

2012

Kansas Public Health Association Annual Awards Ceremony

Agenda

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Shirley Orr, KPHA President
Ellen Averett, KPHA President-Elect



**KANSAS
PUBLIC
HEALTH
ASSOCIATION, INC.**

Samuel J. Crumbine Medal

The highest award given by the Kansas Public Health Association is presented for meritorious service and state, regional, or national recognition related to the improvement of the health of Kansans and/ or the environment of the state.

Eldonna Chesnut, RN, BSN, MSN

Eldonna serves as the Division Director of Adult and Child Care Facilities for the Johnson County Health Department, a position that requires her to work closely with KDHE and KDOA in monitoring all elderly and child care facilities in Johnson County, Kansas. She is also a past president of KPHA, a board member and the affiliate representative to the American Public Health Association for our state. Eldonna attended the APHA annual conference in 08, 09, 10 and 11. She is past KPHA section chair, Conference Committee chair, Orientation Manual Project committee member, and past Membership Chair. She has been involved in the Joint KPHA/APHA membership project for the past 4 years. She attended Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and successfully completed achieving Fellow status, serving as a Mentor and being on the Advisory Board.

Eldonna' s on-going initiative – Elder Smiles provides onsite oral health services for the elderly residing in long term care facilities in Johnson County. Her leadership style is one of collegiality and bridge building for the betterment of public health in Kansas. Through her leadership and encouragement, the KPHA Board now has (1) More active membership from school nurses, dental hygienists and social workers, (2) Increased and regular communication with other public health professional groups, such as the Kansas Environmental Health Association and the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments, and (3) Increased engagement at monthly Board meetings from the leadership of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

These are just a handful of the partnerships that under Eldonna' s guidance have led to increased sharing of information, support of current and prospective projects across the state, and a more targeted focus on public health legislative priorities for Kansas. Ultimately, these efforts have made KPHA a stronger and more effective organization and a stronger voice for public health practitioners and the health of citizens in Kansas.”



Special Service Award

Outstanding service in the interest of public health &or environmental improvement.

Melissa Armstrong, MAC

Melissa Armstrong, Assistant Director of the Master of Public Health and Master of Clinical Research programs on the Wichita campus, began her work at the KU Medical School in Wichita in 2000. As a member of the Preventive Medicine and Public Health team, she uses her intelligence and innovation to further the practice of public health and students' understanding of and competence in public health. Her unwavering support of faculty, student and community needs is truly remarkable.

During the past several years, Melissa has been instrumental in the development of the MSCR degree, creation of several MPH concentrations, and achieving national reaccreditation of our MPH program for the next 7 years. She is the "face" of the MPH-Wichita program, having consistent contact with our students through email, phone calls and meetings. She diligently develops course schedules, collaborates with faculty to ensure the necessary courses can be taught, and assists students in enrolling in the courses that best fit their needs and interests. With more than 10 faculty and 50 students, this is no small undertaking. On top of these activities, Melissa has apparently memorized all of the rules and regulations from KU's graduate school (because she can recite policies verbatim), and she develops MPH newsletters in her free time.

Melissa often serves as a connector, too. For several years, Melissa has voluntarily organized the KPHA poster session at the annual KPHA conference. She shared public health system happenings with students and faculty to help keep academic and public health practice connected. Melissa has supported KPHA Health Day at the Capital events in the past by staffing booths for health fairs to coordinating KU vans to bring students to speak with legislators. When an event has been well organized, Melissa has been involved!

At our national affiliate level, Melissa has represented KU at APHA's Expo Hall for more than ten years, providing the only booth from Kansas in the entire exhibit hall. Again, she's provided that connection among alumni and every public health worker who ever had an affiliation with Kansas. The power of connecting is indeed a special service that simply cannot be measured but assures that the system is better for the collaborations. Her "can-do" attitude and her proficiency deceive many into believing her position is stress-free and effortless. This is yet another strength Melissa brings to the position – she contributes to developing a relaxed, pleasurable atmosphere that encourages faculty and students to perform their best while enjoying the work they do. She is one of our unsung heroes!



Dorothy Woodin Award

This award is for a public health nurse for outstanding public health nursing services.

