



GREETINGS!

# *KPHA Newsletter*

**2nd Quarter - 2014**

## **President's Message**

By Tanya Honderick

The first few months of 2014 have been an exciting and productive time for KPHA. Throughout this newsletter you will see several articles and announcements about our new email address, updates from our Oral Health and Communications committees, information about open board positions for 2015, and more. I would like to take this opportunity, however, to highlight some activities from [National Public Health Week](#) (NPHW), which was celebrated across the country the week of April 7-13th. NPHW is an excellent opportunity to remind our state and local leadership about the impact and importance of public health on all of our lives, and remind our communities about the role we each play in health and wellness.

First of all, I am extremely proud of Jenny Maciaszek who is the current chair of the KPHA Student Section. Jenny was successful in developing a proclamation for NPHW which was signed by Governor Brownback on March 20th. Board members and faculty from KU, KSU and WSU attended the signing with students. Under Jenny's leadership, Julia Soap and Olga Shakhnovich, two students from the KU-MPH program, were instrumental in the introduction of NPHW resolutions in the Kansas House and Senate.

We are grateful to Senators Elaine Bowers (District 36) and Laura Kelly (District 18), and Representative Barbara Bollier (District 21) for sponsoring these resolutions and courageously demonstrating their commitment to public health. During our visit on April 1st, Rep. Bollier in particular reminded us how important it is for each one of us to get to know our legislators. She stressed that everyone in public health should make an effort to reach out to their legislators throughout the year because they rely

on us and our expertise when various issues are debated in the legislature.



To kick off the week, several KPHA board members attended the [County Health Rankings 2014 Release](#) on April 7th. The event, led by the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) and co-sponsored by KPHA and the KUMC Area Health Education Centers (KUMC AHEC), was held at the beautiful Sporting Kansas City stadium in Wyandotte County. Speakers included Mayor Mark Holland and Joe Connor, among others, who emphasized how the health rankings have been instrumental in starting conversations and initiating change for their communities.

Our April board meeting was held at KUMC on April 8th. KPHA was very fortunate to be invited by the KUMC Alumni Association to attend the 67th Annual Peter Bohan Lecture. Dr. Moser from KDHE and Rep. Bollier were also in attendance. This year's speaker was Rye Barcott, author of *It Happened on the Way to War*. In his book, Mr. Barcott told the story of his journey as an undergraduate student to the Kibera slum in Nairobi, Kenya. He went on to become a U.S. Marine while also founding a non-governmental organization called Carolina for Kibera to address violence and health in the slum. Most of all, his inspiring story reminded us how we as ordinary people can really do extraordinary things. In addition to the lecture, the KPHA board was invited to a book discussion with Mr. Barcott and KU-MPH



students and faculty.

NPHW was a busy and exciting time of celebration, reflection and recharging. In public health we historically say that if we are doing our job, no one knows about us – but that adage is changing. I encourage you all to be ready to tell your public health stories and celebrate your successes whenever you can, not just during one week of the year!

## **Communication Committee Update**

By Nikki Keene Woods

The communication committee has been busy working on a social media policy for KPHA and developing a social media plan based on recommended strategies from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The KPHA board will be exploring strategies with a paid consultant from Support Kansas City, Inc. later this spring. There was a lot of activity on the Facebook and Twitter pages during NPHW; we hope you were able to participate at some point during the week! KPHA would like to keep social media content relevant to membership informational needs. Send your ideas or requests for information to the KPHA Facebook or Twitter account! We are working on posting free public health e-books this year, are you interested? Let us know.

## **Public Health Workforce Assessment Coming Soon**

By Cristi Cain, Local Public Health Program  
Bureau of Community Health Systems, KDHE

Partners from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the KU-MPH program, the KSU MPH program, KPHA, and KALHD have been preparing for an assessment of the public health workforce in Kansas. Developing and delivering targeted education and training requires that the proficiency of the workforce be measured.

