

GREETINGS!

KPHA Newsletter

2014 1st Quarter

President's Message

The Year Ahead

New Year's greetings to you all. First, I must express what an honor it is to serve as your 2014 president. I am extremely grateful for my experience on the KPHA Board over the last several years and would especially like to thank our recent past-presidents who have not only been generous mentors to me, but are never-ending cheerleaders for our organization. KPHA successfully navigated a year of change in 2013. The talent and dedication demonstrated by the board created a momentum that I know will propel us onward. I truly appreciate having this tremendous opportunity and promise to give it all I can in the year ahead.

Last November, several KPHA board members attended Affiliate Day at the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston. I didn't realize until we were in Boston that APHA had undergone critical self-evaluation and rebranding over the past year. I found it reassuring for our state affiliate. During our 2013 Fall Conference, Ellen Averett spoke to you about KPHA's new mission statement and recent strategic planning. In 2014, KPHA will continue to move through our strategic plan to assure that our members and others understand the value of KPHA to our state and region.

We have achieved greater transparency and efficiency in operations and seek to better engage state-wide partners in public health efforts. To be successful, however, we need you! Throughout the year there will be opportunities to join standing and ad hoc committees that will help shape the organization. We hope you will consider participating. Joining a committee is a wonderful way to ease into being an active part of your public health association, to network with colleagues from around the state, and to have a direct impact on the future of KPHA.

In addition to volunteering for a committee, be sure to plan ahead for these events:

- On February 26th we will hear from current APHA president Joyce Gaufin during the KUMC Public Health Grand Rounds.
- Planning for the 9th Annual Governor's Public Health Conference is well underway. Watch for

registration information for the conference which will be held April 29th-May 1st at the Wichita Marriott.

- National Public Health Week will be celebrated April 7-13th. Be sure to visit the [NPHW website](#) for daily themes and let us know of any activities you have planned.
- MINK is comprised of the Missouri-Iowa-Nebraska-Kansas affiliates to APHA. We will hold our fourth regional meeting in Iowa on May 8th and 9th. There is only one other regional affiliate meeting in the nation, so APHA sees MINK as “movers and shakers” in the affiliate world.
- Of course, we look forward to seeing you at the KPHA 2014 Fall Conference from September 29th through October 1st in Topeka. This year’s theme is “Health is Where You Live.” We are eager to learn more about best practices going on across the state, so consider submitting an abstract for a break-out session or poster presentation.
- And, finally, the APHA Annual Meeting will be held from November 15-19th in New Orleans. If you have never attended, you should definitely put it on your professional bucket list!

Your KPHA board is off to a great start in what is shaping up to be another busy year. [Click here to see the board bios.](#) We look forward to working with you in committees and meeting you at various meetings across the state and region. These continue to be challenging times in public health, but we are each unique and talented individuals who together can make a world of difference. Here is to you, our rich history, and to all we can achieve in the year ahead!

Best wishes in 2014,



Tanya Honderick, RN, MS, MPH, PHCNS-BC
KPHA President

Board Meeting Schedule 2014

February 10, 2014
10 a.m. to 12 noon
Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
11875 S. Sunset
Olathe

March 10, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Wichita State University Metroplex
2015 E. 29th St N
Wichita

April 8, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
KUMC

3901 Rainbow Blvd.
Kansas City

May 12, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Conference Call

June 9, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Location to be determined
Topeka

July 14, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Location to be determined
Topeka

August 11, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Location to be determined
Wichita

September 8, 2014
Executive Board
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Location to be determined
Topeka

September 29, 2014
KPHA Fall Conference - Time to be determined
Ramada Inn
420 E. 6th
Topeka

October 13, 2014
Executive Board
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Location to be determined
Topeka

November 10, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Location to be determined
Topeka

December 8, 2014
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Location to be determined
Topeka

KPHA on Social Media

By Nikki Keene Woods, KPHA Secretary

Be sure to “like” KPHA on Facebook and follow on the newly created Twitter site. The KPHA Communications Committee is currently developing a social media plan for the organization. If you have a special interest in social media, please contact us (via one of the sites) to join the committee. The goal is to support the overall KPHA mission of “Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas” through our social media presence.



