

ADMINISTRATION, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF

Moderator: Miranda Steele
August 27, 2013
10:00 a.m. CT

Operator: Ladies and gentlemen thank you for standing by and welcome to the Monthly Public Health conference call.

All lines have been placed on mute to prevent any background noise. And after the speakers' remarks there will be a question and answer session. To ask a question during that time please press star and the number one on your telephone keypad. To withdraw your question press the pound key. Thank you.

I would now like to turn today's conference over to Miranda Steele at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Please go ahead.

Miranda Steele: Thank you (Susan). Good morning everyone and welcome to the August Kansas public health Stakeholder's call. Again we host these calls every month on the fourth Tuesday. Just to keep the line of communication open between the state level public health practitioners and our partners in the local health departments and hospitals and the schools and other members of our public health system.

So again welcome. Let me run through the agenda this morning and tell you who we're going to have on the call to provide updates. And once we get through each of the speakers we will have an opportunity for questions from anyone on the call. And the operator will be able to let you know what the prompts are for doing that for signifying that you have a question.

First, we're going to have our state epidemiologist Charlie Hunt to provide updates from his bureau which is bureau of epidemiology and public health informatics. Then we'll have Ginger Park representing the bureau of health promotion giving an update on the upcoming obesity summit. And then we will be introducing our new director for the center for performance management here at KDHE. And that will be Kate Watson and following Kate we'll have Jane Shirley from our office of local public health. And then I'll have several updates from the office of communications and the office of the secretary as Dr. Moser was unable to be on the call this morning.

So with that I will turn things over to our state epi - Charlie Hunt.

Charlie Hunt: Thank you Miranda and good morning everyone. I do have several things that I'd like to go over with you today. First of all I'd like to update you on some highlights from our healthcare associated infections program. As many of you know our healthcare associated infections program started back in 2010 and we've really been very successful with getting that program up and going. Our initial focus in that program was to actually build a surveillance system because we really weren't tracking healthcare associated infections on a statewide basis before that time. Since the programs started, up until now, we actually have 78 facilities that are enrolled in the National Healthcare Safety Network, which is a system that CDC utilizes and the states utilize to conduct healthcare associated infections surveillance.

This represents 96 percent of staffed beds in the state and 97 percent of our ICU beds. And so we feel very good about the progress that the program has made in terms of getting hospitals up and running on the system and contributing data to us. The plans are at this point to actually issue a statewide report on our surveillance data. We have done this by working with the Kansas Healthcare Associated Infections Advisory Group, which is made up of representatives from the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative and local chapter members of the Association for Professionals in Infection Control.

And really through that group it was recommended that we concentrate our surveillance on central line associated bloodstream infections, catheter-

associated urinary tract infections, *Clostridium difficile* infections and surgical site infections related to colon surgeries and abdominal hysterectomies. So we are planning to issue our first statewide report in September. Actually on September 26th, we'll release data from 2011 on two of those infections - the central line associated bloodstream infections and catheter associated urinary tract infections - at the Central Plains Expo. We will invite media to participate in that and we're very excited about this first release of the statewide report.

We are going to post the full report and a four page consumer friendly summary on our webpage and we'll be able to provide those details later to you. But we're very excited about releasing this information. Another important update from the healthcare associated infections program is the development of a MRSA or methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* toolkit.

Over the years we've actually worked with several of you at the local health departments on outbreaks of or concerns about MRSA infections, n organized sports in particular. So in anticipation of additional questions and concerns and the problem continuing, we've developed this toolkit which is now available on our Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Response webpage. And I believe some information was sent out to local health departments and others about that.

There's a link on the left-hand side of our page that has blue buttons near the bottom that's titled Prevention of MRSA and Organized Sports Toolkits. So again that's a great resource and we've gotten a lot of positive feedback about that and if you have questions please feel free to contact our office.

