

2016 1st Quarter Newsletter

Kansas Public Health Association

March 1st, 2016

President's Message

Greetings Kansas Public Health Association! I hope everyone has enjoyed a mild Winter and is now looking forward to a wonderful Spring. Even as a few snowflakes here and there continue to fall, emerging daffodils and crocuses reminds us that Spring and warmer weather is just around the corner.

With the emergence of Spring comes a renewed energy to promote Public Health across the state and to educate the community about our Association and the importance of our mission to Promote and Improve Population Health in Kansas. Your KPHA board has been diligently researching and developing its Advocacy Priorities for 2016. Be on the lookout for an email from KPHA directing you to these position statements. We will be providing opportunities for you to get involved and be heard on issues that are important to you and your community. To that end, our Communications Committee has been busy developing a communication plan for 2016 and will be contacting our members to encourage newsletter submissions and communication engagement. I encourage you to make us aware of your successes and accomplishments. We want to spread the good word and work that Kansans are engaging in to promote and improve population health.

I encourage each of you, as you are able, to promote and get involved in KPHA by speaking with your coworkers and peers to educate them about KPHA and the role we all play in supporting Public and Population Health in Kansas. I strongly believe, as does your board, that each individual and organization has an important role to play in the Kansas Public Health System. While our Board has been discussing collaboration and priorities for months now, we are excited to begin to promote the 2016 priorities:

Upcoming Dates

Deadline to submit abstracts for KPHA Annual Conference

March 4th

National Public Health Week

April 4-10th

MINK (Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas) Meeting

April 26-27—hosted by Nebraska at the University of Nebraska Medical Center

KPHA Annual Conference

September 20-21st

- Advocate for strong public health system, which includes adequately funding and protecting population health initiatives across the state.
- Safeguard the 2010 Kansas Clean Indoor Air Act; support state and local actions to expand the current law to include e-cigarettes. Support local efforts across the state to raise the legal age to purchase tobacco products to age 21.
- Support programs that improve and strengthen child nutrition and school meals programs.
- Support guidelines directing elementary schools to provide 20 minutes of supervised, safe, and unstructured free-play recess each day to increase student physical activity during the school day.
- Support efforts to increase immunization rates in Kansas.
- Support expanding KanCare, specifically through The Bridge to a Healthy Kansas program.
- Educate leaders on the public health benefits of community water fluoridation. Advocate for community water systems in Kansas to adjust the fluoride levels to the optimal amount to prevent tooth decay.

We look forward to hearing from you and learning about how YOU want to get involved.

I would also like to invite each of you to attend the 73rd Annual Kansas Public Health Association Conference. The conference will take place on September 20-21 at the DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport, Wichita, KS. The conference provides a unique opportunity to network with your peers and to learn about public health initiatives throughout Kansas and our nation. You can find more information about the conference on our website: <http://www.kpha.us/Conference-Info>

Thank you all for the work you do and for being such wonderful stewards of Public Health in Kansas. I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

Erica Anderson

73rd Annual Kansas Public Health Association Conference

DoubleTree by Hilton Wichita Airport

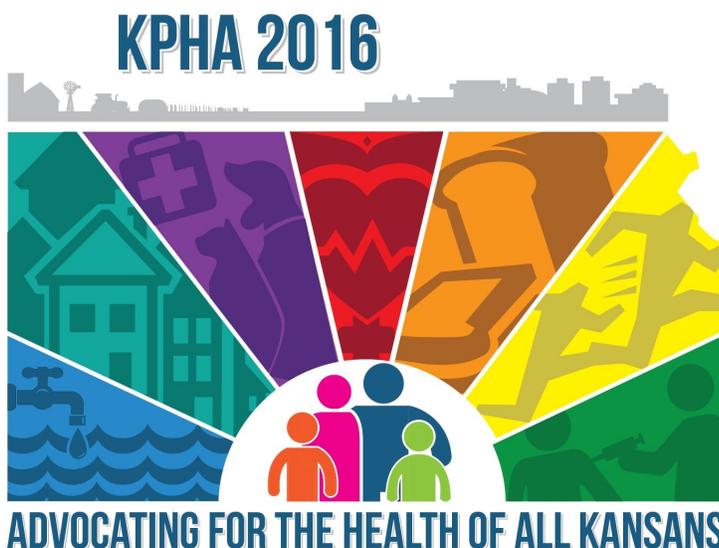
Wichita, KS

September 20-21, 2016

“Advocating for the Health of All Kansans”

Conference Brochure and Schedule coming soon!

