

KDHE Public Health Call January 24, 2012

Miranda Steele, KDHE Communications Director, welcomed all Local Health Departments and Hospitals to the call and explained the format for callers submitting questions through email during the call. She said this call is intended to be a monthly catch-up and a timely broadcast of statewide public health matters. Kansas public health officials haven't had regular calls like this since 2009.

KDHE Secretary and State Health Office Dr. Robert Moser provided a recap of 2011, esp. the merger of KHPA with KDHE, creating the Division of Health Care Finance. Dr. Moser described how our plan to implement KanCare will help the Medicaid program better serve our health care system. He discussed the 2012 legislative items KDHE will be monitoring (e.g. HB2094), and then gave an update on the plan for Medicaid reforms, explaining that the Executive Reorganization Order for health and human services agencies currently doesn't call for KDHE's children & families programs to move to SRS. Looking at the ERO, the only programs moving out of KDHE involve health occupational credentialing. The following HOC programs are slated to move to a new agency to be named Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services:

- Adult Care Home Administrator licensure
- Dietician licensure
- Certified Nurse Aides
- Certified Home Health Aides
- Certified Medication Aides
- Nurse Aide Registry
- Criminal history record check program
- Certified Residential Care Facility Operators
- Certified Activity Directors
- Certified Social Service designees

Charlie Hunt, State Epidemiologist, brought everyone up to speed on the measles cases in Finney County.

Jane Shirley, Local Health Program Director, provided an overview of the planned agenda and registration for the Governor's Public Health Conference, which is scheduled for April 23-25, as well as the need for health officers and medical consultants to register for the CME portion. She also discussed Accreditation initiatives – Two projects are under development to assist with Community Health Assessments: the first will investigate the best approaches for conducting these assessments and improvement plans and the second project will provide local training and technical assistance.

Miranda reminded everyone of our Kansas Health Matters a website www.kansashealthmatters.org and of KDHE's social media activity on Facebook and Twitter.

The plan is to have these calls on the 4th Tuesday of each month, except the month of April due to the Public Health Conference.