All right next I'd like to provide just a reminder really about our blood lead surveillance program. KDHE sent out a notice to local health departments a few weeks ago regarding blood lead surveillance.

Please be aware that we are asking local health departments to designate a person or a persons in their departments that will have, that will need access to, blood lead surveillance data in EpiTrax. We've not heard back from about

25 local health departments regarding this, so even if you don't intend to designate anyone it would be helpful for us to know that. So please, respond one way or the other. And I think it's also important to note that agreeing to access blood results in EpiTrax does not obligate you to any level of case investigation. We understand that the extent to which case investigation can be performed on blood leads of interest will depend a lot on your resources of the health department.

And we are facilitating case investigations by putting local health departments in contact with regional blood lead investigators and we're also working with Children's Mercy Hospital out of Kansas City. They have some resources to assist with blood lead case investigations. So again if you have not responded to that e-mail from a few weeks ago please take some time to do that.

Alright, next just some brief updates on EpiTrax. First, we have posted some training materials on KS-TRAIN related EpiTrax. And it's actually the EpiTrax training modules are now active in a training plan on KS training. The modules are designed to help users understand and navigate the EpiTrax system. The trainings are divided into 20 different modules that cover each tab within the EpiTrax system as well as some important functions such as creating alerts or modifying user settings.

We estimate that each course takes approximately 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Going forward all new users will actually be required to complete this training prior to being granted access to EpiTrax. And we're also recommending that existing users review the modules as needed as a training refresher. And again you can locate these training modules by logging on to KS-TRAIN and typing EpiTrax into the search field on the right hand side of the screen.

Another important update regarding EpiTrax is that we've published a user guide which is now available. The manual's actually available without accessing KS-TRAIN. It's available disease investigations page. And it's the first bullet item within the EpiTrax disease reporting system box on our main page. If you want to review the manual while reviewing the KS-TRAIN

training modules you can click on the resources link at the top of the training after you log in.

If you have any questions about this please contact Jodie Smith. Also she's open to suggestions for the training and any other questions you have about EpiTrax.

Next I'd like to talk very briefly about the public health emergency preparedness performance measures. In fiscal year 2012, KDHE initiated pilot performance measures for our preparedness cooperative agreement related to disease reporting and disease control. This is actually done again through requirements of the cooperative agreement with CDC.

These performance measures were limited to a small number of diseases and also limited to five randomly selected counties. We did track that information on a statewide basis as well but we did not do it on a county-specific basis. This year and, that is 2013 and '14, Kansas and all of the other states are expanding their measures to statewide. And we actually have opted to include additional diseases, as some of those CDC selected diseases occur too rarely to provide meaningful data.

So we will be tracking the performance measures not only at the state level but also at the county level and we are currently working on a way to disseminate this information back to you. So please be looking forward to a letter from us that will provide additional details about this.

And then finally I'd like to wish Virginia Barnes well. Friday is her last day with our bureau. She has accepted the position with the Bureau of Health Promotion working with cardiovascular disease and other kind of diseases. And many of you have worked very closely with her over the years and she's been a great resource for us and we wish her well in her new position.

In the meantime if you have questions about EpiTrax please contact Jodie Smith. And that's all for me. I'll turn it back over to Miranda.

Miranda Steele: Thank you Charlie. And next we're going to have Ginger Park from our bureau of health promotion.

Ginger Park: Thank you Miranda. I just want to give you all a little information about the upcoming obesity summit. The summit will be held on September 30th in Topeka from ten to two at the downtown Ramada. The main topic areas for this obesity summit will be making physical activity an integral and routine part of life, expanding the role of healthcare providers, insurers and employers and obesity prevention, making full the focal point for obesity prevention and transforming messages about physical activity.

The keynote speaker for this summit is (Ed Handon), Dr. Doug Gruenbacher who has a practice in Quinter and also founded the Castle Rock Wellness Center which provides the gym and fitness classes for this small community, so that should be a great keynote.

