download the Population Health Driver Diagram.



Underwriters of KHI News Service



The Kansas Health Institute (KHI) News Service provides coverage of issues, people and events that affect health policy in Kansas. The KHI News Service is an editorially independent program of the Kansas Health Institute. It is supported in part by a variety of underwriters. It operates separately from KHI's research and policy operations, similar to the way traditional media outlets separate their newsrooms from advertising and circulation departments. To read featured reports and to sign up for the News Service, click the KHI logo.

Improving the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Health Organization



The U.S. health system, consisting of public health, health care, insurance and other sectors, is undergoing transformation in financing and service delivery. These changes include improving the efficiency and effectiveness of health organizations and services and increasing connections and collaborations among public health, health care and other sectors. Visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's new website by clicking the image on the left, for information, resources and training opportunities on health system changes and how they affect state, tribal, local and territorial health agencies.

Job Openings

Butler County Health Department

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

- [APRN-Community Health Nurse \(part-time\)](#)



Finney County Health Department

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

- [PA or APRN - Health Clinic Family Practice](#)



Flint Hills Community Health Center

The Flint Hills Community Health Center is accepting applications for the following positions:

- [Environmental Health Specialist](#)
- [Family Medicine Doctor \(MD/DO\) or Nurse Practitioner \(APRN\)](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\) or Medical Assistant \(MAs\)](#)
- [Registered Dental Hygienist](#)



Johnson County Health and Environment

Johnson County Health and Environment is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Registered Nurse \(Health Home\)](#)



Lower 8 of Southeast Kansas Preparedness

The Lower 8 of Southeast Kansas Preparedness Group is accepting applications for the following position:

- [Lower 8 Regional Coordinator](#)

Reno County Health Department

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

- [Home Health Aide](#)
- [Home Health Nurse/Public Health Nurse](#)
- [Preparedness Coordinator](#)



Saline County Health Department

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

- [Director](#)
- [Public Health Educator](#)



Sedgwick County Health Department

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

- [Director of Health Department](#)
- [Registered Dietician/Public Health Nurse](#)



Shawnee County Health Agency

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

- [Registered Nurse \(Primary Care-Women's Health\)](#)
- [RN \(Triage\)](#)



Wyandotte County Health Department

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

- [Nurse Practitioner](#)



Kansas Department of Health and Environment Program Newsletters

[Epi Updates Newsletter](#)

[Health Homes Herald](#)

[KanCare Advisor](#)

[Kansas Environmental News](#)

[Kansas Health Statistics Report](#)

[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