

**ADMINISTRATION, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF**

**Moderator: Miranda Steele**  
**February 25, 2014**  
**11:00 a.m. CT**

Operator: Good morning. Good afternoon. My name is (Jennifer) and I will be your conference operator today. At this time I would like to welcome everyone to the monthly Population Health Call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. After the speaker's remarks, there will be a question and answer session. If you would like to ask a question during this time, simply press star then the number one on your telephone keypad. To withdraw your question, press the pound key. Thank you.

Miranda Steele, you may begin your conference.

Miranda Steele: Thank you (Jennifer). And good morning everyone calling in today. It is February 25th, and this is the February Statewide Population Health Call. As a reminder we do post the transcript from this call on the Office of Local Public Health Web site on KDHE's Web site. So they are posted about a week after the call takes place. If you want to go back and look for topics and announcements from previous calls, please do that.

This morning we have yet again another packed agenda with important topics to address with our public health system - and to kick things off we're going to have Secretary Robert Moser, who is also the state health officer, provide an overview of topics crossing his desk. And then our Policy Director, Nathan Bainbridge, will update you on the legislative activities, things that might impact you at the local level. And then Jane Shirley, the Center for Population Health Director as well as our local Public Health Director, will

follow with an update from her office. And then we're going to have a representative from the Office of Rural Health, Ashley Muninger and then Ginger Park from our Bureau of Health Promotion as well as Lori Boline from our Kansas Health and Environmental Laboratories to give an update on the new laboratory information management system.

And then before we get into the public health preparedness update from (Mindy Reece's) bureau, that's the Bureau of Community Health System, myself and (Amy Rosenow) will give you any update from the Communications Office. And I did leave out one person, I'm so sorry! Our state epidemiologist Charlie Hunt will also provide an update from his bureau.

So, with that, I'll turn things over to Dr. Moser.

Robert Moser: Thank you Miranda. Good morning folks, I appreciate you taking time to join us today for our follow up on Statewide Population Health Call. I wanted to just touch briefly on where things are as far as the legislature goes in our budget. We are on a two-year budget cycle and so there's not really a great deal that we put forward as far as any enhancement. However, on a couple of our subcommittees, they have added some additional funding to the primary care clinics and to the Tiny K Program. But of course all of it still has to go through the process, and for the most part, there are no major budget issues that we're faced with at this point in time.

I did want to give you a little bit of an update on some information you may have noticed in the newspapers in the last week or so. The Office of the Inspector General for HHS has proposed that Critical Access Hospitals revert back to the requirements for 35-mile distance separation or perhaps maybe as little as 15 miles has been proposed.

There's a lot of concern about that obviously - the required adherence to the 35-mile distance between Critical Access Hospitals could impact as many as 72 out of 83 hospitals we have in Kansas that are Critical Access Hospital and that would seriously impair access situations. And so a great concern obviously for our public health system.

There is also some activity from Senator Roberts - he has introduced a bill to lessen the requirement for providers to certify that a patient needs no less or no more than 96 hours hospitalization trying to eliminate that requirement is burdensome and sometimes you can't always predict what's going to happen down the road in Madison. And I know that Congressman Lynn Jenkins has also signed on to a bill to address the requirement that a provider has to be physically present when administering some outpatient procedures such as I.V. fluids or antibiotics and that adds an additional burden to many of our rural health care system.

So I think you'll be seeing more and more items around Critical Access Hospitals in the next few weeks to a month or so. So, stay tuned to that.

We had a great turnout yesterday at our Healthy Kansans 2020 event where we brought together stakeholders to continue developing our state health improvement plan. Many of you that have been working toward accreditation at the local level realize that this is one of the requirements we have as we move toward accreditation. Not only our strategic plan, our state health assessment, but now the state health improvement climbing a portion of that requirement and we're also continuing to work on quality improvement initially with – in KDHE in developing our final Q.I. plan, that will be the final fourth component of accreditation as we move forward.

