

## 2nd Quarterly 2015 KPHA Newsletter

### President's Message

We're only halfway through 2015 and it's already been quite a year for KPHA and, to continue the unofficial theme for the year, I think we're "Finding Our Voice in Public Health!" In April, KPHA partnered with the Kansas Health Institute (KHI) to promote the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of National Public Health Week with the theme **Healthiest Nation 2030**. The following links to the collaborative press release highlighting daily focuses: [NPHW Press Release](#). Later in April, KPHA distributed a Statement of Support for the proposed increase in the tobacco tax to news outlets across the state. The support for the tax was based on the evidence that such tax increases "are simple, public health solutions to the economic and social burdens of tobacco use." In late May, KPHA distributed a targeted press release also expressing support for an increase in tax on tobacco which was picked up by KHI.

Another mid-year accomplishment includes the revision and updating of the manual "An Orientation to Public Health in Kansas" that will be used by public health professionals in Kansas through the years. KPHA was well-represented by attendees and presenters at the annual APHA Region VII MINK (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas) Conference in Columbia, MO. Yes, we had to spend time with our neighbors to the East, but they were quite hospitable and the conference was a success.

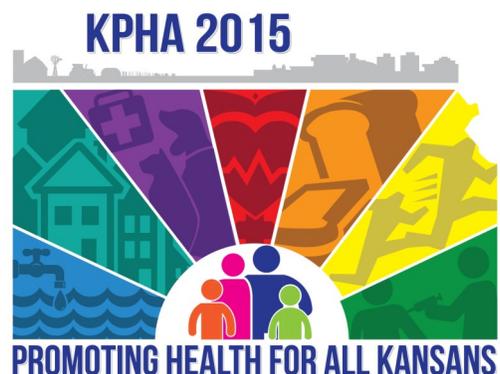
Nationally, KPHA members continue to take on more leadership roles with our parent organization, APHA. Eldonna Chestnut is currently the Chair-Elect for the APHA Council of Affiliates. As chair, she will be a member of the APHA Executive board in 2016. Ellen Averett was appointed to the APHA Science Board in November 2014 and will serve in this role until November 2017. John Neuberger will begin serving on the APHA Science Board in November of this year and continue until November 2018. Finally, Shirley Orr will serve on the APHA Action Board from November 2015 through November 2018. As you can see, KPHA is sharing its voice on the national level. Congratulations and thanks to these individuals for their service to KPHA and APHA.

We are very excited about the 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual KPHA Conference, **Promoting Health for All Kansans**, to be held in Manhattan on September 16 and 17. Keynote speakers for the conference include Dr. Paul Kuehnert of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and former KDHE Secretary, Dr. Robert Moser who currently oversees KU Hospital's Kansas Heart and Stroke Collaborative. The conference is jam-packed with tremendous presentations and will offer the opportunity for attendees to "walk the walk" so to speak, by going for a hike on the Konza Prairie. Click on the following for more information and to register for the conference (under "Available Sessions"):

[2015 KPHA Annual Conference Registration](#).

Click here to access the conference program:

[2015 KPHA Conference Program](#)



KPHA will be developing and distributing a survey to allow our members to share their voices. We want to know where we should focus our energies to best represent our members through education, advocacy, and programming. Also, later in the summer, you will receive a ballot asking you to vote for KPHA Board officers for 2016. Please submit your vote so that you can “share your voice”. Have a great summer!

Sincerely, Mark Thompson, 2015 KPHA President

### KPHA Presence at Region VII APHA meeting

Seven KPHA members attended this year’s Region VII Affiliate meeting on May 18-19 in Columbia, Mo. The theme was: “Doing Our Part to Create the Healthiest Nation.” Three KPHA members served as panelists to address: **Challenges Facing the Region** (Tanya Honderick, KUMC), **Tobacco and E-Cigarette Policy** (Erica Anderson, LDCHD), and **Public Health Messaging** (Miranda Steele, SHP).



