



# PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTIONS

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Bureau of Community Health Systems

Susan Mosier, Interim Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

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**KDHE Interim Secretary/State Health Officer Named**

*from the Office of the Governor*



On November 13, Kansas Governor Sam Brownback named Dr. Susan Mosier as the Interim Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, replacing Dr. Robert Moser, who will step down Dec. 1.

“I am grateful for the hard work and dedication of Bob Moser over the past four years and wish him and his family well as he pursues new opportunities,” said Governor Brownback. “Susan Mosier has been a tremendous asset at KDHE and I am pleased she will continue to serve Kansas and the Kansas Medicaid program in this new role.”

Dr. Susan Mosier has been the Director of the Division of Health Care Finance since August 2014 and Medicaid Director at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) since March 2012. Prior to taking the role of Medicaid Director, she owned Mosier Eye Care in Manhattan. She also represented the 67<sup>th</sup> District in the Kansas House of Representatives from 2011 until March 2012, when she resigned the seat to become Medicaid Director.

She earned her Bachelor’s Degree from Kansas State University, and an MBA from The University of Texas at Austin, Red McCombs School of Business. She went on to receive her Doctor of Medicine at University of Kansas and completed her residency at University of Iowa.

Dr. Robert Moser has served as Secretary and State Health Officer of KDHE since January 2011. Prior to that, he served as the Medical Chief of Staff and Medical Director of Greeley County Health Services. Dr. Robert Moser received his undergraduate and medical degrees from University of Kansas. He is leaving to pursue other opportunities in health education at University of Kansas Hospital and University of Kansas Medical School.

**KDHE Hosts Ebola Resource Webpage**

*by the Office of Communications, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) has an Ebola webpage, What You Need to Know About Ebola, that provides information on the disease and the state's efforts to prepare our health and medical systems for a possible case in Kansas. Please visit

the KDHE website, <http://kdheks.gov/ebola/index.htm> which contains:

- Kansas Ebola Virus Preparedness and Response Plan
- KDHE Waste Management Guidelines for Ebola Response
- Ebola Waste Management in Kansas Flowchart
- KDHE PPE Guidelines for Ebola Response
- CDC Infection Control Recommendations for Healthcare Settings
- CDC Guidance for Environmental Infection Control in Hospitals
- CDC Guidance for EMS
- CDC Guidance for Specimen Collection, Transportation, Testing Submission
- Ebola Population Health Calls Dial-In Information and Transcripts
- Biohazardous Waste Storage
- Ebola Table Top Exercises
- Ebola Screening Poster
- Ebola Health Advisory infographic
- FAQ’s for Healthcare Workers
- CDC Patient Evaluation Checklist for Healthcare Settings

All Ebola-related questions should be sent to [response2014@kdheks.gov](mailto:response2014@kdheks.gov). For additional information about Ebola visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola](http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola).

## **KDHE Aid to Local Grant Application and Reporting Process is Moving!**

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



The Kansas Aid to Local (ATL) Application and Reporting process is moving to an online system called Catalyst for the upcoming grant year. This new system will serve to improve the service that the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) provides to local applicants and recipient organizations. Catalyst will also serve as the agency Quality Improvement and Performance Management system and will assist the agency to

align all ATL grant activities and outputs. Roll out of new ATL Catalyst system for KDHE partners, Jan. 15, 2015

Benefits of Catalyst Include:

### Single Point of Access

- Local partners will be able to view and actively manage all of their ATL contractual relationships through one portal.
- KDHE will manage, negotiate, award and receive progress reports from awardees through one portal.

### Standardization

- Funding Opportunity Announcements will use standardized groupings that will help streamline technical assistance and management regardless of funding source.
- Progress Reporting Guidance will be standardized to ease the burden of different reporting requirements across funding sources.

### Training

- KDHE will develop internal Catalyst capacity that will support technical assistance and training of our local partners.
- Training modules will be developed and delivered in advance and as needed

### Accessibility

- Catalyst is web-based and uses cloud technology.
- All you need is an internet connection to manage Catalyst business objects.

## **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*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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:

- Beloit Dec. 3
- Topeka Dec. 9

If you have ideas for regional meeting topics please contact Teri Caudle at [tcaudle@kdheks.gov](mailto:tcaudle@kdheks.gov).

