

Winter 2004

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President's Message

KPHA Moves Forward



This past year has seen many changes and many growing opportunities for the Kansas Public Health Association. Under the leadership of Dr. Kim Richter, the board of directors has conducted a full review of the association's strategic plan and the by-laws, both

of which saw many changes and were overwhelmingly ratified by the membership at the annual meeting in September. I would like to personally express my gratitude to Kim and to the board for all the hard work put into achieving these milestones over the past year.

We as an association also said good-bye to Sally Finney after serving as our Executive Director for eight years. Through Sally's leadership we saw many years of growth and established a viable sustained association that has been known as a tremendous advocate of public health in Kansas. We have seen membership growth along with a growing influence on local and state policy effecting public health. For many, Sally and KPHA were synonymous terms and we feared we would never find anyone else with the passion that Sally shared for the association. Fortunately, that fear has been quickly put to rest in the hiring of Elaine Schwartz.

Elaine began her role as the director of the KPHA at a very challenging time of the year. When she started we were a mere six weeks started we were a mere six weeks away from the annual conference. We had been operating for six weeks prior to that with purely volunteer leadership, for which the entire association owes particularly a great deal of gratitude to Allison Alejos who held together the financial activities of the association, spending close to twenty hours a week managing the books as the association treasurer.

Elaine has hit the ground running. The annual conference went off with great success. Elaine demonstrated quickly the commitment and dedication she has to public health and to the association. She even went as far as personally creating and providing table centerpieces for the banquets at the conference, just to make it look nicer. She worked many evenings and early mornings leading up to the conference to insure that we had an event to be proud of and to be remembered. By all accounts and reports from members, the efforts paid off and all were pleased with the conference. Elaine continues to demonstrate each day that she is committed to KPHA and has been actively involved in recruiting new members and partners to the association as well as doing some restructuring of the business practices of the association in order to find new efficiencies in our operations. She has also put great effort into increasing communication to the entire membership with regular "KPHA E-Updates" being sent out on a regular basis providing updates on what is happening in the area of public health and within KPHA.

At the annual meeting this year we also performed the first major restructure of our sections in many years. We have created some new sections and dissolved some old sections. The new sections are designed along public health functions rather than along the lines of public health professions as they had been in the past. We have come to recognize that most of us working in the field of public health tend to work more in function groups rather than professional discipline groups in order to have a multi-disciplinary approach to accomplishing the tasks of public health. We are striving to better meet the needs of our members through this re-structured section system. I encourage each member to review the new sections on our website (www.kpha.us) and see the goals for this year, then choose and join the section that best meets your needs.

I am confident that the board of directors will be working hard this year to continue seeing the growth of new ideas and sustaining the traditions of this great association. I am very enthused with the leadership that has been elected by the membership and the sections. I am excited by the goals and enthusiasm exhibited by the sections.

As the President of the association I want to personally invite each member to take an active role this year in the activities of the association. I invite each of you to join a section, volunteer to serve on a committee, participate in a Public Health Week activity, attend a conference, training or seminar offered by KPHA, invite a colleague to join, or even recruit a new business partner to support KPHA. Remember that KPHA is only as strong as we the members of the association make it. We have a proud foundation to stand on and a strong history behind us. Let's all work together to insure that our future is even prouder and stronger.

Please feel free to contact me with ideas, questions, suggestions or needs you may have as a member of one of the strongest affiliate members of the American Public Health Association. I can be reached at phil@kpha.us or 785-296-8893. [Back to menu](#)

From the Executive Director



Under New Management

You know the signs you see in stores when they change owners, "Under New Management". That is pretty much how I've felt these past few months, as KPHA's new director. I even thought of having a "Sale on Memberships" or something similar like an open house.