Neita Christopherson, RN

To say that Neita Christopherson exceeds expectations would be an understatement. Neita has been employed at the Reno County Health Department for twenty-seven years. In that time, she has served as a WIC staff nurse, MCH staff nurse, MCH supervisor and for the last twelve years as the Assistant Director.

Throughout her career, she has exemplified the very definition of a Public Health Nurse. "A field of nursing that is concerned with the health needs of the community as a whole". To this end Neita has worked tirelessly in nearly every program. Just some examples of Neita's contributions to success of the many programs administered by the Health Department are:

1. Her ability to coordinate all internal program services and activities.
2. Facilitator of special projects with other agencies.
3. Advocate for clients in need of health related services.
4. Plans and implements health education campaigns and disease prevention activities, such as immunization clinics.
5. Develops policies and procedures.
6. Assists in developing plans to meet all regulatory guidelines, including CLIA, OSHA, Emergency Preparedness, Home Health and the Older Adult Health programs.
7. Assists with the development of the annual county budget.
8. Public speaking on behalf of the Health Department.
9. She serves on numerous advisory boards or other community committees and coalitions.
10. Graduate of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute.

Neita is also a mentor for new staff. She is a calm, nurturing manager, inspiring others to put the needs of others first and help find solutions that are workable for all involved. She helps maintain excellent relations by assessing and responding to clients' needs. Neita has the ability to take on every challenge as her responsibility and follows through until it is resolved.

Virginia Lockhart Health Education Award

Awarded for outstanding service in Public promotion of health and/or environmental issues.

Stephanie Thompson

Stephanie Thompson, RN, BSN, MSN, has held a multitude of public health positions and has always pursued excellence. In 2005 she took the position of Southeast Kansas Regional Nurse for the Early Detection Works program. As the regional nurse, she was responsible for case managing any patients with abnormal findings and helping them to navigate through the healthcare system to receive needed services at a time when navigation was a new practice in the Mid-Kansas Cancer Alliance. She is also a breast education specialist, an oncology nurse, a certified patient navigator and for her own special interest, a certification in forensic nursing. All of this has been accomplished in the space of six years while working full time and managing her young family!

Stephanie manages to do her job very well and each patient she encounters develops a special relationship with her and each appreciates the knowledge and competence she brings to the table. The professional relationships that she has built over the years with our provider sites and their respective physicians are very strong as well and they know that they can trust her decisions and opinions.

Stephanie also works part-time as a nursing school instructor with our local junior college and has been teaching in a clinical rotation setting at local hospitals. This fall she will also be teaching a nutrition class after developing the curriculum over the summer months. Stephanie is a very natural teacher although she does not give herself near enough credit for the way she is able to reach her students. When she is conducting breast health education classes for women of all ages, she is also able to reach women on a very personal level.

Breast cancer education and screening took on new personal meaning for Stephanie shortly after she took her job as regional nurse. Her mother is now a two time survivor, and she has several dear friends also fighting breast cancer. She is very passionate about women knowing their bodies and how to do monthly self-breast examinations, and it shows in her teaching. In addition to be invaluable in her own region, our State staff in Topeka trusts her input, instincts and field experience. They frequently call to get her opinion about different case management issues and trust her advice and guidance.

Becky Tuttle

Becky Tuttle has more than 15 years of professional experience working with youth and adult coalitions on alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention and intervention, as well as the promotion of physical activity and nutrition. The majority of her experience is in tobacco control, specializing in serving youth and diverse populations. Currently, Becky is serving as the Health Promotions Coordinator for the Sedgwick County Health Department. In her work she collaborates with community and state partners in achieving common goals of improving health in the community through health education initiatives and coordinating program planning and services with other community and state agencies.