I also wanted to talk just briefly a little bit about the "Get Active Kansas" program as many of you may know this is linked to our efforts in addressing obesity in Kansas. The Governor's Council on Fitness formed this initiative after a second or – excuse me, after our first obesity summit in 2012 with the goal of getting at least one physical activity champion identified in every county. I'm happy to report that we have over 70 counties that have identified a physical activity champion. And so there are several counties that have more than one and we certainly realize for it to be effective as we need to be, we need about 3,000 across the state. But we're really shooting to try to get one for every county.

And if you go to the Governor's Council on Fitness Web site and there's also a "Get Active Kansas" Web site, you can see which counties are participating.

If your county is not and you know somebody who's really active in your community as far as encouraging walking, Zumba classes and whatever it may be, consider recommending them for the physical activity champion in your community.

So, next week I'll be taking off the Washington D.C. for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officers meeting, where we'll have an opportunity to visit with a few folks there in Washington D.C. about some other policies, but – and we're also going to have the CDC folks available. So we'll have an opportunity to visit with Dr. Frieden on a couple of topics particularly around where they may be heading with funding programs of interest to Kansas.

So, perhaps by next month we'll have an opportunity to give you an update on a few of those activities.

So with that I'll turn it back to Miranda.

Miranda Steele: Great. Thanks – important information to follow. Now we'll go to Nathan Bainbridge.

Nathan Bainbridge: Yes. Thank you Miranda. Nathan Bainbridge here, Policy Director for KDHE. Just four bills to give a quick update on. The first is HB2552 which is the prompt pay legislation. This will allow many key providers in a state a lot more leverage with MCOs and there was also a Senate bill for this, but there's widespread support and it's going through forward through the legislation at this time. Additionally there was HB2613, this is a – this legislation will allow KDHE to issue certificates of birth resulting of stillbirth.

There's currently a Senate bill 259 and that deals with the child death review board. Currently a lot of the results of their investigations of the child deaths can greatly help researchers and ultimately prevention programs. This bill would allow more information to be released to researchers and others to try to disseminate the lessons of what's learned from these investigations.

Finally, there was HB2372, this is a bill KDHE was opposed to and it's essentially a bill that would have forced the local governments which have – chlorinated the public drinking water to issue notices that a dangerous

chemical...and some other phrases that would be very detrimental to our efforts to chlorinate water. Usually, bills which aren't popular will just die in committee. However, Representative (Crum) and his committee actually tabled the bill which is kind of a clear message that it was unwelcome in this committee.

That's all I have. Thank you.

Miranda Steele: Great. Thank you, Nathan. And now to our state epidemiologist Charlie Hunt.

Charlie Hunt: Thank you Miranda. Good morning everyone. I have just a few things for you this morning. I'll give a usual update on influenza first. Thankfully influenza activity in Kansas has steadily decreased over the past four weeks. We're still analyzing our data from last week, but during the week, February 15th, we are reporting local geographic spread to CDC and that's down significantly from the last time we talked. Just under 2.5 percent of visits to our ILINet providers was due to influenza-like illness that week.

The predominant strain in Kansas has continued to be the 2009 AH1N1 strain, the same virus that caused the 2009 influenza pandemic. Again, as of February 15th, 59 out of 120 specimens that were submitted to our state lab from – primarily from our ILINet providers were positive for the influenza AH1N1 strain and that compares I think to just two or three of the AH3 strains that were identified. So we're seeing influenza activity waning.

The next thing I'll talk about just very briefly is also good news dealing with EpiTrax. We're pleased to announce that Quest Diagnostics has gone into production for electronic laboratory reporting or ELR. Of course, Quest as you all know is a large laboratory – probably one of our largest submitters to get approximately 500 to 600 reports a month and less. And so having them submit their reports to us electronically will save us a lot in terms of the data entry and we'll also get the cases out to the local hospitals quicker. So we're glad to see that.

And then finally, I bet that you didn't know it but this week is National Bird Health Awareness Week. (A lot of laughter around). And this is important,

you know, as we're heading towards the spring and the warmer weather, as you know, cat, chicks, and ducks become very popular pets. But during 2013 many of you may recall that there was a large multi-state outbreak of Salmonella that were linked to baby chicks and ducklings and many of the cases were among young children.