## **New EpiTrax Coordinator Announced**

*by the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE*

Shannon Sandall has been appointed as the new Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), EpiTrax Coordinator. Shannon has been with KDHE since March of 2014 in an administrative support role. She is excited to take on the EpiTrax Coordinator position and to have the opportunity to get to know everyone at the Local Health Departments. Shannon's background is in education, and she is looking forward to being able to use that knowledge in her current position. To contact Shannon, e-mail her at [ssandall@kdheks.gov](mailto:ssandall@kdheks.gov) or call 785-296-7127.

## Timothy Budge Promoted to Immunization Program Director

*by the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) announced that Timothy Budge has been promoted to the position of Section Chief of the [Kansas Immunization Program](#) (KIP). Tim was previously the Deputy Section Chief and has been a valued employee in the Immunization Program for many years having also been the KSWebIZ trainer. With his leadership skills, he brings a passion for the program mission and knowledge with compassion for those that perform these assigned tasks. You can reach Timothy at [TBudge@kdheks.gov](mailto:TBudge@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-5591.

## Health Promotion Hires Arthritis Program Manager

*by the Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*

Amanda Bridges recently joined the Bureau of Health Promotion as the [Arthritis Program Manager](#). Amanda is a native Kansan who recently worked for Shawnee County as the Adaptive Recreation Supervisor and Americans with Disabilities Act Coordinator. Before that, she worked at the Kansas Neurological Institute, first as a direct support professional and then as a supervisor. Amanda received a bachelor's degree in psychology from Washburn University and a master's in business administration from Baker. Amanda can be reached at [abridges@kdheks.gov](mailto:abridges@kdheks.gov) or 785-296-2330.



## Midwest Dairy Council Shares Eat Confidently Education Content

*by Marley Sugar, Health & Wellness Program Manager*

*[Midwest Dairy Council](#)*



The [National Dairy Council](#) has launched the Lactose Intolerance-focused [micro-site](#), which houses shareable and educational content for consumers. The socially-integrated destination not only utilizes a concise, impactful narrative to educate consumers about lactose intolerance, but will also highlight lactose intolerance-friendly recipes, videos, social media conversations and resources. By creating a consumer-friendly destination about lactose intolerance, we want to help provide information and resources to combat that confusion and ensure that everyone knows dairy can still be a part of a healthy lifestyle, whether they're dairy-sensitive or not.

## South Central Healthcare Coalition Strengthens Preparedness Program

*by the South Central Healthcare Coalition*



The South Central Kansas Healthcare Coalition recently reinforced bonds and tested its ability to respond during an emergency. The coalition attended training at the Center for Domestic Preparedness (CDP) in Anniston, Ala., practicing with multiple counties and multiple hospitals from the Sunflower State.

More than 50 healthcare professionals from nine counties, representing ten different hospitals, three public health departments and other health and medical agencies merged together at the CDP for the Healthcare Leadership for Mass Casualty Incidents (HCL) course. The 32-hour course lasts four days and includes both classroom instruction and realistic scenario-based exercises—complete with the expected chaos, noise, power failures, media briefs and even victims from a mass casualty event.

CDP staff sit behind two-way glass controlling the actions of Human Patient Simulators as students respond to a changing scenario. “The benefits of all these people coming to the training not only include receiving the information delivered in a classroom, but also the ability to apply it in a simulated setting,” said Charlie Keeton, South Central Kansas Hospital preparedness coordinator. “Because hospitals are 24/7 operations it is impossible to recreate this type of exercise within a working hospital. Coming to Anniston gives us the opportunity to apply what we learned in a realistic setting.” To read the complete article, and view images of the coalition team in action, click the logo above.

## Salina Voters Keep Fluoride

*by [Oral Health Kansas](#)*



On Nov. 4, Salina voters decided to continue the city's 46 year-old practice of fluoridating the community's water. By a margin of two to one, Salina's preserved water fluoridation for their friends and neighbors. Under the leadership of Dr. Allison Lesko, the Dental Society and a large team of volunteers knocked on doors, made phone calls, handed out yard signs, shared the water fluoridation story in radio and newspaper interviews, and passed out goodies from tooth brushes to wrist bands promoting water fluoridation.

Two television commercials created by Keep Fluoride Salina to help educate the public were posted to Facebook and aired on television. Click the links below to access the commercials on Facebook.

