



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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Legislative Update for March 22



There was lots of grinding through bills by committees of houses, and lots of calendar-stuffing, last week and this week, before the March 26 deadline for bills clearing the opposite house.

The House Ok'd the abortion clinic regulation bill that now goes to the Senate. The bill only applies to clinics and would require their licensing by KDHE instead

of the Board of Healing Arts. It stands a chance of passage and override protection of a veto (as was done last year to a similar bill), according to Senate Health Chairman, Barnett, due to a death of a woman receiving an abortion in Kansas this past year and a fine of a KC doctor.

The seat belt bill, [HB2109](#), requiring child booster seats for children between 4 and 8 years old passed the Senate after an hour debate. It would make not using seat belts reason for a car stop if the vehicle appears to be driven by a person under age 18. If the driver looks over age 18, police can't stop a vehicle merely for its driver or adult occupants not wearing seat belts. An interesting amendment that might be offered to the bill in the House would put racial profiling into the bill. Those voting against the bill: Haley, Huelskamp, Journey, O'Connor, Ostmeyer, Palmer, Pyle, Wagle and Wilson. Allen was not present, but all others voted for the bill.

Here is the schedule to be adopted in resolutions by both chambers: The Legislature adjourns March 25, a Friday, or maybe March 26, a Saturday, which is the deadline for opposite-house consideration of most legislation. Conference committees would meet on March 28 and 29. The Legislature would reconvene March 30 and meet through April 1, or maybe April 2, depending on workload.

Click to view a [graph](#) prepared by Dr. Kim Richter on the bills KPHA has been tracking and the activity with the bill. Thanks to Kim (and Ashley Hamilton) and their hard work tracking legislative activity this year, KPHA members and staff have been able to know exactly what's going on at the capital. If you know them, please thank them! [Back to top](#)

A Very Successful Reception Held for Dr. Howard Rodenberg, KDHE's new Director of Health

Phil Griffin, KPHA President introduced Secretary Bremby to an audience of approximately 100 health advocates and professionals on March 16th, who then introduced Dr. Rodenberg. The attendance was terrific. Many thanks to all those who attended and made the evening a very successful event!

KDHE and Dr. Rodenberg held a press conference earlier that day. Below are excerpts Dr. Rodenberg talked about at the reception:

"Obesity and tobacco use continue as the leading causes of preventable disease in Kansas, the state's new health director said Wednesday.

"Clearly, if we can work on those two things, we will eliminate much of the preventable deaths and disease in society," said Howard Rodenberg, who leads the health division at Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Rodenberg ranked cigarette smoking as the leading cause of health problems, followed by obesity.

At his first news conference since taking over the post earlier this month, the 1980 Shawnee Mission East High School graduate pledged renewed anti-smoking campaigns and strategies to get the message out about healthier eating and exercise.

"If we can get people to stop smoking, not only do we keep money in their pockets, we preserve their health," Rodenberg said. "These are easy things to do, and the governor's health care plan allows us to move in that direction, saving our state's health dollars, as well as the personal health of our citizens."

Rodenberg also intends to focus KDHE efforts to bridge "minority health disparities," he said.

"Kansas is increasingly becoming a multiracial, multi-ethnic state," he said, "especially in the southwest part, where we have a growing Hispanic population. We need to address some of those disparities, not only in southwest Kansas, but in inner cities and with populations of Native Americans."

Another "hot issue" identified by Rodenberg is the potential threat posed by the spread of avian flu from Asia to the United States.

"The avian flu will eventually get here," he said, "and I don't think it's next year or the year after, but eventually it will get here in some shape or form."

Rodenberg said the state already has a plan in place in the event of a pandemic of avian flu, also known as "bird flu," which is thought to be spread to humans primarily through contact with bird feces, he said. Rodenberg joined the KDHE staff after having served as director of the Volusia County Health Department in Florida since 2003.

The 42-year-old Rodenberg completed a doctor of medicine degree in 1986 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He also earned an undergraduate degree in biology at UMKC." [Back to top](#)

Job Positions Open



The Central Kansas Foundation for Alcohol and Chemical Dependency is looking for a dynamic leader to fill a full-time opening for a Tobacco Use Prevention Director.