But, my schedule has been way too full just learning the ropes, which I'm still doing. So, please forgive my errors and mistakes. I promise after 6 months to a year, I'll know better how to do things in and out of the KPHA office. Please stop by, or call, if you have any questions or concerns. I feel a bit as I did when I was a legislator in the Kansas House of Representatives, and believed I worked for my constituents. As the Executive Director of KPHA, I work for you, the members.

I brought with me (from the Kansas Department on Aging-my last job) an intern from Washburn University, Don Iverson. He's a student in Human Services with an emphasis in Aging. The theme for National Public Health week in April is on Aging, "Live Longer, Stronger!" Don will be a great assistance in the planning and implementing the activities planned for the week. He has already been great at marketing and recruiting tasks. He plans to be here till he graduates next semester. (If you know of any students who would also like to intern at the KPHA office, please let me know!)

I did land on my feet after the Annual Conference, but I've been running ever since. The APHA meeting in DC was terrific. I learned a great deal and am still absorbing it all. There were some new ideas that we can use here in Kansas. Now, just finding the time and help to get them done is the next order of business, which brings me to my final comments. As a member of any organization, I find that the more active I am, the more I feel that my dues are worth it. Hence, my request to garner volunteers for various projects and programs. Since KPHA is a one staff shop, I'd like to feel free to contact members from time to time for things like attending a function, meeting, summit, or workshop, when I can't because of a prior commitment or more priority one.

As time goes on, I'm sure I'll find more specific tasks for members to assist with, but for now, my brain is overflowing with information, and getting the books in order, the membership info correct, attending meetings, answering the phone, trying to straighten out all the computer problems, and just in general finding my way around the office. Have a blessed holiday season, and if you can, join us at the "Legislative PH101" on January 9th! [Back to menu](#)

Association News

KPHA Board Decides to Support Amicus Brief on Attorney General's Decision

After receiving a request from APHA, President Phil Griffin sought approval from the Board to join the Amicus Brief on the A.G's opinion and ruling on reporting child abuse. Below are excerpts from both the law firm filing the brief.

"In late July, the federal district court in Kansas enjoined the Attorney General's interpretation of the reporting statute on the grounds that: (1) plaintiffs had shown a likelihood of success on their claim that such broad reporting of consensual sexual activity violates the informational privacy rights of adolescents; and (2) the breaches of patient confidentiality required under the statute posed irreparable harm to adolescents by deterring them from obtaining needed health care. That ruling was an important victory protecting adolescents' ability to obtain confidential reproductive health services for the duration of our lawsuit. However, in late August, the State appealed the issuance of the preliminary injunction to the Tenth Circuit Court of Appeals.

This appeal is going to be very significant to, and perhaps dispositive of, our case because it will raise both the merits of our legal arguments and the question of how confidentiality in health services affects adolescents' access to those services and, ultimately, their health. Moreover, this case presents constitutional issues - such as whether adolescents have a right to confidentiality in their pursuit of reproductive health services - that have not yet been decided by the federal courts, and that affect the lives of adolescents all over the United States. We think that it is extremely important for the Court of Appeals, in deciding these issues, to consider the position of APHA, and perhaps other national health organizations, on the importance of, and appropriate exceptions to, confidentiality in the provision of reproductive health services. APHA's participation as amicus at this stage of the proceedings is therefore crucial."

Plaintiffs fear that the Defendants and the members of the proposed defendant class will enforce the state's child abuse reporting statute, Kan. Stat. Ann. § 38-1522 ("the reporting statute"), to require them to report their adolescent patients and clients to the state whenever plaintiffs suspect that those patients and clients have been sexually active, even if plaintiffs do not suspect that the sexual activity was "abuse" or injurious. Plaintiffs believe it is appropriate to report sexual abuse to the state when they suspect that a child or adolescent has been injured by actual, sexual abuse. However, Plaintiffs fear that reporting all consensual sexual activity between age-mates will not protect adolescents from actual abuse, but will instead threaten plaintiffs' professional relationships with their patients and clients and deter adolescents from obtaining needed health care, at the expense of their health.