- Growing up in a fluoridated community such as Salina will [help build strong and healthy teeth](#) that will benefit the individual through their lifetime.
- [Salina's medical and dental community](#) came together to protect the oral health of Salina friends and family.

### 2013 Annual Summary of Vital Statistics Released

*by the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, KDHE*

The Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics (Bureau), Kansas Department of Health and Environment has released the 2013 Annual Summary of Vital Statistics. The summary is a 200 plus page compilation of over 82 tables and 41 figures covering vital events reported for Kansas residents. Among the highlights in the report were a 3.7 percent decrease in births; a decrease in infant deaths but due to the decrease in births, the infant mortality rate went up one-tenth of a point; Suicides declined 15.6 percent; Unintentional injuries was the fourth leading cause of death; and teen pregnancy rates in Kansas are lower than the Healthy People 2020 target. The [Annual Summary](#) is available in a PDF format.

The Bureau has also released a spreadsheet of the [county level statistical tables](#). Anyone with Excel can download the file. The spreadsheet format allows local health departments and others to copy their county information to include in other reports and publications.

Anyone with questions about the publication can email [kansas.health.statistics@kdheks.gov](mailto:kansas.health.statistics@kdheks.gov).

### 2013 State and Local Health BRFSS Data Available

*by Ginger Park, Communications Manager  
Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) recently released the 2013 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) state and local data, which highlight health statistics for Kansas and for local geographic areas. More than 20,000 adult Kansans participated in the 2013 survey, comprising a sample large enough to provide reliable information for Kansas, 42 of the 105 counties and for 16 Public Health Preparedness Regions.

"BRFSS data help public health professionals, measure and track Kansans health behaviors, conditions and concerns at the state and the local level," said Robert Moser, M.D., Secretary and State Health Officer, KDHE. "These data are important when we consider where to focus our public health efforts and to help us emphasize the benefits of prevention."

BRFSS provides data on a wide range of health issues, including information related to access to health care, chronic and infectious diseases, clinical preventive services, environmental quality, infant and child health, injury and violence, maternal health, mental health, nutrition, physical activity, obesity, oral health, substance abuse and tobacco use. State data are available at [www.kdheks.gov/brfss/](http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/) and local data are available at [www.kdheks.gov/brfss/BRFSS2013/](http://www.kdheks.gov/brfss/BRFSS2013/).

### Kansas RN Workforce Survey Report

*from the Kansas Action for Children*



A Kansas Registered Nurse Workforce Survey was sent via email to Kansas nurses in November of 2013. The survey was conducted by the Promoting Nursing Education in Kansas (PNEK) and received almost 7,000 responses. The results from that survey are available by clicking the logo.

### Local Public Health Departments Recognized for Contributions

*by the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments*



The annual Kansas Association of Counties (KAC) conference was held Nov. 12 - 14 in Wichita. Traditionally, local government officials are recognized for their service, achievements, and commitment to public service at the conference's award luncheon. This year, local public health officials will be added to the list of recognitions by the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD).

Public health is one of the primary responsibilities of county government. Local public health departments across the state focus on improving health outcomes for all by providing services such as immunizations, nutrition assistance for pregnant and nursing mothers and their young children, disease investigation and surveillance, emergency preparedness, home health, and enforcement of state and local public health laws.

“Often public health is one of those ‘invisible’ public services; you don’t hear much about it when things are going well. But in times of crises, such as disease outbreaks or emergencies, we count on our public health officials to keep us safe. I think it’s important that we take the time to recognize this important work and raise awareness of these vital services among policy makers and the general public,” said Michelle Ponce, executive director of KALHD.

The award categories and criteria were chosen by staff from KALHD and KAC, and judging panels were comprised of board representatives from both organizations. Funding for the awards was provided by the Kansas Health Foundation.

**Public Health Champion:** Larry Franken. Dr. Franken serves as the Chief Epidemiologist at the Wyandotte County Health Department. In that role, he has pioneered initiatives to ensure information sharing among Kansas City Metro area public health, emergency preparedness, and academic organizations; implemented a quality improvement program for the health department; and provides education to underserved populations about the importance of prevention and treatment of communicable disease.