She is a Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute Scholar and has served on many state and national conference planning committees. Recent contributions to public health include:

- Incident Command System – Planning Section Chief, for Sedgwick County Health Department during H1N1 outbreak.
- Her team taught hundreds of hand-washing seminars to help mitigate H1N1 in Sedgwick County-also resulting in reduced numbers of communicable diseases in the community according to reports.
- Tobacco Free Kansas Coalition Board of Directors as the result of 17 years in Tobacco Use Prevention. She launched the KS Tobacco Quitline and Delivering Solutions initiative targeting health care providers for KDHE. Tobacco Use Prevention for Pregnancy and Beyond initiative. Covered every county in the state of KS at some point for tobacco use prevention to fill in vacant positions
- Walks the walk-as a role model in physical activity and weight reduction and successfully completed a half marathon in 2008.
- Improved oral health and worksite wellness initiatives.
- Liaison for Coordinated School Health.
- Previous recipient of American Public Health Association Partnership for Healthy Children Award in 2001 (Glaxo Smith Kline).
- Shared best practices and lessons learned over the years through professional presentations and posters as requested.
- Oversight of the annual Working Well conference in Wichita KS which is now held statewide.
- Member of Junior League.



Corporate Public Health Service Award

Awarded to a company or organization whose public policy activities, makes a significant contribution to the mission of public health and/or environmental improvement in Kansas

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund

UMHMF's Mission Statement is "Kansas Health Philanthropy in Action", which is truly the description of their efforts in public health in Kansas. KPHA would like to recognize the Fund's Board of Directors, Kim Moore and Virginia Elliott for their leadership in promoting public health in Kansas, particularly the promotion of Breastfeeding in Kansas.

UMHMF has given thousands of dollars not only to local county health departments and KPHA, but also to the Breastfeeding Coalition and currently is working with the Hospital Association to improve Breastfeeding rates in Kansas. We know they will continue to provide their leadership, time, effort and funding to make Breastfeeding in public health a matter of priority.

"Our interest in improving rates of initiation and duration for breastfeeding grows specifically out of the benefits breastfeeding can make in long-term body weights of children. We have invited a proposal from the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition to expand that group's efforts in workplaces. This concept we are proposing to KPHA is a separate approach. We want to support local community activities and are open to a range of possible best practice techniques. We see this grant opportunity as building from natural community interests and providing KPHA and the Health Ministry Fund information more about what works at the community level to achieve breastfeeding objectives."

With many public health entities involved in their projects, we have seen Breastfeeding among WIC clients, and the entire communities across the state being improved, and UMHMF will continue to make Kansas proud with their continue efforts.



Accepting the award: Virginia Elliott, Vice President for PROGRAMS

President's Award

Awarded at the discretion of the association's president to acknowledge special accomplishments in improving the public's health in Kansas.

Robert Moser, MD.

Robert Moser, M.D., is the Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He graduated from the KU School of Pharmacy in 1981, KU School of Medicine in 1985 and completed his residency in Family Medicine at the Smoky Hill Family Practice Residency in Salina, Kansas in 1988. Dr. Moser practiced for over 22 years in Tribune. He led the Greeley County Health Systems to include a network of clinics in three counties in Western Kansas. His experience in the Greeley and Wallace Community Health Assessment Project helped to shape the current medical team and medical services available in the two communities. What was once a sole-provider service caring for the two communities is now three physicians and two mid-levels providing OB care, physical therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, behavioral health, patient education as well as other patient services. Dr. Moser also played a key role in the addition and renovation project of the Greeley County Health Care Services which became a critical access hospital in 2003.

During his time in Tribune, Dr. Moser served as a volunteer assistant clinical professor for the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, Department of Family and Community Medicine and was a preceptor for medical/physician assistant students. In August 2010, he left to become Clinical Associate Professor and Director of Rural Health & Outreach for KU.

He has held many positions, as well as been a member of numerous associations including: President of the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians (KAFFP) in 2001; Executive Board member of Directors for the Kansas Practice-based Research Network from 2000 to 2005; Served on rural health committee for the AAFP; Commission on Governmental Advocacy; AAFP liaison to the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology Committee on Professional Liability and the American Hospital Association's Governing Council of Rural and Small Hospitals; Senior delegate for KAFFP to the AAFP congress on delegates; American Medical Directors Association; National Rural Health Association; American Medical Directors Association and; National Rural Health Association.

Dr. Moser has also received numerous awards: National Health Services Corps Director in 1998; University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC) Rainbow finalist in 2000; and Honored with the Kansas Academy Family Physician of the Year in 2006.

