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SAVE THE DATE:

***Kansas Public
Health:
Promoting
Healthy Minds
& Bodies***

68th Annual Fall
KPHA Conference
September 21-22,
2011, Hyatt Regency
Hotel Wichita, KS.



President's
Column

**KPHA
President**

**Heather
Henke**

March
2011

President's Message

Public Health in Kansas keeps growing and going. KPHA has faced many challenges last year in 2010 and we know we will again this year in 2011. We have watched member agencies face significant budget cuts while the need for public health services continues to rise. Everyone in public health is being asked to do more with less, and KPHA as well. We had to cut back our full time Executive Director to three quarter time, so if you call the office on Fridays and first thing Monday mornings, you will most likely get the answering machine. This also means, we need more members to step up and become active. As the only "trade" association for public health in Kansas, we can only grow through membership's efforts.

We had a great 2011 Health Day at the Capitol this month, thanks to Past President, Sonja Armbruster, 2011 Health Day Chair. Check out the photos on our website in the Photo Gallery at www.kpha.us. Thanks, to everyone who made the effort and walked the halls!

2011 looks to be a very busy year. We already have had the new Secretary of Health and Environment, Dr. Robert

Moser attend one of our monthly Board meetings! And, he is very supportive of KPHA.

We are preparing for a well attended annual fall conference in September. We will again sponsor "Read to a Preschooler in November."

And, we are now in the midst of helping to sponsor the Governor's Public Health Conference! Be sure to register if you haven't already at:

<http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=conted&p=/PublicHealth> .

We are also preparing for NPHW in Kansas in 2011. Our Co-Chairs this year are Lori Haskett and Cherie Sage with KDHE. The theme is **Safety is No Accident, Live Injury Free**. So, if you work in public health in the area of safety and you are interested in helping, let them know. We are also in the midst of the 2011 Legislative Session and our Health Policy Chair, Dr. Marvin Stottlemire has been testifying on bills!

We know there will be many opportunities for you to volunteer for KPHA to make our organization stronger so get ready to answer the call for help. We look to the future with excitement for increased membership and organizational growth. More importantly, we look forward to continuing to make a significant positive impact on our members and the public health system in Kansas.

So we need your help and hope all our members have a "Willingness to Serve" attitude in 2011.

I look forward to seeing many of you in April in Wichita at the Governor's Public Health Conference.

Thanks for your support!

Heather Henke, KPHA President
Director, Barber County Health
Department

**KPHA
Executive
Director
Column
by Elaine
Schwartz**



My new mantra is “Inhale, Exhale, and Breathe in Life”. The past 3 months have given me a new reason to sing, after having two major surgeries and being in the hospital for almost two weeks in October, and an additional three weeks in January and February.

When I was taken by ambulance to the hospital in January all the way there I thought about Heather, our KPHA President and her telling me she had finished EMS training. I was thinking how lucky we are as humans to have people who want to respond to emergencies and those who take care of us when we feel that we are on the doorstep of our own demise.

I had a foot and a half of my intestines removed in the two surgeries, but, all is healing well, if I watch what I eat. After not having any food by mouth for 20 days, I lost almost 30 pounds, but, the upside is I lowered my cholesterol and blood pressure! During a long illness, one reflects on what is really important: good health, loved ones, and good friends. I want to thank many of you who expressed support and prayers during that time. I truly believe they made me stronger every day.

Thank goodness for six years of almost all unused sick leave. And, what I thought might be a curse at the beginning of the year has become a blessing. As noted in Heather’s message, I am working three quarter time, now, so I have been able to rest and renew my strength even more.

But, with reduced hours and catching up on being out of the office, things got sidetracked or postponed. And a few things even had to be cancelled. This past quarter I had to miss my second monthly KPHA Board meeting in almost seven years. The Board picked up the slack and has been truly busy. Read the minutes of the Board meetings by visiting www.kpha.us and click on the link.

Since returning to work I helped with Health Day at the Capitol on March 25th, check out the pictures at: <http://www.kpha.camp8.org/photogallery>. I have also been on the APHA Committee on Affiliate quarterly meeting calls, helped with the Region VII meeting in Kansas City next month, and I met with the new Secretary of Health and Environment. I have added an article about Dr. Robert Moser and hope you find him as I did, as an expert and excellent choice for the position.

In closing, KPHA members, PLEASE, PLEASE get involved with your association. I used to tell voters that it was their duty to vote when I was a Legislator, and now as an Association manager, I want to tell members that it is your duty to get involved. As the theme picked for Health Day stated—public health is not a spectator sport. Have a terrific spring!!

Elaine Schwartz, KPHA Executive Director



Dr. Robert Moser

**Former Tribune
physician
appointed head of
KDHE.**

Moser's credentials are regional, state and national. He practiced medicine for 22 years in Greeley County. He was the Greeley County Health officer for nine years, medical director of Greeley County Emergency Medical Services and had been the director of rural health and outreach at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita for only a few months when his state appointment was announced.

Moser's life experiences include civic involvement, as well as medical. He was Kansas Academy of Family Physicians' Physician of the Year in 2006. The next year, he received the Medical Director Award of the Kansas Emergency Medical Technicians Association. Dr. Moser is a past president of Kansas Association of Family Physicians, (KAFFP), a past Family Physician of the Year, KAFP's Senior Delegate to the AAFP and a KAFP Board member. He was also an AAFP director candidate prior to accepting his appointment as KDHE Secretary.

