

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

Miranda Steele welcomed everyone to the call and passed along Dr. Moser's regrets for not being able to attend this call due to a speaking engagement. She reminded callers that questions can be sent to [MSteele@kdheks.gov](mailto:MSteele@kdheks.gov).

Deputy Secretary Aaron Dunkel presented a comprehensive summary of the State's FY2013 Budget as it pertains to public health programs, e.g. Tobacco Use Prevention, Newborn Screening, Health Occupational Credentialing, etc.

Senior Executive Policy Analyst Nathan Bainbridge provided an update on Legislative affairs. He said that KDHE appreciated the support from KALHD and other public health partners in standing with us in opposition to HB2094. He said we're working to ensure that Newborn Screening is funded and that we're busy presenting to the Legislature on KanCare.

State Epidemiologist Charlie Hunt said that we're looking forward to the March launch of EpiTrax and that everything seems to be on track as far as training and infrastructure.

Sara Roberts with the Office of Rural Health gave a rundown on the mini-grants for which her office is accepting applications. She said the grants will be announced in April.

Jane Shirley with the Office of Local Health updated callers on the agenda for the annual Public Health Conference in April and said that Dr. Moser is inviting the Medical Consultants and Local/County Health Officers to the session where CME credits will be available as well as a scholarship and stipend to offset some of the costs of the conference. We encourage your medical staff to attend. Jane reminded LDHs/Hospitals that the monthly Public Health Connections publication has a ton of great information and updates for Kansas public health officials. You can request to be on the email distribution or it can be found online.

Miranda Steele asked that callers save the date for this year's Immunization Conference – The 2012 Immunization Conference is September 11-13 at Hilton Wichita Airport. She also passed along a note from the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention: Kansas HIV-AIDS Program Director Sandra Springer 's last day at KDHE will be Wednesday, March 14th, as she has accepted a new position at the Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County. Miranda relayed this message from Aiko Allen with the Center for Health Equity: Re: Voices for Equity contest - KDHE is still issuing a call for entries for the Voices for Health Equity project. Our Center for Health Equity wants to hear how organizations are working to achieve equity in health among groups of people living in Kansas communities... through photo stories. Submissions may come from health departments, federally-qualified health centers, tribal health and Indian Health Service clinics, partnering organizations, and community coalitions in Kansas. The three main objectives for this project are: Create awareness of the factors which influence equity and the health of Kansans; Engage a diverse mixture of Kansans and provide

a platform for their voices to be heard; and Start a conversation about the ways we can make Kansas a healthier place for everyone. Deadline for submissions is March 1, 2012. Five winning stories will be made into Digital Stories, presented across the state and online. Winners will receive \$200 each for participating. Visit [www.healthequityks.org](http://www.healthequityks.org) to complete the application.

Miranda announced that Kansas Environmental Health now has its own Facebook Page – Let them know what you want to see!

Next Public Health Call is March 27 at 10 a.m.