Region VII is represented by public health associations in Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas (MINK). In addition to the panelists, KPHA President Mark Thompson (KSDE), Pam Smith (KDHE), Jennifer Ferguson (KDHE), and Eldonna Chesnut (JCDHE) represented Kansas. Eldonna recognized Louise Lex of Iowa Department of Health and Iowa Public Health Association, for her many years of service as ARGC and CoA region 7 representative. Louise is one of the founding members of MINK and has been instrumental in raising the region’s profile with APHA. Since Louise could not attend the MINK meeting in person, Eldonna used Skype for a virtual presentation of a plaque commending her for her service. Joyce Gaufin, past president of APHA, traveled from Utah to provide a keynote at the MINK meeting. She led a pointed discussion on the value of public health and the strategies to educate and gain more support from policymakers. As public health practitioners, we have to work across party lines and industries to address the triple aim: reduce cost, increase population health outcomes and improve patient quality of care. Joyce described how different parts of the country were addressing Health in All Policies, or HiAP. This requires more advocacy (and more advocates!), and it’s something KPHA is working to enhance for its members.

For more about MINK and other Region VII activities, contact KPHA President Mark Thompson.

## 2015 National Public Health Week Celebrations

By Cristi Nance, KU-Master of Public Health Student

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) celebrated National Public Health Week 2015 in collaboration with the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the KU Medical Center, the KU Master of Public Health Student Organization (MPHSO) and the Kansas Health Institute (KHI). Throughout the week, KHI promoted NPHW themes and messages via Facebook and Twitter. Students from public health programs across the state collaborated with KHI in development of a press release for statewide partners and the daily messages for the communication campaign. On Monday, the MPHSO held a free fitness class at the campus recreation center over the lunch hour to encourage students, faculty, and staff to get started on a healthy lifestyle.



Tuesday followed with a showing of *We Are Superman*, a documentary discussing the dividing line in Kansas City that separates low income and high income families. This documentary fit perfectly with Tuesday's theme of the day, *Starting from Zip*. The Kansas Public Health Grand Rounds, hosted by KUMC, and accessed via webinar by health departments across the state was held on Wednesday to promote *Building Momentum*. On Thursday, the KUMC Alumni Association hosted the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Bohan Lecture which was developed to celebrate Peter T. Bohan, a former professor of the university, with the goal of carrying forward his legacy of service and leadership in the academic medical community. This year's lecture was presented by Michael Moss, author of New York Times Best Seller "Sugar, Salt, and Fat: How the Food Giants Hooked Us". Students, faculty, and staff listened to the Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist's presentation, followed by a book signing.

To close the week, the MPHSO invited the university to celebrate National Public Health Week outside in the campus courtyard. The top ten public health accomplishments were written on the sidewalk, while participants were encouraged to walk around the courtyard during their lunch hour. Outdoor activities such as sidewalk chalk, bubbles, Frisbees, etc. were available to promote physical activity, along with fruits and vegetables to promote healthy eating. Participants were also invited to sign the petition to help make the United States the healthiest nation in one generation!

An extra-special highlight of the week was the recognition of KPHA board member, Jack Brown, with the Lifetime Commitment to Public Health Award. This award, given by the Sedgwick County Health Department in memory of former health officer Dr. Doren Fredrickson, recognized Mr. Brown for his work in environmental public health initiatives over the last 40 years. Next year's National Public Health Week will be April 4-10. It's never too early to start thinking about how to recognize the great accomplishments and contributions of Public Health.

### **KPHA Board Member Recognized – Jack Brown**

Jack Brown, Environmental Health Section Chair for KPHA, was recognized by the Sedgwick County Health Department as the 2015 recipient of the Dr. Doren Fredrickson\* Lifetime Commitment to Public Health Award. Jack has been involved in environmental health initiatives for more than 40 years, making numerous contributions to the health of Kansans, including:

- The nationally lauded Gilbert-Mosley Project, resulting in the construction of the WATER Center in Wichita, which serves as a groundwater remediation and environmental education center for the community.
- The Arkansas River Summit in 2000, leading to the Arkansas River Study, which examined water quality and bacterial contamination levels of the river. This study led to the development of an advisory system and programs to inform the public of water condition implications, and a plan to address water quality issues related to the Arkansas River.
- Chairperson of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Board, and with the board, he made recommendations to the Wichita City Council and its staff on issues related to bicycling and walking.