SRS is charged with investigating reports of child abuse. Kan. Stat. § 38-1523. Such investigations ordinarily involve an interview with the minor's parents. In June of 2003, Defendant Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline issued an opinion interpreting the reporting statute to mean that all suspected sexual activity by a minor under the age of 16 must be reported by Plaintiffs to SRS even if the suspected sexual activity was with another person of similar age, and even if Plaintiffs do not reasonably believe that the suspected sexual activity has caused injury to the minor. Thus, under Kline's interpretation, Kansas adolescents under the age of 16 cannot obtain confidential health care or counseling from Plaintiffs. [Back to menu](#)

2004 KPHA Annual Conference Awards

Samuel Crumbine Award: Shirley Orr, ARNP, MHS, CNAA

Shirley Orr currently serves as Director of Local Health for the Office of Local and Rural Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In that capacity, she is responsible for oversight of state agency liaison activities with local agencies, including technical assistance and general infrastructure support for 99 local health departments serving 105 counties. She is also responsible for coordination of the state aid-to-local process within the Division of Health. In addition, she provides oversight of Public Health Workforce Development activities and the training component of the CDC Bioterrorism Preparedness Grant (Focus Area G). She has completed 13 years of service at KDHE, and has provided over 20 years of service in professional and administrative roles for public health and health care organizations in Kansas. Shirley currently serves as the Kansas and Midwest Regional representative to the Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing, and is also the Kansas affiliate representative to the American Public Health Association. In addition, Shirley serves as Co-Executive Director of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute, and is a founding partner in the Kansas WALD (Workforce and Leadership Development) partnership. She also serves as adjunct faculty for the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita. Shirley received a BSN Degree as well as MHS in Administration from Wichita State University. She holds Kansas licenses as a Registered Nurse and Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner. Shirley is certified by the American Nurses Credentialing Center in Nursing Administration at the advanced level. Additionally, she is a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute.

President's Award: Captain Mark Bruce

Captain Mark Bruce was appointed to the Kansas Highway Patrol in 1989. Upon completion of recruit training, he assumed road patrol duties in Manhattan. In 1993, he transferred to Linn County where he continued to perform road duties. In January 1996, he transferred to the Patrol's General Headquarters in Topeka where he was assigned to the Research and Planning Section. He was promoted to Sergeant in 1998. In 2000, he was promoted to Second Lieutenant and assumed supervisory responsibilities for the Support Services Section. In 2003, he was promoted to Lieutenant in the Patrol's Emergency Operations Section. Later that same year, he was promoted to his current rank of captain. Captain Bruce's duties involve the coordination of agency resources responding to any natural, man-made or intentional disaster. He also administers the State Homeland Security Grant Program. This program provides funding to enhance the capability of state and local agencies to prevent and respond to incidents of terrorism involving the use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive weapons. Captain Bruce is a graduate of Barton County Community College, the University of Kansas and Washburn University where he earned a Master's Degree in Criminal Justice. He, his wife Kristi and son Quin reside in Silver Lake.

Corporate Public Health Service Award: Hallmark Corporation

The Hallmark Card Company has been a public health partner for immunization activities since 1995. The company has provided cards to the governor of Kansas and other states that can be sent to new parents to welcome new babies with a message of congratulations and a message of hope that all babies will grow up happy and healthy. The card relays a message from our governor of encouragement and education about the importance of childhood immunizations and has a removable immunization and growth chart parents can take along on doctor visits. Hallmark started this program in Missouri in 1995 then expanded to Kansas in 1996 based on the overwhelming support expressed. They soon committed to make the program available to any state governor who requested it. In 2002, thirty-six states were involved with the program, reaching the parents of about three million children born that year.