Overall there are 400 cases from 39 states including 19 cases in Kansas. And of course baby poultry are not recommended for children under five years of age because of the Salmonella risk. This awareness week sponsored by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and there is a webinar – a free webinar this coming Thursday that they are putting on. The details about the webinar are available in our EpiUpdates newsletter for this month.

So I would encourage you to read that information at our state public health, Dr. Garrison put a very nice article <http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/download/newsletter/EpiUpdatesFebruary2014.pdf> together about this and of course we all braced this time of year because there have been outbreaks linked to baby chicks and ducklings over the last few years and we'd like to get the awareness out about this episode and hopefully prevent cases from occurring.

So with that I'll close. Thank you. Miranda.

Miranda Steele: Thanks Charlie. Charlie had mentioned the EpiUpdates newsletter– when it is posted to the KDHE Web site, we share that on social media as well through Facebook and Twitter. So, do check that out.

OK, I'll turn it over to Jane Shirley.

Jane Shirley: Thank you Miranda. I just have some calendar reminders. The first one is a very timely connection to the Healthy Kansans 2020 State Health Improvement Planning meeting that went on yesterday. We've mentioned this in the past, but I want to make sure you all are getting these on your calendar. We will be convening some regional meetings beginning the 24th of April in Chanute. Six of them around the state to discuss the State Health Improvement Plan Healthy Kansans 2020 and how that works to connect with

local community health assessment and improvement plans for the synergy that that work would produce across the state of Kansas and looking at some of the implementation efforts that the state is contemplating and again how those would impact communities and what their activities related to their improvement plans would be.

Registration is now available in K.S. Train for the Impacting Population Health 2014 regional meetings and that number is 104-93-39 and I encourage you to go on and find the site near you and register to attend.

We've also mentioned previously and you will begin to see more promotion for the event that we're planning on April 17th in Wichita that we're calling the Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project Summit, known in short KARP, just in case you hear it refer to that, our intent there will be to bring local health departments and others who are interested in public health accreditation together to discuss not the typical topics we've been addressing the prerequisites, but to begin to look deeply into the documentation of activities for the standards.

I'm happy to announce that David Stone from the National Public Health Accreditation Office will be joining us for the day. We're pretty excited about that. Dr. Moser will also be attending to give us some perspective from the state – for that viewpoint. And I encourage you all to go on and register for that summit. We'll be following that summit with a development of some working collaborative processes over the time and we'll also be sharing more information about how to join in to participate in the process of learning about uploading documentation and finding documentation, labeling it, et cetera, et cetera.

That course number on Kansas TRAIN to register for the Kansas Accreditation Readiness Project is number 104-86-95. And then I just want to remind everyone that registration is open for the 9th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference April 29th through May 1st in Wichita. Our conference theme is "Connecting the dots for Healthy Kansans" and we're pretty excited about the lineup of the session and I encourage you to again go on KS Train to register for that conference.

Thank you Miranda, that's all I have.

Miranda Steele: Thanks Jane. OK. Ashley Muninger from Office of Rural Health.

Ashley Muninger: Thanks Miranda. The State Office of Rural Health hosted a series of population health webinars over 2014. These webinars are designed to be no more than 30 minutes in length just to give you time to be able to participate over the lunch hour. And they're going to feature a different topic about – then try having at least every other month on different state specific programs and services that impact population health in the state.

The first webinar in the series is going to be held next week on Wednesday March 5th at 4:00, and during those webinar, participants – you're going to learn about these self management program which is an interactive, evidence-based program that was developed at Sanford University designed to help the participants learn and practice new skills, manage their chronic condition.

So basically the participant's effort to attend these workshop meet once a week for six weeks at a community-based workshop to discuss and problem solve various topics that are relevant to helping them cope with chronic condition. For example they'll learn techniques to deal with pain, appropriate exercises and use of medications, decision making, effective communication and many others.

So this program already has a really strong foundation in Kansas, but of course it's always in need for more trainings and workshops across the state. So this webinar will be a good opportunity to learn more about it and how you can implement it in your community.

So we'll send out a link to register for the webinar and provide the call in information after today's call. And if you're unable to attend we will also record it. And that's all I have.

Miranda Steele: OK. Thanks Ashley.

Ginger Park.