Before Dr. Moser was appointed as KDHE Secretary he was named the director of rural health and outreach at the University of Kansas he had practiced in Tribune, Kan. since 1988, building what started as a two-physician practice in a county-owned clinic into one of the first rural System's to be named a National Center of Excellence in Women's Health by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. Moser expressed to the KPHA Board and Staff his support for KPHA and agrees it is important for the association to represent all of public health across Kansas. We are ecstatic that his encouragement continues to show we are the collective one voice for public health in Kansas

Meet your 2011 KPHA Board!

At the 2010 KPHA Annual Meeting, the 2011 KPHA Board was elected. The 2011 Board officially took over at the January Board meeting.



Heather Henke

KPHA

President

Heather Henke, KPHA President, is the Administrator of the Barber County Health Department and the mother of four daughters and a wife to a wonderful supportive husband. She is practicing public health administration in the community in which she was raised. She sees population based health care as a way to touch the lives of the Kansans that she has grown to love. She began her health care profession as a nursing assistant in high school. She has provided direct patient care as well as population based care in many settings as an aide, an LPN, a registered nurse and public health department administrator. Heather has a passion for the programs she directs. Chronic Disease Risk Reduction and Tobacco Use prevention, Maternal Child Health, WIC, Immunizations, Family Planning Breastfeeding support, Oral Health improvement, and all Hazards preparedness are a few of the programs Heather directs and implements. Heather is a member of KALHD, KPHA, APHA, La Leche League and NACCHO. She looks forward to continuing to serve the awesome people of Kansas by striving to ensure the highest quality health care services are available to the public. Heather has served as a Section Chair 2 terms, as Director at Large for one term, and President Elect in 2010.



Tanya Honderick

KPHA

Secretary

Secretary Tanya Honderick is Assistant Director of the KU-Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Clinical Research programs. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S.N. in 1996 and with a joint M.S. in Nursing/M.P.H. in 2003. Her clinical experience spans a decade in public health, with her particular interest being maternal and child health. She has worked in well child, WIC, family planning, and prenatal clinics in both the Reno County and Johnson County Health departments. She also has experience as a medical-surgical/oncology nurse in the hospital

setting and in clinical management in the home health setting. Honors include traveling to China in 2006 with People to People International as a Community Health Nurse Delegate, and completion of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute in 2008. In November 2009 she presented a poster at the APHA national conference in Philadelphia for research addressing pregnancy outcomes for diabetic clients in the High Risk Prenatal Program at the Johnson County Health Department.



Dr. David Cook

KPHA

Treasurer

David Cook, PhD is an Associate Professor in Health Policy & Management in the School of Medicine. Teaching and research interests primarily focus on the health of underserved populations, including health technology applications, workforce development, emergency preparedness and health communication. David also is the Associate Director of the Institute of Community and Public Health. The institute is charged with developing a School of Public Health for the state of Kansas and identifying strategies for linking higher education resources more effectively with the public health practice community. In addition, he serves as the Executive Director of the Midwest Cancer Alliance at The University of Kansas Cancer Center and as the Associate Vice Chancellor for Outreach at The University of Kansas Medical Center. The Midwest Cancer Alliance is a membership-based cancer networking, professional education, and clinical trials organization serving Kansas and western Missouri, administered by the University of Kansas Cancer Center.



Eldonna Chesnut

KPHA

APHA/ARGC

Eldonna Chesnut is immediate past president of KPHA. This year she was selected to serve as Affiliate Representative to APHA Governing Council (ARGC). She is an APHA member, MCH section member, and attended the APHA annual conference in 08, 09, and 10. She also attended the APHA President-Elect meeting and ACBI capacity training. She is past KPHA section chair, Conference Committee chair, Orientation Manual Project committee member, and past Membership Chair. She has been actively involved in the Joint KPHA/APHA membership project now, in its third year.

Over the past year she met regularly with KDHE Secretary and the Public Health Systems group for the betterment of KPHA. During her presidential year she started bi-monthly conference calls between the leadership of KPHA, KALHD, and KEHA. Eldonna is employed by Johnson County Kansas Health Department as Division Director of Adult and Child Care Facilities. Eldonna's on-going initiative – *Elder Smiles* provides onsite oral health services for the elderly residing in long term care facilities in Johnson County. The childcare part of her division is responsible for all childcare licensing work in Johnson County including Lexi's law implementation.

She participates in many committees with in the health department and county. Eldonna has worked in a variety of settings before public health; these include hospitals, clinics, home health, long-term care, and proprietary schools. Except for the academic setting, her focus has always been children and/or the elderly. While working on her bachelor's degree in nursing she was active in state and national student nurses associations as well as Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. Upon graduation she started working as an obstetrical nurse. Showing an early interest in management and leadership, she returned to school to pursue a degree in health care administration. Once into the program, she shifted her focus from general health care administration to nursing administration. She graduated at the top of her class with a Masters in Nursing Administration. Upon joining the Health Department she was selected to attend Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and successfully completed achieving Fellow status.



