

## **KDHE Public Health Call August 28, 2012**

Barbara Hersh, KDHE Public Information Officer, welcomed all Local Health Departments and Hospitals.

Martha Froetschner talked about the Immunization Conference and Immunization Deputization.

You can begin ordering flu vaccine and VFC vaccine from the State Health Department. The Immunization Conference will be held Sept. 11–13. Arie Brown is one of the keynote speakers. The Pre Conference is on Sept. 11 and will include immunization updates and disease investigation.

The local health departments need to be deputized under a Federally Qualified Health Department or Rural Health Clinic. In 2004, local health departments were “delegated”. This is for immunizations for those that have insurance but might only cover certain amount or certain immunizations. Under the Vaccine for Children regulations, the CDC received notice from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid that there is a need to have a deputization agreement. Martha will have webinars on two separate days to answer questions:  
Sept. 4 noon and 5:30pm  
Sept. 5 noon and 5:30pm

There will be two days of seminars on Jan. 1, 2013.

Charlie Hunt, State Epidemiologist, discussed some ongoing disease surveillance:

- West Nile Virus – Updates on cases will be put on the KDHE website. Cases seem to be concentrated in Sedgwick County.
- Pertussis – We are continuing to see an increase in cases. To date, 330 total cases, 184 confirmed and 148 probable. Twelve counties are involved.
- Hepatitis C Investigation – For the latest updates, visit the KDHE website at [http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/hepatitisC\\_investigation.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/epi/hepatitisC_investigation.htm)

Jane Shirley, Local Health Program Director, provided information on the KHI Community Health Assessment Project, and the KansasHealthMatters.org Evaluation.

On Oct. 18, KDHE will host a QI in Kansas Public Health Training workshop at the Webster Conference Center in Salina. Look in the September edition of [Public Health Connections](#) for information on the workshop and registration through KS-TRAIN.

If you haven't received an e-mail regarding an evaluation of Kansas Health Matters, please go to the website at <http://www.Kansashealthmatters.org> and click on “Evaluate our Website” located under “Featured Content” on the right hand side of the page.

Miranda Steele, KDHE Communications Director, provided Media/Communications Updates.

Weekly disease reporting is currently sent to Barbara Hersh on Tuesday of each week by the Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics. We are working on a website that will have this information for you to access.

A second round of KanCare Educational Meetings has been set for late September. The new KanCare website, [www.kancare.ks.gov](http://www.kancare.ks.gov), will be launched soon. Go to the current KanCare web page (soon, the website) to find the meeting dates and locations. We understand that Local Health Departments are working through KALHD to get applicable details about the KanCare contracts and learn more about partnering with the three companies. KDHE welcomes calls/emails for anyone who has questions or needs clarification on KanCare.

The new online portal to allow Kansans to apply for Medicaid will be announced soon. The paper application is still available, but we hope that public health entities, clinics and advocacy groups will encourage the use of this online application for those seeking state medical assistance. This is made available through the Kansas Eligibility Enforcement System, KEES.

Sheryl Ervin, Local Environmental Protection Program Manager, presented information on Local Environmental Protection Plan

The Transition Plan was drafted in January of 2012 in anticipation of the loss of LEPP funding. The intent of the plan is to encourage county governments' continued support of the LEPP and for KDHE to clarify the services we will continue to provide or expand.

The Transition Plan encourages counties to maintain the programs they have built through the investment of local resources and service fees and training of knowledgeable and capable county personnel and reviews the benefits gained by counties that have adopted and are implementing sanitary codes. Among the most basic and significant benefits to residents of counties where codes are enforced are:

- protection of surface and groundwater resources , including private drinking water wells, (Private water wells are not regulated under the public drinking water regulations) resulting from the enforcement of minimum standards for on-site wastewater systems. For example, we have encountered situations where the private water well serving a home has been installed directly down gradient from the onsite wastewater system;
- protection of public health resulting from the prevention of the discharge of inadequately treated sewage into the environment. This includes situations where the home has a pipe straight from the toilet to a ditch or an improperly functioning system;
- services to ensure private water wells are sited and constructed in a manner that reduces the potential for contamination from pollutant sources and the screening of private well water for common contaminants (nitrate and fecal coli form);
- protection of property values for residences where on-site wastewater systems are shown to comply with local codes and minimum construction standards;
- local access to technical assistance and information about on-site wastewater systems and private wells.

KDHE will continue to offer the technical support and assistance for on-site wastewater and private well issues that it has been providing. This will not include inspection or complaint investigations which have been performed by county staff. Where counties are not able to continue implementing their county sanitary codes, as necessary and as resources allow, the Watershed Field Coordinators will provide guidance on the minimum state requirements for on-site wastewater systems established in KDHE's Bulletin 4-2.

Brandon Skidmore, Deputy Director for the Bureau of Health Promotion, provided details on the Obesity Summit

On Sept. 6, the Governor's Council on Fitness will host the Kansas Obesity Summit from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Ramada Inn in Topeka. Confirmed speakers include: Governor Sam Brownback and Dr. Bill Dietz, the former Director of CDC's Division of Physical Activity, Nutrition and Obesity. Following his presentation, Dr. Dietz will moderate a panel of cabinet officials including the Secretaries for Aging and Disability Services, Health and Environment, Transportation, and Wildlife, Parks and Tourism, as well as representatives from the Department of Education, the Deputy Secretary for Commerce and the Acting Commissioner of the Juvenile Justice Authority. They will address challenges and opportunities for addressing obesity prevention in their respective areas. This Summit provides a unique opportunity for our sector partners who are not typically at the table with public health to discuss and consider strategies to address obesity. We have capacity for about 200 participants and currently have over 100 registered. If you need additional information regarding registration or have questions about the Summit please email [healthpromotion@kdheks.gov](mailto:healthpromotion@kdheks.gov)

The next Public Health Call will be Sept. 25 at 10 a.m.