Through the end of the week we are still taking proposals for presentations. So if you're interested, if you have something you would like to share related to obesity and we would love to hear from you. If you would like to submit a proposal or if you have general questions about this summit, you can e-mail us at healthpromotions@kdheks.gov or call 7852913742.

And then to register for the conference you guys use SurveyMonkey.com/F/obesitysummitreg. And Miranda, do you send out callers' information that you could send this address?

Miranda Steele: Absolutely. We can provide the links – sooner than we will have the transcripts available online. So we'll make sure to get the registration links for what Ginger just provided on the Obesity Summit registration. In addition to the web links that Charlie Hunt included in his update in particular the MRSA toolkit for local health departments. So we'll provide links that we're announcing this morning much sooner than the transcripts will be available. So be on a lookout for those this afternoon at the earliest.

Miranda Steele: Thank you Ginger. OK.

We're very happy to introduce our new director for the center for performance management Kate Watson. Kate has been with the agency for a while and she just accepted the position to lead the center for performance management. Which, as you all well know, involves work toward the accreditation of the state health department and strategic planning efforts to include quality improvement. And I am going to let Kate talk a little bit about what she already has going on and looking forward to what's to come in the world of performance management. Kate.

Kate Watson: Thanks Miranda. Hello everybody, well this is day seven on the job. So I am working fast to get up to speed on all the accreditation processes. I have been meeting with all the domain leads here at KDHE and so I am learning more and more every day. We've got some executive trainings coming up and some more QI training later in the month. So we are working really quickly to get the accreditation process back on track. So if any of you have questions or comments for me I would be really open to speaking with anybody. So you can e-mail me at K, the letter, kwatson@kdheks.gov or you can give me a call at 7852961418.

So thanks Miranda I am going to turn it back over to you.

Miranda Steele: Thanks Kate and again welcome. OK so next we'll have Jane Shirley from our Office of Local Public Health to provide a couple of updates on where things are on the impacting population health initiative and some other items.

Jane Shirley: Thank you Miranda. I will mention that we have concluded the statewide road show on "Impacting Population Health" that began on June 11th in Topeka with the statewide summit and we concluded in Kansas City with the regional session on Monday August 19th, just a week ago. In total over 300 individuals were able to attend, one of those events; either the state summit or one of the seven regional listing sessions.

A shout out to Dr. Moser; he was quite a rock star for leading this effort and for attending each and every meeting.

We anticipate that a report will be compiled in the next few weeks that will be distributed widely. So be watching for that. And then I just wanted to be sure you've all realized the work on this topic is really just beginning. We have gathered a lot of wonderful evidence and a lot of wonderful ideas from the diverse set of partners that attended. And we will be looking to all of them and all of you to help us as we continue to address how this process can be affected in improved ways throughout Kansas.

The other item on my agenda is to mention again the Kansas Health Matters iPad contest. That contest is underway and will conclude on September 13th. Hopefully you'll realize one of the features of Kansas Health Matters is the posting of promising practices or evidence based public health practices. And in an effort to get more of these great Kansas practices posted, Kansas Health Matters is conducting this contest. Visit kansashealthmatters.org – all one word, kansashealthmatters.org, go to the Submit content tab, and complete the form for submission of your promising practice.

It's very straightforward. It's not terribly time consuming and we hope sincerely that many, many of you will take this opportunity both to participate in the iPad contest and also to disseminate your promising practice across the state of Kansas.

If you have any questions or need any assistance contact Sarah Hurd at the Kansas Health Institute and that phone number is 785 233 5443. All submissions will be entered in the drawing for the iPad even if that submission is not vetted through the Web sites for a nationwide promising practice. All of our Kansas practices will be entered in this drawing, and the winner will be announced at the Kansas Public Health Association Conference on September 18th and 19th in Wichita. You do not have to be present in order to win. So hopefully that will incentivize a lot of you to get those promising practices submitted.

And that's all I have. Thanks Miranda.

