



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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Legislative Update



Mark your calendars!

The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) and the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC), along with other health organizations involved in the 2007 Alliance for Health Advocates-KS invite you to attend and participate in a Health Fair and Lunch for Health Day at the Capital with Legislators. 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Thursday, March 8.

More information will follow next week. Mark your calendars and plan to attend!

AHA KS continues to meet each Friday to discuss current health legislation. To see last week's notes, [click here](#). To see the activity discussed at the Friday, Feb 9th meeting, [click here](#).

Information from KPHA Member Mary Jayne Hellebust on SB 37:

SB 318 was introduced by Senator Barnett, R-Emporia to allocate the expected increase in Master Settlement Agreement funds from the tobacco companies to proven best practices in tobacco prevention and cessation programs for Kansas. The expected increase could be as much as \$16.2 million as of April of 2008. Please review the materials posted on the TFKC website <http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org/newsletter/> for information about this new opportunity to bring Kansas up to the funding level for tobacco control recommended by the Centers for Disease Control. The bill has been referred to the Senate Ways and Means Committee.

See <http://www.tobaccofreekansas.org/newsletter/index.shtml> for additional information.

Link to SB 318: <http://www.kslegislature.org/bills/2008/318.pdf>

Information from KPHA member Jan Stegleman:

Hearings: HB 2136 Standard Seat Belt Bill and SB 294 Graduated Driver's License

Wednesday, February 14, 1:30 PM

Primary Seat Belt (HB 2136)

House Transportation Committee, Rm-519-S

It has been requested that a limited number of people speak on the primary seat belt bill at the House Transportation Committee, but if any of you are available to attend as a show of support that would be wonderful. Written testimony is being accepted and I would encourage you to do so. If you would like to provide written testimony, please email Betty Boaz (betty.b@house.state.ks.us), Secretary for the House Transportation Committee, and let her know you will be providing written testimony. You will then need to have 30 copies of your written testimony to Betty by 11 AM on Tuesday, February 13 (Capitol Building, 300 SW 10 th, Room 115-S, Topeka, KS 66612-1504). For those of you not in Topeka, I will be happy to facilitate having copies made and delivered, but you will still need to email Betty to let her know you are submitting testimony. If you need me to make copies I will need an electronic version of your testimony by 3:00 PM on Monday, February 12.

Thursday, February 15, 8:30 AM

Graduated Driver's License (SB 294)

Senate Transportation Committee, Rm-527-S

In the interest of time, we probably want to limit the number of people testifying, but if any of you are available to attend as a show of support that would be wonderful. Written testimony is being accepted and I would encourage you to do so. If you would like to provide written testimony, please email Maggie Breen

(maggie.b@senate.state.ks.us), Secretary for the Senate Transportation Committee and let her know you will be providing written testimony. You will then need to have 20 copies of your written testimony to Maggie Breen by 8:30 AM Wednesday, February 14 (Capitol Building, 300 SW 10 th, Room 261-E, Topeka, KS 66612-1504). For those of you not in Topeka, I will be happy to facilitate having copies made and delivered, but you will still need to email Maggie Breen to let her know you are submitting testimony. If you need me to make copies I will need an electronic version of your testimony by 3:00 PM on Tuesday, February 13.

BILL ON HPV VACCINATION FOR GIRLS

A bill introduced would require all sixth-grade girls to be vaccinated for a sexually transmitted infection that can cause cervical cancer - a killer of 3,700 women nationwide each year.

The bipartisan group of Kansas House members who sponsored the bill have added Kansas to a list of states - including Virginia, New Jersey, California, Georgia, Texas, Kentucky and Michigan - where legislators are considering similar measures.

Rep. Delia Garcia, D-Wichita, is the lead sponsor of the bill that would add the vaccine for the human papillomavirus, known as HPV, to the list of inoculations required for sixth-grade girls attending Kansas public schools. Nationally, proponents have cheered it as a way to help institute an important medical breakthrough in preventive medicine. In June, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the use of the HPV vaccine Gardasil, which is made by Merck & Co. Kansas University, was a test site for the vaccine in 1999 and administered it to 60 students.