**Department of the Year:** Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. The department has made significant contributions to the public health system through innovation, community engagement activities, and its focus on continuous quality improvement. Specific achievements include, but are not limited to, creation of the state’s first Academic Health Department through partnership with University of Kansas Center for Research; coordinating a 175-member community health coalition, LiveWell Lawrence; and receipt of a national Model Practice Award for its child care licensing program. Additionally, the department is in the process of achieving national accreditation.

**Local Public Health County of the Year:** Riley County. The county has demonstrated a strong partnership between the local public health department and members of the local Board of Health, as well as efforts of county department staff and policy makers working together to engage community members in health improvement activities. Since February 2014, the department and county commissioners have held formal Board of Health meetings; worked together to conduct a Local Public Health System Assessment; and have implemented multiple initiatives to engage community members in health improvement activities, such as policy changes to ensure healthy vending and concessions, evidence-based child care protocols, and older adult exercise programs.

“There is so much work being done across the state to protect and improve the health of Kansans, “ said Fern Hess, KALHD Board President. “These awards provide an opportunity to not only recognize those achievements but, even more importantly, to share the successes so that they can be built upon.”

In addition to the formal awards, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment and the Sedgwick County Health Department were recognized for being the first and second, respectively, local health departments in Kansas to achieve national accreditation through the Public Health Accreditation Board.

### **Youth Tobacco Smoking Rates Putting Millions at Risk of Premature Death**

*by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)*



More than one in five high school students use a tobacco product; 90 percent are tobacco smokers. Almost 23 percent of high school students currently use a tobacco product, according to new data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in a recent issue of the [Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report](#) (MMWR). Of particular concern, more than 90 percent of those using a tobacco product are using combustible tobacco products such as cigarettes, cigars, hookahs, and pipes.

Extensive use of combustible products is of special concern because tobacco smoking causes most of the tobacco-related disease and death in the United States. The 50th Anniversary Surgeon General’s Report released last January concluded that unless youth smoking rates drop rapidly, 5.6 million youth currently aged zero to 17 will die early from a cigarette smoking-related illness.



## Accreditation Corner

### Health Departments Improve Services Dramatically Following COPPHI Kaizen Event Program

by the [National Network of Public Health Institutes](#)



One year ago, the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI), in partnership with Continual Impact LLC, provided the [Kaizen Event Program](#) to ten health departments with 48 hours of face-to-face training in Foundational Quality Improvement (QI) methods, Process Mapping, Problem Solving (root cause analysis), Change Management, and Executing a Kaizen Event. Kaizen, meaning "change for the better," uses the principles of quality improvement in a rapid setting that leads to impactful process improvements. Armed with training, preparation, and an on-site QI Coach, the ten health departments conducted Kaizen events with their work process teams in January through March. You may have learned of their accomplishments during the June 2014, Community of Practice for Public Health Improvement (COPPHI) Open Forum or their project submissions on [PHQIX](#).

One of the ten health departments was Johnson County Department of Health and Environment who addressed their [supply ordering process](#) and decreased labor time from 93 to 16.5 minutes per order. See a summary of all the [program results](#) here.

At least ten additional Kaizen events are being planned among the ten health departments to use the Kaizen process of confirm, prepare, perform, and institutionalize quality improvement. QI Leaders continue to use the Kaizen event process to engage and involve those that perform the work to identify and eliminate process wastes. To learn more about NNPHI's programs related to accreditation and performance improvement, please visit <http://nnphi.org/API>.

### Technical Assistance Network Offered

By Sarah Hartsig, Kansas Health Institute



The Kansas Health Institute is pleased to announce the continued availability of their 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 free TA is for you. Please email Sarah Hartsig at [shartsig@khi.org](mailto:shartsig@khi.org) with questions.

### Public Health Foundation Releases New Performance Management Toolkit

by the [Public Health Foundation](#)

The Public Health Foundation (PHF) is pleased to share the new [Performance Management Toolkit](#), a source for resources and tools that can help individuals and organizations move from learning about performance management to applying it. The purpose of this toolkit is to help public health professionals understand performance management and how to develop successful performance management systems. Visitors to the Performance Management Toolkit can locate resources about topics such as getting started with performance management and continuous improvement of a performance management system, as well as find case examples of how other health departments have approached performance management. Users can also explore resources about each of the five components of the refreshed [Public Health Performance Management System Framework](#). This toolkit was developed in response to feedback from the field and the Performance Management Think Tank about how health departments pursuing accreditation are seeking additional resources to assist with their performance management activities. For more information, contact [Micaela Kirshy](#) at PHF.