Miranda Steele: Thank you, Jane. OK. So from the Office of Communications what I am going to have for everyone this morning are just some calendar items, some

observances coming up. And what I would like to do is just make myself available for offering any resources on these topics that I am about to list.

So the first one is September as preparedness month. After this first list of speakers for today's itinerary, of course we're going to have our monthly preparedness update from the Bureau of Community Health Systems. So they might have more information about this.

But I did want to let everyone know that this Thursday there will be an announcement from the governor's office on September being designated as preparedness month. And (Dr. Moser), our secretary, in coordination of course with Kansas Division of Emergency Management, General Tafanelli will be a part of that announcement on Thursday. And so, that's preparedness month for, of course, all of next month. And then also in September, the week of September 8th through the 14th is designated as Suicide Prevention Week in Kansas.

Last Friday Governor Brownback signed a proclamation to that end, and the governor's behavioral health services planning council in coordination with the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services and as well as KDHE, we have several programs focused on suicide prevention and awareness.

Last Friday there was a proclamation signing for this observance and following that we went to Memorial Hall here in Downtown Topeka to discuss more about suicide prevention and awareness. So you may have seen the news coverage from that. There were several speakers not only from the services and provider sector but also from families who've lost loved ones to suicide to describe their experience. And to also talk about how they are now working to help prevent suicide.

The other thing for September coming up is Infant Mortality Awareness Month. I know that Mother and Child Health Coalition in Kansas City, Missouri has submitted a request for a proclamation on Infant Mortality Awareness Month in Kansas. And this is a good time to also remind everyone that on August 22nd last week we here at KDHE the Bureau of Epidemiology

and Public Health Informatics announced the 2012 statistics for infant mortality in Kansas. There is a research brief out on the Web site now that you can access if you haven't already been made aware of that.

Also from the same bureau comes our disease counts by county. Most of you are aware that every week KDHE posts on the homepage of the Web site case counts by county for all reportable diseases in Kansas. And I do remember before the call started the latest reports for this week being sent to the webmaster to be posted. So if it hasn't already been posted this morning sometime today the latest count will be out there in the Web site for the past week.

Next I wanted to give an update on the KanCare Section 1115 demonstration project. For the Section 1115 waiver, the three changes that we hope to take place come January 1st 2014 were submitted to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services on August 20th. So last month you might remember that I announced that we were having a public comment session on the demonstration project and the draft changes to the waiver.

Those were in fact submitted like I said on August 20th - the final version. And what the waiver amendment proposal is looking to do and receive approval from CMS is the following three changes. One is to provide coverage through our managed care organizations for the long term supports and services for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. And also establish three pilot programs to support employment and alternative to Medicaid. And then we want to change the timeline for DSRIP pool which is the delivery system reform incentive payment which involves some hospitals in Kansas.

There is not a deadline for a decision from CMS so we'll just keep you posted on when a decision has been made from the federal government. Another event coming up that you might be interested in is the Seventh Annual Built Environment and Outdoor Summit. This year's summit will take place September 25th and 26th in Topeka at the Ramada. We shared some information about this on our Facebook and Twitter accounts. So that again I will provide this link with the updates going out to all of you this afternoon

with all the other web links that we're going to provide from this morning. Again that's the Built Environment and Outdoor Summit.

And lastly I just want to remind everyone that the fall schedule for Public Health Grand Rounds is out. To stay up to date on everything, keep reading the Public Health Connections, KDHE's public health newsletter.

So with that, (Susan), I think we are ready to take questions from the audience.

Operator: Certainly ladies and gentlemen if you would like to ask an audio question at this time please press star and then number one on your telephone keypad. That's star one for audio questions.

We'll pause for just a moment to compile the Q&A roster. Again that's star one for audio questions and there are no audio questions at this time.

Miranda Steele: OK thank you at this time I'll turn it over to Jamie Hemler from our Bureau of Community Health Systems.