Dr. Ellen Averett
KPHA
Director At Large

Director at Large, Dr. Ellen Averett, received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Duke University in 1984 and a Master of Health Services Administration from the University Of Kansas School of Medicine in 1999. Prior to joining the Health Policy and Management faculty in 2004, Dr. Averett was engaged in consulting and clinical practice and supervision. As a provider in our health care system, she has practiced in a number of settings including private practice, a managed care group model HMO, state and private psychiatric and medical hospitals, and a university counseling center. In the Department of Health Policy and Management, Dr. Averett teaches the U.S. Health Care System, Health Services Research, Health and Social Behavior, and Ethics. Dr. Averett's consulting and research interests include health communications, public health education and disease

prevention, health-related behavioral change, training long-term care workers in communication and leadership skills, quality improvement methods in health care organizations and public health systems. Recent publications of hers appear in the CDC's *Emerging Infectious Diseases* and in the *American Journal of Health Behavior*. Her professional and community service includes being a board member and chair of the Research and Evaluation section of the Kansas Public Health Association; a board member of the Menorah Legacy Foundation; chair of the Ethics Faculty Network of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration; a member of the University of Kansas Hospital Ethics Committee, a former examiner with the Kansas Award for Excellence and a member of the American Society for Quality.



Dr. Ruth Wetta-Hall
KPHA
Director At Large

Director at Large, Ruth Wetta-Hall, is an Assistant Professor and Interim Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, and the Director of the REACH (Research and Evaluation Associates in Community and Clinical Health) Center at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. She is a registered nurse holding master degrees in nursing administration and public health, and a Ph.D. in Community Psychology. She teaches courses in public health administration, program evaluation and performance improvement in the KUSM-W MPH program. Ruth has 15 years of clinical experience in emergency and intensive care nursing, and more than five years of experience in performance improvement and Outcomes Research in the acute care setting. Transitioning to the community setting in 1997, Ruth has served as the Coordinator of the Sedgwick County Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP), and as a board member of several community-based agencies. Her most recent research includes health services research and evaluation of health care access in uninsured populations and teen sexual health. Ruth was a member of the 2002 class of Leadership Kansas, the Kansas Health Foundation Community Leadership Initiative, and the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute. This is Ruth's fourth year of KHPA Board service. She conducts and compiles the annual KPHA membership survey which is implemented electronically at the Conference and also by email to those members unable to attend the Conference. She additionally writes a comprehensive report which is included on the website.



Dr. Mark Thompson
KPHA
Director At Large

Director at Large, Mark Thompson, is the Project Director for Kansas Coordinated School Health (KCSH) for the Kansas Department of Education. KCSH provides funding, professional development, policy and practice direction, and technical assistance to K-12 schools in Kansas to improve school health. KCSH focuses primarily on addressing physical activity, nutrition, tobacco use prevention, and staff wellness. In addition to co-directing KCSH, Mark oversees the bi-annual administration of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for Kansas. Mark received his Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Kansas State University and Master's and PhD in Education from the University of Kansas. Mark assumed the position with KCSH in 2006 after sixteen years as a university faculty member in Texas and at the University of Kansas. Mark has also served as the facilitator for the Douglas County Community Health Improvement Project's (CHIP) Special Committee on Tobacco Prevention since 2005.

ANCC certified in Nursing Administration at the advanced level. Professional memberships include the National Public Health Leadership Society, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, American Public Health Association (APHA), American Nurses Association, Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (ASTDN), and Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA). She has served on the Board of Directors of ASTDN, KPHA, and KSNA. She is a past president of ASTDN and KPHA. Ms. Orr was recognized as the 2009 WSU School of Nursing Distinguished Alumnus and was the 2004 recipient of the Samuel Crumbine Medal from the Kansas Public Health Association. She is presently an RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow.



Becky Tuttle
KPHA
Community Health Section Chair

Becky Pattison Tuttle has over fifteen years of professional experience working with youth and adult coalitions on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and intervention and promotion of physical activity and nutrition. The majority of the experience has occurred tobacco control, specializing in serving youth and diverse populations. Ms. Tuttle is currently serving as the Health Promotions Coordinator for the Sedgwick County Health Department. Her main responsibilities include collaborating with community and state partners towards common goals of improving health of the public through health education initiatives and coordinating program planning and services with other community and state agencies. Based on identified needs of the agency and communities, Ms. Tuttle develops new or strengthens existing health education and health promotion programs (research, assessment, program framework development, implementation, evaluation). Ms. Tuttle also ensures accountability for staff and program performance and for the effectiveness and efficiency of all health education directed programs (e.g. tobacco, HIV/AIDS risk reduction, oral health, hand washing, worksite wellness, physical activity, and nutrition). Ms. Tuttle is a Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute Scholar and has served on many state and national conference planning committees. Tobacco cessation training includes Freedom From Smoking, Fresh Start, Mayo Clinic, TAP and TEG. Her career highlights include numerous local, regional, state, and national awards, including serving as the Coordinator for Tobacco Free Youth Initiative in Indianapolis, Indiana, which received the 2001 American Public Health Association-Glaxco Smith Kline Partnership for Healthy Children Award.