### NACCHO and PHF to Host Workforce Development Webinar

by the [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#)



On Thursday, Dec. 11, from 12:00 - 1:30 p.m., join the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) and the Public Health Foundation for a discussion on the [Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals](#). NACCHO members will share pointers for applying the Core Competencies to your work, including an example of Bloomington, Minnesota, Public Health, who used the competencies to develop a workforce training assessment to meet PHAB's requirements. To register, click the logo above.

## Funding Opportunities

Submitted by the Bureau of Community Health Systems

### Community Injury Prevention Mini-Grants Available - Due Dec. 12



*by Daina Hodges, Outreach Coordinator*

*Safe Kids Kansas, Bureau of Health Promotion, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is pleased to announce the opportunity for private or public non-profit community-based organizations, or units of local and state government to submit application for an [Injury Prevention Mini-Grant](#). This is a competitive grant process and applications are due no later than Friday, Dec. 12, by 5:00 p.m.

The purpose of this grant is to develop or enhance unintentional injury prevention interventions in the community. Awards will not exceed \$5,000 per community, with all grants pending availability of funding. The Request for Proposal is available through the Safe Kids logo and the Application can be found [here](#). Questions may be directed to Daina Hodges, Outreach Coordinator, Injury Prevention & Disability Programs, at 785-296-0351 or [dhodges@kdheks.gov](mailto:dhodges@kdheks.gov).

### 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 Oct. 1, 2014 through Sept. 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](mailto: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

### Basic Public Information Officer (G290) Training - Dec. 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 - Dec. 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.



## NACCHO Hosting Performance Improvement Webinar

*by the National Association of County and City Health Officials*



The National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) next performance improvement webinar, [Let's Not Reinvent the Wheel: How to Leverage National Initiatives as You Conduct Performance Improvement Activities](#), will take place at 2:00 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 9. This program will feature the stories of three local health departments (LHDs) taking advantage of national resources and connections. While there are many resources available to LHDs, several national activities have received increased interest recently due to their value in accreditation preparation and community health improvement planning.

- LHDs are effectively working with their local non-profit hospitals to conduct community health assessment and improvement planning providing mutual benefit as hospitals work to comply with the community benefit requirements of the Internal Revenue Service, and LHDs work to achieve national accreditation.
- LHDs are using the indicators and resources available through Healthy People 2020 to enhance their performance management systems and accreditation preparation efforts.
- LHDs are enhancing their community health assessments, community health improvement plans, and strategic plans by accessing the wealth of data available from the County Health Rankings project.

Join NACCHO for this free 90-minute webinar featuring representatives from local health departments in North Carolina, Florida and Massachusetts who will share their work on these initiatives and provide insight into how it has helped them improve health department performance and community health outcomes. Space is limited, so [sign up now](#).

## Engaging Faith Based Organizations During Public Health Emergencies Webinar - Dec. 9

*from the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO)*

On Dec. 9 at 2:00 p.m., the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO), with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and in partnership with Emory's Interfaith Health Program, will host the webinar "[What Does Ebola Have to do with Flu? Engaging Faith Based Organizations in Community Outreach During a Public Health Emergency](#)." The webinar will discuss building and enhancing partnerships with community and faith-based organizations in preparedness and response efforts related to an infectious disease public health event. Registration is required.

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

*by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (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.

For more information please email [mapp@naccho.org](mailto:mapp@naccho.org) or go to the MAPP Network website by clicking on the MAPP logo.

## Kansas TRAIN Hosts Public Health Orientation for Student Nurses

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



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) Local Public Health Program has compiled a short list of suggested sources on [KS-TRAIN](#) which could be offered to [nursing students](#) during their rotation at local health departments. This training can be used in conjunction with the [Quick Start Guide to Public Health](#) which is located on the Local Public Health Program webpage.