“Jack was a longtime colleague of Dr. Fredrickson, and I am sure if he were here today, he would agree that Jack is very deserving of this recognition for the lifetime commitment he has made to ensure the health and safety of the public,” - Adrienne Byrne-Lutz, SG County Health Dept. director.

\*Dr. Doren Fredrickson served as the Health Department's health officer from 2002 to 2008. He was a dedicated, caring and enthusiastic health advocate who devoted his entire career to improving public health.

Our sincerest congratulations to Jack Brown on this prestigious award!



## Charlie's House

Charlie's House's mission is to prevent injuries to children in and around the home. On November 1, 2007, Charlie Horn, a 2-year old boy from Kansas City, was killed when he attempted to climb a dresser in his home that was just 30 inches high. Through this tragedy, Charlie's House, a 501(c) (3) non-profit organization, was created. Charlie's House strives to share simple tips to prevent childhood injuries, which remains the leading cause of death in children ages 19 and younger.

Charlie's House believes that home safety is attainable for anyone. There are things that every parent and caregiver can do to lessen the chances of harm or injury in a child's environment. Home safety is an ongoing process that requires adjusting for new hazards as children grow and as we learn more about what we can do to improve or maintain safe areas where children live and play. There are many things for parents to become aware of, and Charlie's House has made available the use of Charlie's Checklist and Virtual House through the website.

The online checklist and virtual house provide examples of things that can be done room by room to reduce risks of injuries. The safety checklist is available in a printed format and includes points for securing furniture to the walls, gun safety, and safe sleep awareness. Through donations and grants, Charlie's House is able to provide items such as furniture straps and the safety checklists on a complimentary basis to parents and others that make the request on our website.

Charlie's House provides additional resources by educating the community through outreach at safety fairs, presentations to school and work groups, newsletters and references on the website such as product recalls and safety news. One focus area that Charlie's House is currently working on is spreading the word about the dangers of liquid nicotine used in electronic cigarettes. A plan to complete the Charlie's House demonstration home, which will provide educational programming and address safety in a homelike setting, is getting closer each day. Charlie's House is committed to doing more to engage and educate the public.

Follow Charlie's House on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram

<http://www.facebook.com/charlieshouse>

<https://twitter.com/CharliesHouseKC>

<http://instagram.com/charlieshousekc>

<http://charlieshouse.org/>



## APHA Statement on the US Supreme Court Decision On ACA Subsidies

Today, more than 6 million Americans can breathe a sigh of relief. That's how many people will keep their health insurance now that the Supreme Court upheld the legality of insurance subsidies in all states under the Affordable Care Act. As with past decisions, this allows the ACA to continue to bring unprecedented opportunities for Americans to access health services and live longer and healthier. The number of Americans without health insurance is now lower than it's been in years. But in our quest to make the U.S. the healthiest nation, access to health care is only a first step. We still have to overcome the social and environmental challenges that contribute to Americans living shorter lives and suffering from more health issues than our peers in other countries.

That's why we created [Generation Public Health](#). It's a movement of people dedicated to working together to improve both their own health and the health of their communities. Everyone has a role to play – from supporting simple steps in your local community to advocating for change at a state and national level. And no one can do it alone. We have the power to create change only when we join together.

### [Get involved!](#)

So while we still have a lot of work to do, take a moment to celebrate the Supreme Court's decision. These are the types of victories that keep us on the path to creating the healthiest nation in one generation.

Congratulations to us all! Now, let's get back to work!

Sincerely,



Georges C. Benjamin, MD  
APHA Executive Director



## KPHA Board Meeting Schedule – 2015

July 20

10 AM to Noon

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment  
11811 S Sunset Dr., Olathe

August 17

10 AM to Noon

Topeka Shawnee County Library  
1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Topeka

September 15

2 PM to 4:30 PM

Hilton Garden Inn  
410 South 3<sup>rd</sup> St., Manhattan

October 19

10 AM to Noon

Sedgwick County Health Department  
1900 East Ninth, Wichita

November 16

10 AM to Noon

Topeka Shawnee County Library  
1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave., Topeka

December 14

10 AM to 1 PM

Lawrence

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