Jamie Hemler: Thanks Miranda. Good morning everyone. This will be extremely brief for all of you. We don't have too much excitement going on in our program at the moment. Emily is working on sending out volunteer data to the counties to review. So be on the lookout for that.

Emily, is that coming directly from your e-mail account? OK it will be coming directly from Emily Nickel rather than the preparedness e-mail account if you're looking for it. Also the risk assessments are done for the local health departments. We spent more time on the financial questions last week. Tabetha and I were doing a little bit more review to see what information was something that we could legitimately verify. So we did take a couple of questions out of that tab because we couldn't verify it and it probably didn't really have any measure until after BP2. And so there are going to be about two to three letters going out to local health departments either today or tomorrow. So that process is wrapped up.

Jamie Hemler: You guys have any other updates?

Jamie Hemler: OK. Well that – Dave’s got an update for you.

Dave: Yes just a couple of quick things that are going on. Zac and I will be headed to Wichita for the CRI meeting on October 18th. Hopefully get to meet some of you down there at that meeting. Also Fred the preparedness dog is going to be at the Kansas state fair for preparedness day on September 9th where we’ll be working in a booth alongside Kansas Division of Emergency Management, and promoting preparedness.

And we all know everybody comes to see Fred but Michael is going too so Michael’s going to get to go down with Fred and Emily too. So we couldn’t just send Fred and Emily, Michael is just like he wanted to go so we’re going to let him go but everybody likes Michael.

So also let’s see I also want to send out a big thank you again to Brett Starbuck and Leslie Campbell for enduring quite a long session with me and helping me to learn more about the public health role in disasters and ideas and what not. And for the rest of you just to kind of put you on notice I am going to be contacting a lot of you and wanting to sit down and talk with you as well. Because this is an area I want to speak with you about personally as many of you as I can get out to and talk to. So just to kind of know and if you’re worried about what it’s like talk to Brett or Leslie and hopefully you’ll still let me come out and talk to you.

So I just want to say a big thank you to those people for being the first ones for letting me come out and talk to. That’s all I got.

Jamie Hemler: OK. Michael reminded me of one other update. The Kansas Public Health Association conference that’s going to be going on soon, our project officer Anthony Davis from the CDC will be in attendance during that meeting. So a lot of you might be able to get to meet Anthony. I think that’s all we have for preparedness. So operator I’d like to open it up for questions if there’s anyone that has something for the preparedness program.

Operator: If you would like to ask an audio question at this time please press star and the number one on your telephone keypad. That's star one for audio questions and there are no audio questions at this time.

Miranda Steele: OK. Alright. Thank you. Again, the transcript for these monthly calls are posted on the KDHE Web site with the office of local public health. And this afternoon look for an e-mail from either myself or from Pat Behnke in our Office of Local Public Health with the web links for all of this information that is so timely. Hoping that you'll get registered or find out more information about what we've briefed this morning.

Operator: And excuse me, you did have an audio question come in.

Miranda Steele: OK. We'll take it at this time thanks.

Operator: You're welcome the question comes from the line of Coffey County.

Carl Lee: Hi Jamie this is Carl Lee. I was wondering – hey, have you been able to find out on the PIO meeting down at the KAC, in the called meeting in late October, what date they're going to have that session yet?

Jamie Hemler: I've been in contact with Melanie Lira and the last I heard she was working with the Kansas Association of Counties to get that date set up for October. So I don't think there are any dates set in stone yet but she should be getting that around here soon.

Carl Lee: Thank you.

Jamie Hemler: Yes and we'll let you know as soon as we have some dates for that and we'll send that out through our preparedness update as well.

Carl Lee: That would be great.

Miranda Steele: All right thanks for your question. The next public health call is scheduled for September 24th at 10:00 a.m. We'll send out the call-in information as a reminder with the agenda items and with that we're going to close the call for this morning we hope everyone has a great day.

Operator: Thank you for participating in today's conference you may now disconnect.

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