## CDC Announces New Ebola Courses Posted to TRAIN

*by the Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE*



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 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. <http://www.cdc.gov/vhf/ebola/index.html>

[Guidance for Donning and Doffing Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) During Management of Patients with Ebola Virus Disease in U.S. Hospitals](#) Course ID #1054088

[Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever - Podcast 08/08/2014](#) Course ID #105268

[What U.S. Hospitals Need to Know to Prepare for Ebola Virus Disease](#) Course ID #1052628

[Fiebre hemorrágica del Ébola \(Ebola Hemorrhagic Fever\) - Podcast 08/20/2014](#) Course ID #1052862

[Ebola Update for Nurses Working in Schools and Early Childhood Settings--October 2014 \(Archived\)](#) Course ID #1053841

## Online Course Available - Modified Health Care Protocols for Hospitals During Disasters

*by the Preparedness Program, KDHE*

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment worked with a panel of experts to revise the existing modified health care protocols originally created in 2009 and most recently reviewed in 2013. University of Kansas Medical Center conducted live training across Kansas the summer and fall of 2014 on the modifications to the health care protocols. A recording from one of the live events has been posted to KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course ID # 1054103.

The goal of this online education opportunity is to raise awareness of Modified Health Care Protocols and ensure they are integrated into preparedness plans.

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 personnel, EMS directors and EMS medical directors, risk managers, pharmacists, and others in positions to respond to catastrophic events or major disease outbreaks.

Objectives- At the conclusion of this module, learners 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.

## NACCHO and CDC Host Free Webinar on Public Health Ethics

*by the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB)*

The [National Association of County and City Health Officials](#) (NACCHO) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will host a free webinar titled "A Master Class in Public Health Ethics" on Wednesday, Dec. 3, from Noon - 1:30 p.m. CT.

Given the array of stakeholders and issues dealt with by local health departments (LHDs), health officials and their staff must be ready to handle ethical dilemmas that arise in day-to-day practice. Ethical considerations underlie numerous aspects of public health practice, ranging from staffing decisions at LHDs to distribution of vaccines during pandemics to media strategies related to sensitive subjects such as obesity. The Public Health Accreditation Board's Standards and Measures Version 1.5 includes a requirement for a formal system for and record of ethical deliberation. Since 2010, NACCHO has partnered with the CDC Public Health Ethics Unit to provide public health ethics education and training for local health departments.

The webinar will highlight a set of recommendations designed to help LHDs build a formal infrastructure for addressing ethical issues. Registration is free, but space is limited. For more information and to register, [click here](#).

# 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 Dec. 23. To view minutes from the monthly calls click the KDHE logo.



## Visit CDC.gov for Flu Resources-National Influenza Week is Dec. 7 - 13

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) continues to develop flu vaccine materials and resources and provides national leadership on influenza surveillance. To find the most up-to-date information about flu surveillance, prevention, and treatment, visit CDC's [website](#).

## March of Dimes Unveils Prematurity Report Card

The March of Dimes recently unveiled its annual [Prematurity Report Card](#) for the nation. The national preterm birth rate is the lowest it has been in 17 years at 11.4 percent. Despite this commendable progress, the nation received a "C" overall since the United States still has one of the highest rates of preterm birth of any high resource country. On the 2014 report card, 27 states and Puerto Rico saw their preterm birth rates improve between 2012 and 2013. Additionally, four states (California, Nevada, New Hampshire, and Puerto Rico), will receive the March of Dimes Virginia Apgar Prematurity Campaign Leadership Award. This award recognizes states that have accepted and achieved the [ASTHO Healthy Babies Challenge](#) to reduce preterm birth rates by eight percent between 2009 and 2014.

## Partners Work to Improve Maternal and Child Health Outcomes



The Association of State and Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) is partnering with Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA's) Maternal and Child Health Bureau (MCHB) to improve health outcomes for mothers and children, including children and youth with special health care needs. ASTHO was recently awarded a cooperative agreement from the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal and Child Health Program that will focus on the following three objectives:

- Ensure continuity of coverage and care for pregnant women and children.
- Improve systems of care for children with special healthcare needs.
- Promote the use of Bright Futures Guidelines for all children.

ASTHO will also collaborate with MCHB's Enhancing the System of Services for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs through Systems Integration grant program. The program grant projects are led by 12 state public health agencies from Alaska, Colorado, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, Oregon, Rhode Island, Utah, Vermont, Washington and Wisconsin. For more information on the state programs for children with special health care needs, contact HRSA's [Kathy Watters](#).