Ginger Park: All right. Thank you Miranda. I just want to mention a couple new BRFSS data report that have been posted online. One is tobacco in Kansas adults and the other is sexual violence in Kansas. These are both available on the BRFSS Web site and soon I will get them on Kansas Health Matters as well. And then I just wanted to give you a quick overview of yesterday's Healthy Kansans 2020 Meeting, as Dr. Moser mentioned it was very productive meeting. We had state and local decision makers, many public health leaders including many of you on the call and your representative, health payers and then of course state of public health professionals.

So at this meeting we discussed strategies for Healthy Kansans 2020, we then focused on determining specific activities to improve health. So we have lots of great ideas and discussion took place in the all-day meeting and at the end of the day key activities were voted on. So this information will be compiled and included in part of the state health improvement plan.

Miranda, that's all I have.

Miranda Steele: OK. Thanks Ginger. OK. So this time we'll hear from Lori Boline from our state lab.

(Lori Boline): Thank you Miranda. Good morning everyone. I just want to have a brief update on our laboratory information system, our LIMS, we've been live a little over two months now, we fixed most of the computer bugs that are giving us problems. We are seeing the daily improvement in all of the issues that have happened and still have an isolated amount of issues. We have tried to identify all of those.

If you believe that you're still having issues or we can help you in any way, go ahead and call the main lab number at 785-296-1620 or you can call me direct at – to 785-296-1646. And another issue that we've had, we did have to change our address and most of you have heard that so I'd like to clarify that we have changed our address but we are still in the same building, the same location.

The new address is 6810 South East Dwight Street, Topeka, Kansas 66620. Certainly we do have a lot of letterheads as shipping boxes with labels, UPS, FedEx, bill of lading out there. As soon as possible we are getting new labels for all of those if you have the ability or have the time to correct any of those address labels we'd certainly appreciate that. They would like us to start using the new address immediately.

Also one other thing at this time, we'd really like the new universal forms to be widespread in usage. So if you haven't received new universal forms please put an order in and we will get those shipped out immediately and you can destroy the old one, but not until you have received the new universal forms.

That's all I have.

Miranda Steele: Thanks (Lori). So if the – the old address to the lab that is still on the form to actually still continue to be delivered, it's just at some point we're going to have to make sure that everything displays the new address.

(Lorraine Baughman): Yes. The sooner the better. We'd like to have it all transitioned within a couple of months.

Miranda Steele: OK. And so there are points of contact at the hospital and at local health department and other public health stakeholders who regularly send specimens to the lab and those points of contact, would have received notice of the address change. But certainly follow after that.

All right. So, moving on into updates from the Communications Office, I just want to go ahead and say that it's not too early to start thinking about National Public Health Week which is the first full week in April. And this year's National Public Health Week theme is "Public Health Starts Here" and the American Public Health Association leads the charge on this observance every year and the Web site for National Public Health Week will show you all the different themes for each day of that week-long observance.

It's also good to know that the Kansas Public Health Association is working with the Governor's office to have a proclamation signing to observe National

Public Health Week in Kansas. And I know that they would love to hear from any of our local partners who are planning to observe National Public Health Week with different events or publications, anything like that.

So I would encourage you to think about the upcoming observance for National Public Health Week. Check out the National Public Health Week Web site on the American Public Health Association site, and let our Kansas Public Health Association know if you are doing anything to observe National Public Health Week. And you can find contact for the Kansas Public Health Association on their Web site at [kpha.us](http://kpha.us).

The other thing that I wanted to mention is the upcoming public health emergency preparedness communications training in Scott City which is scheduled for March 27th, that's from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and this is one of three trainings titled, "Managing Communications During Times of Crisis" and this a training you can register for – through the Kansas TRAIN Web site and at last count we had about 42 registrants for the training in Scott City and so that is very encouraging and we look forward to coming out there. So that'll be myself, (Amy Rosenow) who is the Public Information Officer for our Public Health Programs in addition to (Michael McNulty) from the Preparedness Program and he will be bringing (Fred) the preparedness (dog) out to demonstrate how we are able to reach out to families in Kansas and talk to them about being prepared for emergencies.

And (Mike) and his (dog Fred) will continue on into Western Kansas the rest of the week. I think they have something in Greeley County and – yes, they're in Tribune. So we are really looking forward to that.