Shirley Orr
KPHA
Administrative Health Section Chair

Shirley Orr serves as the Director of Health Protection and Promotion for the Sedgwick County Health Department. She served the past 20 years with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. For the past nine years she served as KDHE's Director of Local Health Services, leading local health department support functions within the state health department, including technical assistance/consultation to local health departments and monitoring, evaluation and support of local agency programming and administration. She was also responsible for aid-to-local grants to local health departments and community-based organizations, totaling approximately \$20 million. She provided oversight of public health workforce development and training programs and served as agency liaison to state and regional academic institutions, and the Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and an instructor for the Wichita State University (WSU) School of Nursing. Ms. Orr received BSN and MHS degrees from Wichita State University, and is a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute. She is

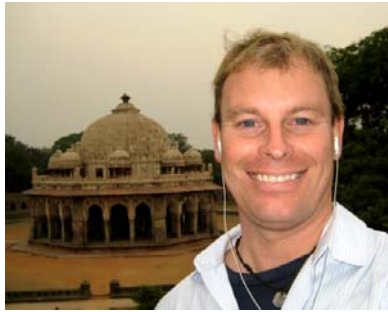


Rebecca Brown

KPHA

**Elder Issues
Section Chair**

Rebecca Brown is the Kansas Liaison for the National Network of Libraries of Medicine (NNLM), Mid-Continental Region. The NNLM is the outreach arm of the National Library of Medicine (NLM), which is one of the National Institutes of Health. Rebecca works with health information providers of all kinds to promote the freely available resources of the NLM. Rebecca has been at the A.R. Dykes Library of Health Sciences at the University of Kansas Medical Center since 2005, and began her position with the National Network in January 2007. Rebecca completed her Master's degree in Library Science from Texas Woman's University in 2006.



John Kephart

KPHA

**Infectious
Disease
Section Chair**

Infectious Disease Section Chair, John W. Kephart, MSPH, is a Surveillance Epidemiologist for the Sedgwick County Health Department. He specializes in syndromic surveillance of infectious and communicable diseases and conducts disease investigations with a special focus on school health related issues.

Mr. Kephart also conducts health education and awareness for diseases such as Hepatitis B/C, MRSA, and other emerging infectious diseases. Before coming to the Sedgwick County Health Department in 2009, Mr. Kephart worked for many years in California's San Francisco Bay Area. His work focused primarily in the areas of occupational, environmental, and international health.

Among other things, Mr. Kephart has conducted research on the early onset of Parkinson's Disease in workers exposed to welding fumes, and on the international side, Mr. Kephart spent time in India working on lead safety and prevention programs for lead battery manufacturing workers and their families, as well as the prevention of silica dust exposure to workers in the stone crushing industry.



Michele Peterson

KPHA

**Emergency
Preparedness
Section Chair**

Preparedness Section Chair, Michelle Peterson, is the Strategic National Stockpile Coordinator in the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In her current role, she is responsible for developing state guidance for mass prophylaxis dispensing emergency planning and providing state-local liaison preparedness activities with 100 local health departments related to developed guidance. Michelle is also responsible for management of the KDHE state cache of medical materials and pharmaceuticals for health and medical emergencies and state-federal liaison activities with CDC OPHPR Division of Strategic National Stockpile through the public health emergency preparedness grant and during response to a health and medical emergency. Michelle's passion for public health research started at Washburn University where she received her BS in Biology with minors in Chemistry and Physics, conducted undergraduate research on the DNA replication of Naegleria, (an amoeba commonly found in warm freshwater), and dedicated her senior research to study the bioterrorism threat of *Clostridium botulinum*. Her public health career began in 2007 as a medical investigator and emergency planner for the Western Pyramid Region serving eight county health departments in Kansas. Michelle is a graduate of the Core Public Health Program and a member of KPHA, NACCHO, the American Chemical Society, and the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Michelle has also dedicated time in education as a Chemistry and Biology instructor and through pursuing doctorate level coursework. Michelle's husband, Msgr Mark Peterson, serves with the 190th Air National Guard Security Forces Squadron and is currently deployed on his third mission in Afghanistan.



Shauna Nelson

KPHA

**Environmental Health
Section Chair**

Aqualia L. Nelson, MS, REHS/RS has a new job. She works at the Munson Army Health Center in Fort

Leavenworth, Kansas. Aqualia (Shauna) was an Environmental Health Specialist at Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED) in Olathe, Kansas. She worked as a food inspector. Her duties involved protecting the public from unsafe food handling practices that may result in food-borne illnesses. Shauna is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and has been involved in food safety for 8 years now. Prior to working for Johnson County, she worked as a food inspector for the City of Wichita for four years. She graduated from Texas State University with degrees in biology and chemistry. Shauna has also received dual Masters Degrees in Management and Business. Her interests include event planning, decorating, and shopping.