The Director is responsible for managing a large, multi-faceted grant project. Duties include overseeing sub-contractors, recruiting volunteers, managing finances, and directing a staff of two. Applicants must possess strong leadership, written, and verbal skills. Experience in working with the media, grant writing are helpful. A minimum of a Bachelor's degree in communications or human services related field is required. Excellent salary and benefits.

Deadline for applications is March 31, 2005. Send resume and references to the Central Kansas Foundation, PO Box 2117, Salina, Kansas 67402-2117

Pre-Employment Drug Screen and Background check are required. Equal Opportunity Employment. [Back to top](#)

Upcoming Training



The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) request your attendance and participation at the upcoming Minority Health Conference.

Health professionals and community champions from across Kansas will convene April 13 to share best practices and learn about new strategies and resources to improve the health of diverse ethnic populations across the state at the KDHE Minority Health Conference 2005: Connecting Kansas Communities.

Displays, presentations, networking with friends, colleagues and making new connections are included on the agenda for the one-day conference. Attendance is limited to 225 people and registration is only \$25.00. A limited number of special-rate rooms are available at the Holiday Inn.

Highlights of the April 13 conference will be a keynote presentation by Dr. David Williams, and a luncheon speech by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius. Williams, a University of Michigan Professor, is a nationally recognized author and researcher on social influences on health and is centrally interested in the trends and determinants of socioeconomic and racial differences in mental and physical health.

Conference information is on the web at www.minorityhealthks.org.



Mark Your Calendars!

NALBOH's 6th Annual Ned E. Baker Lecture in Public Health
Friday, April 8, 2005
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. Eastern

Working with Local Elected Officials to Improve Public Health

Vaughn Mamlin Upshaw, DrPH, EdD
Lecturer in Public Administration and Government
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
101 Olscamp Hall, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio

To view the lecture via Webcast, please visit <http://wbgu.org/baker/index.html> or visit www.nalboh.org for more information.

To ask your questions of Dr. Upshaw on April 8 please email: baker@bgnet.bgsu.edu.

The lecture and a reception following the talk are free and open to the public.

For more information, please contact nalboh@nalboh.org.

This program has been approved for:

- 1.5 CPE'S - Social Work RSX108808 BGSU is an approved provider of the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board
- 1 clock hour - Nursing Home Administrators 241-C-05 Approved by the Ohio Board of Nursing Home Administrators
- 1.8 contact hours - Nursing OBN-008-92-532-011105 Approved by the OBN Provider at Northwest State Community College
- 1.0 clock hour - Sanitarian 05-098 Approved by the State Board of Sanitarian Registration
- For more information about CEUs, please contact Jennifer Wagner at hspd@bgnet.bgsu.edu

Sponsors:

College of Health and Human Services

Cove Charitable Trust of Boston
National Association of Local Boards of Health
Northwest Ohio Consortium for Public Health
Western Reserve Geriatric Education Center
Wood County Hospital Foundation

Co-sponsors:

Illinois Association of Boards of Health
Nebraska State Association of Local Boards of Health, a section of the Public Health Association of Nebraska
Ohio Association of Boards of Health

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Scholarship opportunity



TASK is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for youth tobacco prevention advocates, the One Strong Voice Scholarship. This scholarship has been organized by the youth leaders of TASK to recognize their peers who have been working to support the mission of the statewide youth movement.

TASK promotes tobacco free teens by uniting communities to create one strong voice standing against the tobacco industry.

TASK will award the One Strong Voice Scholarship to five Kansas high school seniors. Additional information regarding the scholarship can be found on the TASK web site at www.kstask.org. Applications must be postmarked by Monday, May 2, 2005.

The poster announcing the scholarship is attached for your use. Please post or share with partners. If you need additional information, please contact the Tobacco Use Prevention Program at 877-602-0368 or Heather West at hwest@kdhe.state.ks.us. [Back to top](#)

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