The vaccination has been controversial here and elsewhere because the drug was approved only nine months ago and some say it could lead teens toward more promiscuous lifestyles. "I don't think it's promoting promiscuity," Garcia said. "It's taking a stand to eliminate cervical cancer." According to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, HPV is a sexually transmitted virus that is the leading cause of cervical cancer. KDHE said doctors currently think that more than 90% of cervical cancer is caused by HPV. Issue of mandates.

Sen. Jim Barnett, R-Emporia, chairman of the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee, said the issue is whether the state should mandate that all sixth-grade girls be vaccinated. "I think that question needs very careful thought, particularly from the standpoint of what is the role of the state versus parental involvement," said Barnett, who was the GOP's unsuccessful nominee for governor last year. "At this time, I think that decision is best made between the parent and the physician, along with, of course, the patient, even though it's a sixth-grade girl." Barnett, a physician, called the vaccine "very important" and said he was concerned about sexually transmitted infections.

In late 2006, Michigan was one of the first states to consider a mandatory HPV vaccine. After a bill passed the Michigan Senate, John Stahl, a Republican member of the House, led a group to defeat it. "We don't want them using our children as guinea pigs" Stahl said Thursday, although legislation has been reintroduced there this session. In Texas, a parental group has asked for the vaccine's efficacy, safety and cost to be examined.

This information is from KPHA member Rita Flickenger's legislator, Rep. Crow:

COMMITTEE HEARS BOTH SIDES ON HPV VACCINE

Cancer survivors urged lawmakers Wednesday to approve legislation that would require sixth-grade girls to receive a vaccine against cervical cancer. Their message was that this is an opportunity to protect young women from the virus that causes cervical cancer before exposure. A woman who had suffered cervical cancer told the committee that she had to have a radical hysterectomy.

House Bill 2227 would require that female students enrolling in sixth grade to have the vaccine for the sexually transmitted human papillomavirus, known as HPV.

But several groups testified against the bill. The Kansas Catholic Conference said there are many questions about the safety of Gardasil, the recently approved vaccine. Right to Life of Kansas Inc. said parents should make decisions regarding the health of their children. "Such a mandate intrudes on those very parental rights and duties," the group said in prepared testimony.

Last week, Texas became the first state to make the vaccination mandatory for girls entering the sixth grade starting in September 2008.

ENHANCED 911

In an effort to assist cell phone users dialing 911 in emergency situations, Governor Kathleen Sebelius and the Kansas Wireless Enhanced Advisory Board (KWEAB) today announced \$4,915,782 in funding for 37 Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) from the E911 state grant. These are primarily rural areas but, if you are driving in that area, your safety could be enhanced. Funding from the E911 state grant assists PSAPs in implementing wireless enhanced 911 services; purchasing equipment or upgrading and modifying equipment; purchasing licensing fees for equipment; and providing training to operate the equipment, including costs to train personnel to provide effective services for those who have communication disabilities.

E911 state grant funds are generated from a 25-cent monthly fee collected from each wireless service account in Kansas and one percent from the retail price of any prepaid wireless service sold in the state. Counties with population of less than 75,000 or any city located within such a county are eligible for E911 state grant funds.

Agro-defense blitz

The House passed two key measures to put Kansas into the hunt for a national bio and agro defense facility, one establishing the working group, another a resolution saying Kansas wants the \$450 million Homeland Defense facility. The Senate is likely to pass them. The Senate passed on final action a bill that would give more than 58 acres of land near Kansas State University for the project.

News from KPHA Member Jim McClean, KHI:

KHI Research Update: New Publications Now Online

The Kansas Health Institute recently released the following publications:

Childhood Obesity and Kansas Schools

Kansas school officials see a role for them in addressing the childhood obesity crisis, but say time limitations and competing nutrition policies stand as barriers.