## CMS Launches Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative



Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia M. Burwell announced the launch of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) [Transforming Clinical Practice Initiative](#). The initiative is designed to help clinicians achieve large-scale health transformation by encouraging doctors to team with their peers to move from volume-driven systems to value-based, patient-centered, coordinated healthcare services through a combination of incentives, tools, and information. This effort is projected to save \$1 billion to \$5 billion over four years and could prevent five million avoidable hospitalizations. CMS will award cooperative agreement funding to two network systems under this initiative: Practice Transformation Networks and Support and Alignment Networks. The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials developed a [summary](#) of the initiative and funding opportunity announcements.

### Influenza Portfolio Assists Community Preparedness



The Association of State & Territorial Health Officials (ASTHO) maintains an [influenza portfolio](#) of materials to assist state and local health departments and community partners in their seasonal influenza preparedness efforts. The reports offer guidance on how to build partnerships between public health and the faith community, information on how to boost influenza immunizations at work, and lessons learned from the 2009-2010 H1N1 pandemic influenza response. This is the first in a three-part series on influenza preparedness. The next discussion topic will center on healthcare provider resources regarding pregnant women.

### ASTHO Creates State Public Health Blog



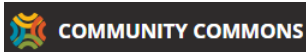
The Association of State & Territorial Health Official's new blog at StatePublicHealth.org is up and running. The latest feature is "[On the Front Lines: A Look at How States are Preparing for an Ebola Response](#)," which includes an interview with Rhode Island Department of Health Director Michael Fine. Rhode Island is home to one of the largest Liberian communities in the United States, creating unique outreach and education opportunities for Ebola preparedness. In addition to sharing how Rhode Island is mobilizing for possible Ebola cases, Fine provides four tips on how health departments can maximize their own preparedness. To accompany the blog article and further educate policymakers, news media, and other stakeholders, ASTHO has also published a news release, "[State and Territorial Health Departments Working Overtime to Prepare for Ebola](#)."

### AAP Increases Awareness of Adverse Childhood Experiences



The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recently released a resource for primary care providers to increase awareness of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their effects on health and well-being. Funded by the Health Resources and Service Administration's Maternal and Child Health Bureau, the [Trauma Tool Box for Primary Care](#) is a six-part series that helps pediatricians recognize and address ACEs or other traumatic events in their practices and provides handouts for parents that explain ACEs and offer tips for addressing challenging behaviors in children. Visit ASTHO's [Preventing Violence Against Children and Youth](#) webpage for more information on preventing ACEs.

### Tools to Integrate Equity into CHA's Highlighted in HHS Webinar



The Health and Human Service' National Partnership for Action to End Health Disparities recently held a webinar Tools to Integrate Equity into Community Health Needs Assessments, sponsored by the Association of State & Territorial Health Officials, the National Network of Public Health Institutes, and Community Action Partnership. The webinar highlighted two resources for conducting community health needs assessments with a health equity lens: the [America's Health Rankings Health Disparity Tool](#), which helps identify populations experiencing health disparities, and [Community Commons](#), which provides free access to geographic information systems data for topic areas across the domains of the social determinants of health.

## Job Openings

### Finney County Health Department

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

- [Staff Registered Nurse](#)
- [Record Clerk](#)
- [Advanced Practical Registered Nurse](#)



### Flint Hills Community Health Center

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

- [Behavioral Health Specialist \(Social Worker\)](#)
- [Family Medicine Doctor \(MD/DO\) or Nurse Practitioner \(APRN\)](#)
- [Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\) or Medical Assistant \(MAS\)](#)
- [Access Specialist](#)



### Johnson County Health and Environment

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

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



### Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department

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

- [Environmental Health Specialist](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



### Reno County Health Department

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

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



### Riley County Health Department

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

- [Healthy Start Home Visitor](#)
- [Public Health Nurse](#)



### Sedgwick County Health Department

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

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



### Shawnee County Health Agency

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

- [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 Julie Dillingham at [bchs@kdheks.gov](mailto:bchs@kdheks.gov)

Previous issues of Public Health Connections maybe found at

[http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public\\_health\\_connections.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/olrh/public_health_connections.htm)

Send your public health news to

Julie Dillingham at [jdillingham@kdheks.gov](mailto:jdillingham@kdheks.gov) or Debbie Nickels at [dnickels@kdheks.gov](mailto:dnickels@kdheks.gov)