Jamie Katz
KPHA
Tobacco, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Section Chair

Tobacco, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Section Chair, Jamie Katz is a Prevention Coordinator with the Regional Prevention Center of Johnson, Leavenworth, and Miami Counties, where she works on all levels to prevent substance abuse and its negative consequences. This includes community mobilization, coalition development, strategic planning, team building, multi-sector collaboration, grant writing, consultation and technical assistance, training and educational presentations, social marketing, legislative and media advocacy, program development and implementation, survey design, data collection, youth empowerment, research and evaluation. She continues to focus on empowering communities to create healthy environments for citizens to live, learn, and grow. Jamie currently serves on several community coalitions and is involved in multiple Kansas City metro-wide initiatives in addition to KPHA – including Metropolitan Healthy Communities Coalition/Clean Air Kansas City initiative, Miami County Connect Kansas Coalition, and Coalition Against Substance Abuse in Miami County. Previously she was a research assistant at Indiana University. Jamie has additional experience through the MPH program at KU, completing a 600 hour practicum at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, Department of Psychology, MOTIV8 Laboratory, studying medication adherence in HIV+ individuals. In addition to her research background, she has extensive experience working with diverse populations, especially those with special needs, in a variety of settings. Jamie is a nationally certified prevention professional. She holds a Master's degree in public health from University of Kansas Medical Center and a Bachelor's degree in psychology and Jewish Studies from Indiana University - graduating Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and With Honors in psychology.



Dr. Theresa Shireman
KPHA
Research and Evaluation Section Chair

Research and Evaluation Section Chair, Dr. Theresa Shireman is an Associate Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center with joint appointments in the Departments of Preventive Medicine and Public Health and Health Policy and Management. She is a health services researcher who specializes in pharmacoconomics and pharmacoepidemiology and who has extensive experience in working with administrative claims data. Much of her work involves analyses of Medicaid and Medicare claims and ranges from quantifying patterns of medication use to program or treatment evaluation. While her work has covered a wide range of medical topics (for example, mental health, otitis media, asthma, osteoporosis), a central core has been cardiovascular health with a recent focus on cardiac medication use and outcomes in dialysis patients. She was awarded an R01 from NIDDK (DK080111) to study the effectiveness of cardio protective medications in ESRD, a project whereby she is linking three national data sets. In addition to large data analyses, Dr. Shireman also provides critical health care cost modeling techniques, namely cost- effectiveness analysis, for a variety of public health interventions including smoking cessation and interventions to improve blood pressure management in the community. Dr. Shireman's expertise is shared with students through three graduate courses taught on the KUMC campus: pharmacoepidemiology (PRVM 811), management of public health data (PRVM 875), and cost-effectiveness and decision analysis (PRVM 878/HP&M872).



Dr. Marvin Stottlemire
KPHA
Health Policy Section Chair

Policy Section Chair, Marvin Stottlemire has earned a BA in political science from the University of Oregon; a MA and PhD in political science from Rice University; and, a JD from the University Of Kansas School Of Law. He taught political science at Louisiana State University in Shreveport and was the Assistant Director of the University of Kansas Public Management Center.

He is currently Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center, KUMC-Health Policy and Management. He is past president of the Kansas Public Health Association.



Ryan Heiman
KPHA
Student Section Chair

Ryan Heiman is the Student Section Chair for the KPHA Board. Growing up in rural Northeast Kansas, he can relate to the importance of public health. Ryan attended Washburn University from 2005 to 2008 where he obtained his Associate of Science and obtained his certification as a Physical Therapist Assistant. Ryan currently works as a physical therapist assistant in a number of healthcare settings. He also has a Bachelor of Health Science from Washburn University. After his undergraduate studies he was accepted in the Health Policy and Management Program at the University of Kansas, School of Medicine where he has an anticipated graduation of May 2011 with a Master of Health Services and Administration. Following graduation in May, Ryan has accepted a one year post graduate fellowship with the Oklahoma City VA in which he will enter the Government Healthcare Administration Training Program. Ryan is involved in a number of local, state, and national organizations including the American College of Healthcare Executives, the Kansas City Local Program Council, the Health Information Management Systems Society, and the American Public Health Association to name a few



Nicole Heim
KPHA
Membership Committee Chair

Nicole is currently adjunct faculty, Course Lead, and assists with student career mapping for Kaplan University in the School of Health Sciences. She is also making an effort to obtain projects her consulting business. Nicole began her public health career in May 2003 at the Clay County Public Health Center in Liberty, MO as an Environmental Health Specialist. Since that time, she has worked in environmental health and emergency preparedness positions for Johnson County, Kansas, and as Associate Director of the Kansas Public Health Association. She currently serves as Membership Committee Chair for KPHA. She is a fellow of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute, Cycle VI.

Nicole graduated from Park University in Parkville, MO with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology and a minor in Sociology in May of 2003. She received her Master of Public Health degree from the University Of Kansas School Of Medicine – Kansas City in May of 2007.

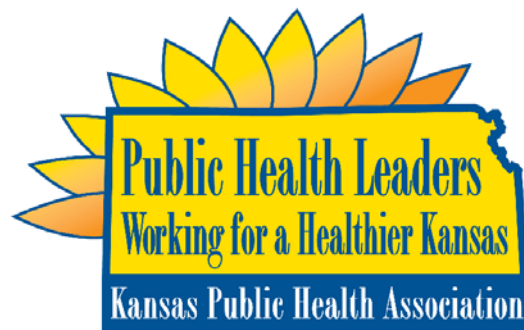
OUR 2011 KPHA BOARD MEMBERS ARE:



Daniel Lassley
KPHA
Oral Health Section Chair

Daniel Lassley serves the Bureau of Oral Health at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment as the Dental Recruitment Program Manager, working to increase the number of dentists and dental hygienists in rural and underserved areas of the state. He has a degree in Human Resources Management and has worked in a variety of roles to address workforce issues in Kansas.