Financing Childhood Immunizations Across the Nation

States with high childhood immunization rates employ diverse strategies to achieve their rankings. One common strategy is providing incentives to providers.

Who Vaccinates Our Children?

For a variety of reasons, many private providers in Kansas do not give childhood immunizations, ranking the state among the lowest seven in the country for private provider participation.

Specialty Hospitals in Kansas: An Unfolding Story

The impact of Kansas specialty hospitals on their general hospital competitors is mixed. It varies by market and by service provided.

These publications can be found online, either by selecting the titles above or by visiting www.khi.org.

Request from KPHA Member Linda DeCoursey for Support from Rep. Colloton:

Dear Linda, I would very much like to have your support for HB 2090. It would be helpful to have a written statement of support. The hearing on HB 2090 is scheduled in the House Education Committee on Tuesday, Feb 13. and I would need to submit any written letter of support by then. If you would like to attend the hearing I would like to have you come (Room 313, Capitol). The letter should be addressed to Chairman Aurand and Committee Members, and can be delivered or faxed to me at the House. I will prepare and submit the copies for the committee. Thanks so much for all your help. Pat

PS: Please call my secretary, Chris 785-296-7631, if you need the fax number.

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News from APHA and SCHIP



Following up to last week's e-mail on how Affiliates can get involved in SCHIP reauthorization, I wanted to let you know of a couple of new events and resources that your Affiliate can take advantage of as this process moves forward.

First, Tuesday, February 13, is National SCHIP Call-In Day! A 1-800 number has been provided by the Campaign for Children's Health Care and the Catholic Health Association for APHA members and Affiliates to use on this day. Affiliate members call contact their members of Congress at 1-877-509-KIDS and use the talking points provided at <http://www.capwiz.com/apha/callalert/index.tt?alertid=9338891>.

Also, APHA's online SCHIP advocacy and educational resource is now live. APHA Affiliates and members can learn more about SCHIP and how they can get involved in its reauthorization at <http://www.apha.org/advocacy/activities/schip/>.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information. Have a great rest of your

day!

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Side note: this information was forwarded KHPA Chair Connie Hubble for review.

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Job Openings

Reno County



Position Announcement Job Number-450RN

POSITION AVAILABLE: Associate Director, Administrative Services/Environmental Health. Position opened until filled.

LOCATION: Reno County Health Department

RESPONSIBILITIES: Assist Health Director in supervision and operations of the department and assume duties of Director in absence as needed. Management of Bookkeeping/Accounting, Medical Records, clerical positions, Environmental Health and Child Care Licensing. Direct and assist Coordinators within the areas of responsibilities. Assist the Director in: Emergency Preparedness activities, programmatic development, setting goals for the department, and budgetary matters.

QUALIFICATIONS: Requirements: Masters degree preferred in environmental or health related field with financial management included. Five or more years of supervision experiences in a health or environmental health field or equivalent work experience. Prior Epidemiology experiences in Communicable Disease and food or water born illnesses desired. Knowledge and experience in working with agencies in public health issues. Pre-employment drug testing, background checks.

STATUS AND SALARY: Full-time \ 40 Hours \ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Wages dependent upon experience

TO APPLY: Apply on line at HrePartners.com

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER.
RENO COUNTY IS A SMOKE-FREE ENVIRONMENT.**

Job in Wyandotte County



POSITION TITLE: Nurse Practitioner

DEPT: Health/Personal Health Services

DIVISION: Maternal & Child Health Replacement Part Time 20+ hours/week

LOCATION: Health Department, 619 Ann Avenue

BRIEF JOB DESCRIPTION: Primary area will be Family Planning and Prenatal/M&I. Duties include performing physical assessments, including pelvic exams. Will provide pre-natal, post partum and routine gynecological care management. Will prescribe medications and order/interpret diagnostic tests within scope of clinic setting. Will assist with writing protocols and procedures. Provides client education on health issues, including all pregnancy options. Strong time management, organizational and communication skills are essential. Experience in OB/GYN helpful. Must be able to work with a diverse client population; work in a team setting; exercise judgment and refer clients as needed. Bilingual Spanish/English desirable.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduate of accredited school of professional nursing; Kansas RN license; Kansas ARNP Certification.