What is MINK?

By Eldonna Chesnut, APHA Delegate / Affiliate Representative to Governing Council

In this case, it is not an animal. MINK stands for the Missouri-Iowa-Nebraska-Kansas Public Health Associations. These four states make up the Region VII affiliates of the American Public Health Association (APHA). A few people from each state started getting together at the APHA conferences and decided it was time to formalize our public health work at a regional level. This group used the Great Lakes region as a role model. MINK leadership consists of affiliate Presidents, ARGCS (affiliate liaison with APHA), and any paid staff the affiliates may have. The leadership has monthly conference calls to stay current on what is happening in our region and APHA as well as share resources and plan for events/projects.

May 2014 will mark the fourth year that leadership and invited guests of each state’s public health associations come together to share information, learn from guest speakers and each other, and brainstorm new ways to improve the health of the public in our four states. This year’s meeting will be held at University of Iowa on May 8th and 9th. If you would like to attend this meeting please let Eldonna Chesnut know, otherwise, watch for the invitation to join some of the presentations via the web, even if you can’t be there in person.

Another function of MINK is to help ensure that Region VII members are well represented in APHA. To that end, there are several APHA committees that have openings. If you are interested in becoming more involved with KPHA, MINK and APHA please review the opening and descriptions by following the link to the APHA

website: <http://www.apha.org/about/gov/leadership/Full+list+of+2014+Open+Positions.htm>
and forward your interest with the nomination form to Eldonna.Chesnut@jocogov.org.

The MINK affiliates will be sending letters of support for MINK members wishing to serve on these APHA committees. The nomination deadline to APHA is March 13th, however all nominations seeking MINK support would need to be to Eldonna no later than March 1st for discussion at the March 3rd MINK meeting.

Interested in Public Health Legislation?

By Dick Morrissey, Policy Section Chair & Legislative Action and Issues Committee Chair

Are you interested in public health legislation? If so, the KPHA board is seeking members to join the Legislative Action and Issues Committee to participate in tracking and managing our response as key public health issues arise during the 2014 Legislative Session.

The board plans to monitor key issues throughout the 2014 Legislative Session, including Clean Indoor Air, immunization policies, and attempts to roll back fluoridation by promoting community votes to stop the practice of fluoridating public water supplies. We are soliciting members to help manage the KPHA response to these and any other key public health issues that arise during the 2014 Session. Most of the work will be through e-mail and conference call, but there may be opportunities to present testimony as well. It is OK if you are interested in working on any one particular issue. If you are interested, please e-mail the Committee Chair, Dick Morrissey at 04.morrissey@gmail.com.

Calling All Health and Medical Professionals

By Emily Farley, Emergency Preparedness Section Chair

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Bureau of Community Health Systems (BCHS) hosts several preparedness IT systems, which can be utilized at state and local levels to assist and support preparedness efforts. Two of those systems are the Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN) and the Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers (K-SERV).

KS-HAN is a secure, web-based electronic communication system that enables local and state health and safety entities to share public and environmental health information rapidly. The system allows users to send, receive and discuss information of public and environmental health importance in a secure environment. It also allows for the rapid notification of any and all users in the event of an emergency, when the timely distribution of recommendations on investigation, prevention and treatment is critical.

“By receiving advance alerts about disease outbreaks through the Kansas Health Alert Network (KS-HAN), health and medical professionals will have crucial information for patient diagnosis, treatment and prevention. KS-HAN is a fast, easy and reliable way to be notified of developing

illnesses impacting the work of Kansas health care providers.” – Robert Moser, M.D., KDHE Secretary and State Health Officer

KS-HAN contains over 3,000 participants from local health departments, hospitals, emergency medical services, animal health, clinics, state agencies, private and public health laboratories and other first responders across the state.

KS-HAN is an invitation-only system. An invitation code sent from KS-HAN administrator is required prior to registration. To be considered for participation, email your name, employers, employer phone number, job title or description to kshanadmin@kdheks.gov.

The Kansas System for the Early Registration of Volunteers, K-SERV, is a secure registration system and database for volunteers willing to respond to public health emergencies or other disasters in Kansas or other areas across the country. It can be utilized as a volunteer management system at the local and state levels.