Special Service Award: Craig Molgaard, PhD, MPH

Dr. Molgaard is currently Professor and Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, and is the Co-Executive Director of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute under the WALD Center. Dr. Molgaard is one of the founders of the WALD Center, which is a collaborative partnership and virtual training center devoted to public health workforce and leadership development. His dedicated service to increase community capacity and social capital within the public health community has been recognized both locally and nationally. In 2000, he received the Samuel J. Crumbine medal from the Kansas Public Health Association for outstanding contributions to public health in the state of Kansas. Following military service in the U.S. Army (1970-1972), he received his bachelors degree with honors and Phi Beta Kappa in anthropology at Iowa State University (1974). He was an NIH pre-doctoral trainee at the Institute of Human Learning at the University of California at Berkeley, where he received his masters and doctoral degrees in anthropology (1975, 1979), and was also a student in the Dual Degree Program in Health and Medical Sciences. From 1979 to 1981 he was a Research Associate in the Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics at the Mayo Clinic under Leonard Kurland, where he received training in neuroepidemiology, and from 1981 to 1983 he was an NIH post-doctoral fellow at UC Berkeley under S. Leonard Syme, where he received his masters in public health degree while training in cardiovascular epidemiology (1982). From 1983 to 1996, he was an assistant, associate and then full professor and Division Head for the Division of Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the Graduate School of Public Health at San Diego State University, where he worked under Abram Benenson and F. Douglas Scutchfield. During that time, he was also a Visiting Professor at the University of Oxford (1990). In 1996, he joined the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine (KUSM-W) under S. Edwards Dismuke. During his tenure at KUSM-W he has also served as the KU-MPH Executive Director, and the Associate Dean of Research. He has been a Visiting Professor at universities in Denmark and Germany and has carried out international public health research in Mexico, Japan, Finland, India, Great Britain, Denmark, Germany and Australia. He has over 100 peer-reviewed scientific publications.

Special Service Award: Suzanne Hawley, PhD, MPH

Suzanne R. Hawley, PhD, MPH, is public health academician and clinical psychologist. She has worked as a clinician and researcher in various multidisciplinary settings over the past decade. In the few years Dr. Hawley has been in Kansas, she has eagerly devoted much of her time in various roles serving public health in the state. She is currently an Assistant Professor and Site Director of the KU-MPH Program at the University of Kansas School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health in Wichita. She is also the Program Director for the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute. She has worked in educational, community mental health, psychiatric hospital, and prison settings. Her research has focused on mental health, leadership, and diverse populations. As an undergraduate, Dr. Hawley left her traditional educational training and traveled for a year with an international educational/performing group, where she represented the United States and lived in 60 cities in eight countries. This experience greatly impacted her world view, and expanded her interest in diverse cultures and human behavior. She completed her bachelor's degree in psychology in 1993. She then received a fellowship to pursue her Master's in Experimental Psychology to develop her skills in basic research from California State University, San Bernardino. After she received her MA in 1995, she went to Loma Linda University in California to pursue her PhD in clinical psychology. Her interests in population health led her to enroll simultaneously in a Master of Public Health degree program at Loma Linda. After graduating from Loma Linda University with her MPH in 1999 and PhD in Clinical Psychology in 2002, she completed her post-doctoral training at in Newton, Kan. Dr. Hawley still continues her clinical practice at Prairie View, with a focus in pediatric primary care.

Jane Addams Award: Linda Ochs, LMSW

Linda Ochs' career in social work has allowed her to work in a variety of capacity with many different at risk populations from the developmentally disabled, those with substance abuse issues, high-risk pregnant mothers to

be, teen pregnancy prevention, children and families at risk for abuse and currently with senior adults. Her career in Kansas public health has taken her through the Salina-Saline County Health Department and presently to the Shawnee County Health Agency. Linda has been known and recognized for her passionate commitment to whatever the needs are of those around her and especially those who have been disenfranchised by our society. Most recently she has worked diligently assisting many of her senior patients navigate through the new and complicated Medicare prescription drug coverage to insure the best outcomes. On the personal side, Linda has two sons, David age 17 and Dan age 20. She also has 7 dogs, 6 Alpacas, 1 Llama and a fish! She loves to camp and travel in her spare time. [Back to menu](#)

2004 Annual Conference Evaluation Report

Click link to download the two page document in an [Adobe Acrobat PDF](#) file or a [Word](#) document.