Must reside in Wyandotte County or relocate within 24 months. You may submit your resume or apply to:

Unified Government
Human Resources
Room 646
701 N. 7 th Street
Kansas City, KS 66101
Fax: 913/573-5006
jobs@wycokck.org

**EOE
Open until filled**

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KPHA Member, Julia Francisco Retires from Public Health Service



Long time public health advocate, Julia Francisco retired after 14 years of service at KDHE. Julia was the Director of the Tobacco Use Prevention Program, at KDHE, in the Office of Health Promotion.

I would be interested in working in any capacity with KPHA. Please express my gratitude to all KPHA members for their work with Tobacco Prevention issues. My fourteen years with KDHE have been a challenge and a joy. The public health community in Kansas is one of outstanding skill, dedication, and passion. Thank you for your support.

Julia M. Francisco, MPH, Director
Tobacco Use Prevention Program
Office of Health Promotion
Phone: 316-337-6051
Fax: 316-337-6055

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Amicus Brief

KPHA is once again involved in the trial in federal court called the Amicus Brief regarding AG Phil Kline's ruling on requiring reporting of minors. Many medical and health organizations in Kansas are listed as Amici. In short this is what happens:

"If the District Court's grant of a permanent injunction is reversed and the Attorney General's interpretation is enforced, *Amici* Members will be required to report to the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services ("SRS") when they learn from a patient or client under the age of 16, or discover upon examination, that the patient or client has engaged in consensual sexual activity with an age-mate, even if the professional concludes that the behavior was neither abusive nor injurious.² In fact, the Attorney General's Opinion will force the *Amici* Members to breach the confidentiality of their adolescent patients, thereby harming their professional relationships with, and threatening the health of, those adolescents.

Footnote: 1 Although Mr. Kline is no longer Kansas' Attorney General, having lost his bid for reelection during the pendency of this appeal, his successor has not formally withdrawn the Opinion issued during Mr. Kline's term of office.

Click [here](#) to read the entire Brief.

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Summer Safety Day for Kids from KPHA Member Jan Stegleman



Once again we are partnering with the Kansas Council on Fitness and KDHE to hold Kansas Kids Fitness and Safety day on May 4. The theme this year is summer safety.

Below is the email from Jan, SafeKids Kansas:

We would like to have a "safety star" at the event held at Cedar Crest in Topeka. The Safety Star would be a child or teen (or their parent if the child is too young) from somewhere in Kansas who can tell their story from a stage to 700 3rd grade students and their parents and teachers. Our preference is to have someone who was saved from serious injury because they were wearing their seat belt, wearing a helmet, or, was injured and have changed their behavior, or added safety equipment, like a pool alarm, 4 sided fence, better playground surfacing, now wear a life jacket, etc. If you know of anyone who might be a good Safety Star - please let me know. JStegelm@kdhe.state.ks.us. [Back to top](#)

KPHA Moves Forward with Public Health Orientation Manual

KPHA President Ed Kalas and I presented handouts on the progress with the KHF grant for an Orientation Manual first, for county public health departments at the KHF Systems Group meeting in Kansas City last week. We first met with the KPHA Chair of the project, Barbara Mitchell, Johnson County Health Department and then with Bruce Myahara and Bobbi Berkowitz to discuss the activity and future planning. To see the handout on the history of the project [click here](#). To see the handout on current activity, [click here](#). The task force established for the manual will be meeting by conference call next week. If you are interested in participating in this task force, please notify Barbara at: Barbara.Mitchell@jocogov.org. [Back to top](#)



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