During an event, a community may need to use K-SERV to get the assistance of volunteers to aid in response. K-SERV improves the efficiency of volunteer deployment and utilization by verifying in advance the credentials of volunteer healthcare professionals. This pre-registration and pre-verification of potential volunteers enhances the state's ability to quickly and efficiently send and receive appropriate health professionals as needed to assist with an emergency response.

If you are interested in volunteering to help Kansans, register today at <https://kshealth.kdhe.state.ks.us/VolunteerRegistry>. For more information, email kservadmin@kdheks.gov.

Opinion Editorial: 50 Years after Release, Surgeon General's Report Legacy More Powerful than Ever

By Becky Tuttle, Community Health Section Chair

Any episode of the show *Mad Men* will give you a sense for how “normal” smoking used to be in America. Before the turn of the century, smoking was common just about anywhere you can imagine. However, the release of the first Surgeon General's Report on January 11, 1964 laid the groundwork for these important public health changes. Since then, the national smoking rate has dropped to approximately 20% due to increased work in areas of prevention and education, as well as policy changes such as restricted smoking in public places.

Earlier this month, the Surgeon General made an announcement regarding the 50th anniversary of the original Report, which forever changed the public view of cigarettes and tobacco products. Once thought of as a harmless vice, the Report clearly illustrated for the first time the serious health harms of cigarette smoking. This impact continues to be felt to this day. Many important, life-saving policies such as Kansas smoke-free legislation might not have occurred without the first Surgeon General's Report.

We need to continue to show the same kind of courage that it took to release that first Report. Let's encourage Kansas lawmakers to invest in the three, proven strategies that help people quit smoking: target the cost of cigarettes through increased taxes, enforce clean air laws, and utilize direct cessation efforts to help the more than 70% of smokers today who want to quit. Tobacco users who want to quit can contact the Kansas Tobacco Quitline free help at <http://www.ksquit.org/> or 1-800-QUIT-NOW (784-8669).

MPH Students Benefit from APHA National Convention Experience

By Jennifer Maciaszek, Student Section Chair

Kansas public health students traveled to Boston last November to attend the national convention of the American Public Health Association. Two students from Kansas University Medical Center said their experience interacting with public health leaders and exploring new



and exciting topics in the field has left them feeling energized and ready to join the workforce.

Austin Rogers, a second year MPH student at KUMC who is on course to graduate this May, said his previous involvement with KPHA's state conventions spurred his decision to attend this year's

conference. "I attended the last three KPHA conferences and recently became an APHA member. I was interested in learning more about public health outside of Kansas," Rogers said.

Wei Hou, also on track to graduate in May, said she attended the conference in order to discover career opportunities in public health. "I wanted to see what options I have after graduating with my MPH degree," she said.

While there, Rogers and Hou explored areas of the public health field both in and outside of their declared interests. Before the conference, Rogers' primary interest lay in chronic disease epidemiology. His attendance at several scientific sessions exposed him to topics he hadn't been exposed to before.

"I developed many new interests," he said.

When asked if attending the national convention was worth their time and money as a student, both strongly agreed it was and encouraged future students to consider the trip. Wei said it helped her to clarify her career goals, and has given her more confidence for entering the workforce.

Both said it provided them the opportunity to network, learn more about career opportunities, and explore new public health topics on a national level. More than anything, it gave them a renewed sense of excitement for the field of public health.

"The thing I enjoyed most was the energy I felt everywhere I went," Rogers said. "I was surrounded by thousands of people who share my passion and excitement about the field."

Public Health Workforce Assessment in Kansas

By Tanya Honderick, President

In an effort to identify and prioritize public health workforce training needs, staff from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD), KPHA, and the Master of Public Health programs at the University of

Kansas and Kansas State University are working together to develop and conduct an assessment



of the Kansas public health workforce.

To prepare for accreditation of the state health department, the primary initial assessment will be of the KDHE staff and will take place this winter. The second phase of the assessment will take place later in the spring and will engage local health departments across the state. The assessment team is currently looking at examples of assessments that have already taken place at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, the Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, and the Sedgwick County Health Department, as well as assessments that have occurred in other states.

Sincerely, Your KPHA Board of Directors

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