Daniel's experience in manufacturing, technology, disabilities, advertising and sales gives him a broad background to assist efforts to increase access to quality healthcare.



National Public Health Week (April 4-10)

Article by KPHA NPHW Co-Chair, Lori Haskett
"Safety is No Accident: Live Injury-Free"

Every year, nearly 150,000 people die from injuries, and almost 30 million people are injured seriously enough to go to the emergency room. Chances are good that you or someone you know are among these statistics—a friend who suffered a fatal injury from a car crash, an elderly family member who broke a bone from a fall or a co-worker harmed on the job site.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 30% of potential years of life are lost because of injuries that could have been prevented. What's more, traffic injuries alone result in more than \$200 billion in annual U.S. health expenditures. Overall, injuries account for 12% of medical care spending, totaling as much as \$69 billion per year. In 2008, there were 77,261 visits to Kansas emergency departments for injuries and in 2009, 1,809 Kansans died from injuries.

According to the Kansas Department of Transportation in 2008, there were 19,754 crashes involving Driver Inattention resulting in costs of \$ 853,136,150. We are met with a real and growing public health problem. If we fail to address the issues related to injury and violence, the toll—measured in lives lost and health care dollars spent—is only going to get worse in the years to come.

Fortunately, we know that virtually all injuries can be prevented. If everyone wore a seatbelt, properly installed and used child safety seats, wore a helmet and stored cleaning supplies in locked cabinets, we could dramatically reduce the burden of leading injuries in this country and save lives. For example, two-thirds of children killed by bicycle-related injuries could have been saved by wearing a helmet. Helmets reduce the risk of head injury by as much as 85% and the risk of brain injury by as much as 88%.

Of course, we can't make significant improvements unless all Americans play a part in creating a safer nation. That means everyone needs to take small steps to improve the safety of their own communities. Safe Kids Kansas received this "life saved" story from a mother in Independence, Kansas. "Last April, my husband was out of town. My youngest son had been ill and was sleeping in my bed. In the early morning, suddenly the carbon monoxide detector went off. I quickly took my children outside, and then returned inside to open windows and investigate. I found the furnace had malfunctioned and was close to catching fire. Without the alarm, we would have had no idea that we were in danger." Injury and violence create a huge amount of suffering and financial burden on society. It is time we shift our paradigm from just assuming injuries are accidents and start being proactive about preventing them.

This week, the American Public Health Association (APHA) is encouraging all Americans to work together to make our nation safer and injury-free. From April 4-10, APHA recognizes National Public Health Week, an opportunity to empower our family, friends, neighbors, and perhaps most importantly, ourselves to live safer lives.

Join me and my colleagues in working to make Kansas a healthier, safer place to live, work and raise a family. Take a moment and make just one positive change a day that could prevent an injury. These seemingly small actions can have a big impact when they're spread throughout an entire family, community and nation. Increasing awareness on how to live safer and injury-free lives is the first step in helping us create a healthier nation—but there is more you can do beyond taking these actions.

Raise awareness of safety and injury prevention within your community during National Public Health Week. Your community will be safer, healthier and happier as a result.

Lori Haskett, KDHE, Bureau of Health Promotion, Injury Prevention Program (Lori also arranged for a Governor's Proclamation noting the observation of National Public Health week in Kansas.)

Update on KU's "School of Public Health"



(By KPHA Board member, David Cook)

As one of the newest Board members (Treasurer) I volunteered last month to write an article for Connections. The 2011 KPHA Board determined that submitting articles on behalf of KPHA for Connections would enhance our "connectivity" to our members, to the workforce, and the public in general, since these are posted on the internet. After all, KPHA as with many professional/trade associations grows through networking: communicating and collaborating. To make sure we reach all our members, especially those who might not read Connections, here is the article:

KPHA Board members come from different factions of public health: some from KUMC, some from KDHE, some from local health departments, and some from particular public health interests or advocacy groups. Since KPHA brings all of public health together in Kansas, we want to pull together to advance our profession and practice. One way we know this will occur is through acquiring a school of public health like our sister states. KPHA members and all of public health in Kansas can assist in this endeavor just by keeping informed so that when elected officials or the public asks you about it (since you work in public health) you can keep them updated. Another way to help will be to encourage colleagues and high school students to further their education in public health college courses. We all know the workforce is diminishing and the need for skilled, educated public health professionals will be increasing every year.

The article below was written by my "boss" who is responsible for bringing together all the factions at KUMC for Kansas to have a School of Public Health. If you have any questions, you are certainly welcome to contact me at KUMC. Or better yet, if you are a KPHA member go to the KPHA blog and post your question. We want all of public health to start "blogging" so everyone can keep informed. We all know that "chats" are the up and coming ways of communicating. Just go to www.kpha.us!

The University of Kansas Medical Center is well on its way to establishing a school of public health for the state of Kansas. In December, the Kansas Board of Regents unanimously approved the plan to establish a school of public health by reorganizing four existing departments at KU Medical Center: the department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in Kansas City, the department of Biostatistics in Kansas City, the department of Health Policy and Management in Kansas City, and the department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in Wichita.