2004 KPHA CONFERENCE EVALUATION						
RESPONDENT INFORMATION						
1. Are you a member of KPHA? 83% - Yes 10% - No 7% - N/C						
If yes, estimate number of years: 58% - <5 14% - 6-10 7% - >10 21% - N/C						
2. What type of agency are you representing?						
67% - Local Health Department 7% - Non-Profit or Not-for-Profit Agency 0% - Private Sector						
19% - State Health Department 0% - College or University 7% - Other/N/C						
3. What is your main area of interest?						
31% - Administration 7% - Chronic Disease 12% - Emergency Preparedness 2% - Injury 0% - Student						
7% - Alcohol, Tobacco and other drugs 0% - Disabilities 10% - Environmental Health 0% - Medical and Clinical care 10% - Other						
36% - Child, Family, and Community Health 10% - Education and Research 12% - Infectious Disease 0% - Occupational Health						
MAIN CONFERENCE						
	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Not Applicable
5. The overall quality of the 2004 KPHA Conference was excellent.						
	5%	5%	14%	40%	31%	5%
6. The 2004 KPHA Conference:						
• Has benefited me professionally.	5%	5%	10%	51%	29%	0%
• Has benefited me personally.	2%	2%	10%	57%	29%	0%
• Provided networking opportunities.	2%	0%	2%	50%	44%	2%
• Provided me with new information.	5%	2%	2%	52%	39%	0%
• Will be useful to me in my job.	5%	0%	21%	40%	34%	0%
• Was worthwhile.	5%	5%	12%	40%	38%	0%
7. The following sessions added to the quality of the conference:						
• Breakout sessions	2%	0%	5%	55%	38%	0%
• Exhibits	2%	0%	17%	48%	28%	5%
• Paper sessions	0%	0%	19%	45%	14%	22%
• Poster session	0%	2%	14%	50%	21%	13%
• KPHA section meeting	5%	5%	24%	45%	13%	8%
8. The following logistics and facilities were excellent:						
• Registration	5%	5%	5%	43%	40%	2%
• KPHA Business Meeting	5%	10%	38%	17%	19%	11%
• Meeting rooms and facilities	2%	14%	12%	36%	31%	5%
• Meals	7%	2%	2%	45%	40%	4%
• Break food	5%	2%	12%	40%	26%	15%
• Sleeping rooms	2%	0%	2%	19%	31%	46%

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KPHA invites Kansas Legislators to learn about the Public Health System in Kansas

The invitation below went to all 165 Kansas Legislators the last week in November. We need your help to assure they attend!

First, please call them between now and January 9 and personally invite them to attend. If at all possible attend with them.

Secondly, fill out the **Local Public Health Information Form** and return it with the appropriate information for your area, so we can add it to the informational packets being developed for each legislator.

You are cordially invited!

**The Kansas Public Health Association
invites you to attend the 2005
"Legislator's PH101 in Kansas"**

(an orientation to the public health system, and where to get answers to your, or your constituents' questions)

When: Sunday, January 9, 2:30-4:30 p.m.

Where: Conference Room, 212 SW 8th Street
(across the street, north of the Capitol)

Come and learn who to contact for state and local: Emergency Preparedness and Bio-terrorism, Flu Vaccines and Influenza, Obesity, County Health Departments, Health Workforce Issues, Tuberculosis, Community Health Programs, Health Disparities, Children's Health, Access to Care, Environmental Health, Managed Care, Public Health Infrastructure, Aging, Disease Control and Prevention, Health Disparities, and Tobacco Control.

contact: 316-721-5300 or

jbyrnes-bennett@midwestdairy.com

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