The next PIO training as part of our public health emergency preparedness grant requirement will occur at the mid-year meeting Kansas Association of Local Health Department and that's in June in Wichita.

So, if you have any questions about that let me know. I will say if you are registering for the training in Scott City. We do have your e-mail address through Kansas TRAIN and what I'm going to do is send an e-mail to you

soon to make sure you don't have any diet restrictions, because we will be offering lunch that day.

So with that, Amy do you have anything else on communications? OK. So let's go ahead and – oh, and one more thing Dr. Moser would like to provide some more information before we move on to preparedness.

Robert Moser: Yes. Before we get to preparedness, I just wanted to alert the local health department and even a few of the health facility that you have a provider who's your county health officer. Since most counties after the new year tend to go through and assign, you know, through their local newspaper, bank and all those requirements, I wanted to send out a letter to all the county commissioners requesting they fill out a form that will be included in this. I'm going to send this not only by snail mail but also by e-mail, but I'll ask him to identify who their county health officer or city health officer is, name and address and contact information and if they have a medical consultant to also include that name, address, contact information.

Our purpose for that is to update our contact information here at the state so we can communicate with the county health officers, city health officers and medical consultants in a more timely manner. I've also found the large number of our local officers are not enrolled on the Kansas Health Information Network (KS-HAN), what we use to communicate to local health officials in times of emergency.

So we're going to reach out and try to increase the number of those that are utilizing the resource as we have available I think to make their jobs a little bit easier.

So if you hear about that from your county commissioner, that's what's going on. It's just really more to update our current listings. Thank you.

Miranda Steele: Right. Thanks Dr. Moser. And I will – OK, yes, before we go into Q&A, now I'll turn to Emily Farley from the Bureau of Community Health Systems.

Emily Farley: Hi everyone. We just have one update from preparedness and just to let you know that the FOA which is our grants guidance and application usually is set

to come out from CDC and HHS around March 1st, but we've been notified that it will possibly be the third week of March now. So the moment we receive the guidance we will send it out to you all to see what is in the works for preparedness and then you can start doing the aid to local things once we get all of our paper work in. So we'll give you more updates in our preparedness e-mail.

Miranda Steele: All right. Thanks Emily. OK. So let's turn over to the Operator, (Jennifer) and open the line for any questions that we have. And before we do take the first question is there any – Dr. Moser just has one more thing he wants to update on.

Robert Moser: Yes. Breaking news, sorry. We did want to also alert folks that there is a potential sterile saline shortage. So if hospitals, any facilities are having difficulty in obtaining any sterile saline solutions, please let preparedness know and we'll see what we can do to assist in that.

So I wanted to be sure just to draw your attention to that. You'll be seeing a little bit more about that hitting some of our alert networks.

Miranda Steele: Thanks Dr. Moser. Yes. So that's why I think these monthly calls that we have with our stakeholders are important because we do – want the information to be timely and something that is, you know, actionable at the local level. So with that, let's open the line for any questions.

Operator: At this time, if you wish to ask a question, please press star one on your telephone keypad. Again that is star one.

And you have a question from the line of Dianna Edwards.

Miranda Steele: Dianna.

(Laurie): Hi, it's actually (Laurie) right now.

Miranda Steele: OK.

(Laurie): Do we need to order these new labels for the lab address for our boxes or are they going to be sent to the health department?

(Lori Boline): We will try to get them sent out with the printers right now, but as soon as we get them we will start recording to all of our facilities.

(Laurie): OK. Thank you.

Miranda Steele: Great question.

Operator: Again if you wish to ask a question, please press star one or even to comment press star one. And I'm showing no further responses.

Miranda Steele: OK. Any other updates from the room here? Then – the next meeting is scheduled for March the 25th and it'll be at the same time, 10:00 and if you missed out on the e-mail that is send out to remind everyone of the conference I.D. for that month's call, that was listed on the Office of Local Public Health Web site at the KDHE Web site of course.

And if there are any questions after the call, never hesitate to reach out to any of us and we look forward to hearing from you next month. Thank you very much.

Operator: Thank you for joining today's conference. You may now disconnect.

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