Approval from the Board of Regents allows the university to move forward with several other critical requirements, including recruiting a dean, recruiting key faculty, securing additional funding to cover the school's proposed budget, and attaining accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health. I am optimistic that we will meet these goals and that KU Medical Center's proposed school of public health will be accredited within the next four to five years.

A school of public health holds great promise to positively impact the health of Kansans across the state. It enhances our ability to develop a stable public health and health care workforce, it increases our potential to secure public health related grant funding, and allows us to leverage new resources available at the federal level relating to disease prevention and health promotion while increasing the quality and effectiveness of health care delivery.

The vision of the school includes a strong "practice" focus whereby its education, research and service activities will develop and support collaborations with the public health practice community across the state and with other Kansas Regents' institutions. The school is expected to become a resource for the practice communities in both the public and private sector, which serve to enhance public health by ensuring clean water, air, food safety, providing immunizations, and controlling disease outbreaks. It will provide technical assistance and support in the delivery of services; partner in locally initiated, community-based research programs; and assist in the maintenance of accreditation of local health departments; and support the development of sound public policy.

Despite the many challenges facing the University and the Medical Center, we are steadfast in our dedication to the creation of the KU School of Public Health.

Glendon G. Cox, MD, MBA, MHSA
Director, Institute for Community and Public Health



UMHMF/KPHA Breastfeeding Grant Update

The Kansas Public Health Association, Inc. was pleased to announce in January that the UMHMF Breastfeeding Grants to local health departments were awarded to eighteen public health departments in Kansas, through the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund of Hutchinson, KS. Grant recipients received an average of \$10,000 to implement their initiatives. The purpose of the grants is to support improvements in breastfeeding duration and increase breastfeeding initiation rates in their communities. One of the most highly effective preventive measures a mother can take to protect the health of her infant and herself is to breastfeed. Here are the counties awarded:

- Barber County Health Department
- Cheyenne County Health Department
- Cloud County Health Department
- Coffey County Health Department
- Cowley County Health Department
- Dickinson County Health Department
- Harper County Health Department
- Johnson County Health Department
- Labette County Health Department
- Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department
- Lyon County Health Department
- Mitchell County Health Department
- Morris County Health Department
- Neosho County Health Department
- Pawnee County Health Department
- Reno County Health Department
- Sedgwick County Health Department
- Smith County Health Department
- Wyandotte County Health Department

Twenty two counties submitted grants and those who came close to receiving one are encouraged to look for future funding for this project, if applicable. All counties are to be commended for taking the time to write and send a grant application. The committee who reviewed the grants and selected the finalists were: Eldonna Chesnut, non-voting Chair, Virginia Elliott, UMHMF, Nicole Heim, (former KPHA Associate Director) Shara Carter Howell, La Leche League, Martha Hagen, Breastfeeding Coordinator KDHE Nutrition and WIC Services, KDHE, Laura Quick, Food Protection Public Works Office of Environmental Health, Sedgwick County, Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition and Dr. Ruth Wetta-Hall, KUMC School of Medicine, Wichita.

The first quarterly reports from the counties will be due in April, so watch for exciting news next quarter on the progress being made in Kansas with this grant, thanks to



Legislative Update

The weekly Legislative Activity spreadsheets continue to be provided to us by Liza Webb and the Board and Staff pour over them to determine which health bills need attention. Health Policy Section Chair, Dr. Marvin Stottlemire and Past President, Sonja Armbruster have been even more heavily involved in the 2011 Legislative Session. Here is a testimony provided by Dr. Stottlemire:

**Written Testimony on KDHE Budget Proposal
Presented to: Senate Subcommittee on KDHE/KHPA
Budget
February 16, 2011**

Madam Chair, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide input into your decisions on the KDHE Budget. My name is Marvin Stottlemire, and I am the Chair of the Legislative and Policy Section of the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA). KPHA's nearly 800 members represent virtually all public health professionals in the state.

While no one in public health is happy with *any* reductions in the State health agency's budget, I'd like to focus on one proposed rescission: The reduction in vaccine purchasing funds. One of the most disadvantaged groups in our state is the working poor. This cut will affect them directly. Medicaid recipients have their vaccine paid for; the more affluent have insurance to pay for their vaccine. But the working poor are dependent on State purchased vaccines.

This relatively small savings (\$80,000) will have a direct impact on the State's economy. It will affect the budgets of local health departments who administer the vaccines, and it will take money out of the pockets of those who choose work over welfare.

Health Day at the Capitol We had a sixth successful annual event and we drew almost 50 members and students who visited Legislative Offices to inform and educate elected leaders about public health. KPHA thanks KPHA member, Kim Moore, and UMHMF for again sponsoring the healthy snacks, and, also to Student Section Chair, Ryan Heiman who encouraged KUMC and KSU students to participate. KPHA's Legislative Platform was presented in the information Legislators received:

Since 1920, the Kansas Public Health Association has been working to achieve the initial charter's declared purpose of the association: to "Unite all persons and societies engaged in the promotion of public health in Kansas". This makes KPHA the oldest and *largest organization of public health professionals* and health advocates in the state.

Today we represent more than **700 members** from over 50 occupations and 140 organizations in all 105 counties of the state. Our members include: researchers, academics, medical and dental care providers, health educators and advocates, administrators, teachers, private or public organizations and foundations in a unique, multidisciplinary environment of professional exchange, study, and action, in public health practice and the public health policy process.