Assessment results will help supply the information needed to identify, prioritize, and develop training opportunities for the workforce around the state and in specific public health organizations; provide individuals with an opportunity to think about his/her strengths as a public health professional and areas in which he/she might want to seek additional training; and support efforts toward accreditation. The questions in the assessment are based on the Council on Linkages Core Competencies for Public Health Professionals and are divided into the following key dimensions of public health practice:

- Communication
- Cultural Competency
- Analytical/Assessment

- Policy Development/Program Planning
- Community Dimensions of Practice
- Public Health Sciences
- Financial Planning and Management
- Leadership and Systems Thinking

Workgroup members have consulted with other states and local health departments in Kansas that have already conducted assessments in order to gain their insight and lessons learned. The assessment will be first administered to over 1,000 employees at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment beginning in May 2014.

Local health departments and other public health organizations will participate in the assessment process early this summer. There will be a chance to win prizes for completing an assessment, including gift cards and an iPad. We look forward to your participation!

## **PHAB Accreditation Visitors in Johnson County**

By Eldonna Chesnut

The Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) reached a milestone on April 14 and 15, 2014. After about two years of preparation by the department, a PHAB site visitor team came to Olathe to review the department for accreditation. The site visit went very smoothly, thanks in large part to Barbara Mitchell, the department's accreditation coordinator, and the rest of the accreditation team. JCDHE is waiting anxiously to hear if it will become the first local health department in Kansas to receive PHAB accreditation. The answer should come in June.

## **National Public Health Week Celebrated at WSU**

By Nikki Keene Woods

National Public Health Week was supported by Wichita State University's undergraduate PH senior capstone students. They spent the semester learning about public health and developing a video to support the "this is public health" campaign. The students developed a [Facebook](#) page and a [YouTube](#) video to support their local efforts. The students said, "The 'This is Public Health' campaign highlights how public health touches our daily lives. We want students to have fun and tag themselves engaging in healthy behaviors including everything from mental and physical well-being, to healthy diet, to safety, and more!" They posted public health related posts all week and generated over 100 likes.

# Oral Health Section Update

By John Neuberger

Dr. John Neuberger, the chair of the Oral Health Section of KPHA, testified in February, 2014 in opposition to House Bill 2372 in front of the Health and Human Services Committee of the Kansas Legislature. This bill would have required drinking water utilities that add fluoride to drinking water to send a notice to customers that ingestion of artificially fluoridated water lowers the IQ in children. Testimony pointed out that this statement was not supported by the scientific evidence and that fluoridation of drinking water in the range of 0.7 to 1.2 ppm was safe and effective. The effort to link artificially fluoridated drinking water to reduced IQ in children was unsubstantiated and based on very preliminary and rudimentary ecological analyses, mostly from China. Although this bill was stopped, the issue remains very much alive in Kansas. Testimony of a number of opponents of this bill, including Dr. Neuberger's, may be found on the [Oral Health Kansas](#) and [KPHA](#) websites.

# Nominations needed for the 2015 KPHA Board Ballot

By Mark Thompson

Participation in the KPHA board is an excellent way to serve, build leadership skills, network, and collaborate across multiple sectors for the betterment of public health in Kansas. The 2015 board election will take place just before the Annual Fall Conference. Individuals who are interested in serving in one of the following board roles should be in contact with Mark Thompson at 785-296-1473 or [mathompson@ksde.org](mailto:mathompson@ksde.org).

- **President-Elect:** This officer shall serve as President-Elect for one year followed automatically by one year as President. The President-Elect must either be a current KPHA Board member or must have been on the KPHA Board of Directors in the past 10 years.
- **Treasurer:** The term of office shall be two years. The Treasurer shall be elected in even numbered years. The Treasurer must either be a current KPHA Board member or must have been on the KPHA Board of Directors in the past 10 years.
- **Two (2) Directors at Large:** There shall be three Directors at Large. One Director shall be elected in the odd numbered years and two Directors shall be elected in the even numbered years. The term of office shall be two years.

# Board Meeting Schedule 2014

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 has a new email address: [kpha@kpha.us](mailto:kpha@kpha.us)\*\***

Sincerely, Your KPHA Board of Directors