This year our members support the following policy objectives:

- An active, viable public health system is essential to address the many facets of population health and disaster preparedness infrastructure in Kansas. To ensure that our citizens are maximizing their quality of life and longevity, we need to fund many levels of our public health infrastructure from local health departments which serve critical local needs to statewide agencies that serve vital functions in a centralized, efficient manner.
- To ensure the accountability of our public health system, we must support the adoption and dissemination of accreditation standards promulgated nationally.
- Although public health focuses its attention on prevention, we support appropriate access to healthcare when needs arise.
- The rapid, national changes in obesity rates are found in Kansas as well. Given its impact on employment, chronic disease and health care resource use, we must implement best public health practices to reverse the tide of weight gain in our state. A multifaceted approach drawing from all levels of our public health system is needed.
- More attention should be focused on how built environment affects the health of Kansans, particularly with respect to physical activity and obesity. Economic development hinges on safe, healthy lifestyles and environments.

Watch for an email with a full report from Sonja Armbruster, Health Day Chair, with lots of information.



Many of those who attended did so to inform and educate Legislators on public health and included County Health Departments and State staff. Often many KPHA members convey they cannot attend "Health Day at the Capitol" because they work for the state or county, but others do participate, so it all seems to be a matter of opinion. We need to emphasize that our advocacy efforts are not "lobbying" efforts, but, educating and informing. Next year we hope to convince more KPHA members to be there!

Job Openings

Public Health Nurse

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department is currently seeking a full-time Public Health Nurse to join its well-trained, motivated work force. The Public Health Nurse's duties include providing immunizations, family planning/HIV counseling and testing services, health education and conducting communicable disease investigations. Experience in an office-based medical practice or public health clinic desirable. The applicant must have a license to practice nursing in Kansas. Applicants who are bilingual in Spanish and English are encouraged to apply. If you have a desire to work with our team of motivated and passionate public health professionals, apply today. At the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, you will be given the opportunity to make a difference and help improve the health of our community. We provide excellent benefits including health insurance, vacation and enrollment in the state's defined benefits retirement plan.

Case Manager

An immediate opening for a full-time RN or LBSW case manager is available in the Healthy Families Douglas County program. Duties include: Providing education and case management support services for pregnant and parenting teens to increase healthy outcomes. An individual with experience in community work and working with pregnant and parenting families is preferred. Applicants who are bilingual in Spanish and English are encouraged to apply. If you have a desire to work with our team of motivated and passionate public health professionals, apply today. At the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, you will be given the opportunity to make a difference and help improve the health of our community. We provide excellent benefits including health insurance, vacation and enrollment in the state's defined benefits retirement plan.

Submit resume to Kim Ens, Director of Clinic Services, at: jobs@ldchealth.org

Don't forget the Governor's Public Health Conference!



Reducing Health Disparities: Partnerships for Progress

6th Annual Governor's Kansas Public Health Conference
April 19-21, 2011 Marriott Wichita

Healthy Kansas Living in Safe and Sustainable Environments



KPHA APHA Poster Winner Report

I would like to thank KPHA for awarding my work with the best student research poster award and giving me the opportunity to attend the 138th Annual Meeting and Exposition of the American Public Health Association (APHA) in Denver, Colorado. The theme of the meeting was Social Justice: A Public Health Imperative.

I traveled with a group of students and professors from Kansas State University to Denver on **Sunday** arriving in the late afternoon. We attended the student orientation dinner and then had a university dinner with students, professors, and colleagues. On **Monday** I attended a plenary on chronic disease and worksite health promotion, met with several recruiters for doctoral programs, and attended the physical activity special interest group (PA-SPIG) social event. On **Tuesday**, I attended several presentations on built environments and physical activity, sugar sweetened beverages and childhood obesity, and technological advancements in physical activity data collection. Additionally, I attended poster sessions on an early childhood obesity intervention, physical activity and park environments, and physical activity environmental policy dissemination. The remainder of **Tuesday** I attended the Public Health Expo and met with exhibitors from Kaiser Permanente, the CDC, and numerous graduate school program recruiters. We returned home on **Wednesday**.

I would like to thank KPHA and the Kansas Health Foundation for this opportunity to attend a national conference for public health. I thoroughly enjoyed attending presentations, socializing with fellow students and colleagues, meeting with recruiters, and discovering more about the vast world of public health. This experience has broadened my perspective of public health topics and intrigued me with cutting edge research projects. I look forward to continuing to learn and contribute to physical activity and nutrition public health research in my academic and professional career. Thank you again for such an invaluable experience.

Thank you, Gina Besenyi
Physical Activity and Public Health Laboratory
Department of Kinesiology
Kansas State University

KPHA Annual Report and Membership Survey

If you haven't already perused the 2010 KPHA Annual Report, you can find it at:

<http://www.kpha.us/documents/2011documents/KPHAAnnualReport2010.pdf>

The findings of the 2010 KPHA Membership Survey Report contain exclusive information from our KPHA Members about public health in Kansas. The Survey was written, implemented, analyzed and compiled by our KPHA Director, Dr. Ruth Wetta Hall. It can be found on the Members Only site at:

<http://www.kpha.camp8.org/Default.aspx?pagelid=288670>