[Submission form for abstracts - due March 4th](#)



Oral Health in Overall Health, Happenings at the Statehouse, and the Three Part Checklist Challenge

By Pam Smith, Oral Health Chair

Good overall health is not complete without good oral health. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) released the report [Integration of Oral Health and Primary Care Practice \(IOHPCP\)](#). The IOHPCP initiative aims to improve access to preventive oral health services and enhance the early detection of dental disease through expanding oral health clinical competency of primary care clinicians. Salina Family Health Care Center (SFHC) is one of five participants in this initiative. Their staff of four dentists and four dental hygienists has received extensive training through the [Smiles for Life](#) program. This program gives SFHC a framework on how to integrate oral health and primary health care.

To date at the Statehouse, there are three bills that have recently been introduced this legislative session in regards to the dental practice act.

[SB 402](#) and [HB 2615](#) both passed on February 23rd and will provide charitable healthcare providers CE credit for hours donated. Both bills will allow a charitable healthcare provider who provides services to eligible low income patients to claim up to eight CE hours for an equal number of hours worked performing services. Second, it is the fifth year for Kansas Dental Project, Kansas Action for Children, and Kansas Dental Hygienist Association to present the Dental Therapist Mid-Level Practitioner Bill ([SB 413](#)). A House bill for the Dental Therapist Mid-Level Practitioner has not been introduced.

Kathy Lituri, who is the Immediate Past Chair of the APHA Oral Health Section, was given the opportunity to [speak about the benefits of community water fluoridation](#) at the Opening General Session at the APHA conference this last November. Ms. Lituri describes the importance of oral

health, overall health, health equity and highlighting the 70th anniversary of water fluoridation during her call to action. At the conclusion of her speech, she challenges us all to become better advocates of community water fluoridation by doing three things:

1. Every local and state health department and health professional organization must have credible information about fluoridation on their websites.
2. Every school of public health and schools of nursing, dental medicine, medicine, and social work must provide credible information about fluoridation to their students, faculty and staff and on their websites.
3. All of us must educate our neighbors, community leaders, and policy makers about the benefits of fluoridation.

National Public Health Week

This year, National Public Health Week will be April 4-10, 2016. The theme is *Healthiest Nation 2030*. The NPHW website, nphw.org, has a wealth of resources for those looking to join the celebration and the movement:

- ◆ Become a partner NPHW organization to disseminate messages and materials to state and local communities and the general public to show your support for public health prevention.
- ◆ Submit an event to the official NPHW calendar.
- ◆ Take action and join Generation Public Health by signing a pledge

to create “a healthy me and a healthy we.”

- ◆ Attend an event to join your community to celebrate NPHW. You can use the calendar on the website to find local and online events. Don't see any in your area? Consider planning one!
- ◆ Join the NPHW Twitter Chat—April 6 at 2pm EDT. RSVP at vite.io/NPHWchat and use the official hashtag #NPHWchat.

Also be sure to check out the facts for the week, details on the website:

- ◆ Build a nation of safe, healthy communities

- ◆ Help all young people graduate from high school
- ◆ The relationship between increased economic mobility and better health
- ◆ Social justice and health
- ◆ Give everyone a choice of healthy food
- ◆ Preparing for the health effects of climate change
- ◆ Provide quality health care for everyone
- ◆ Strengthen public health infrastructure and capacity

Project Maji Safi Kwa Wote, Clean Water for All People

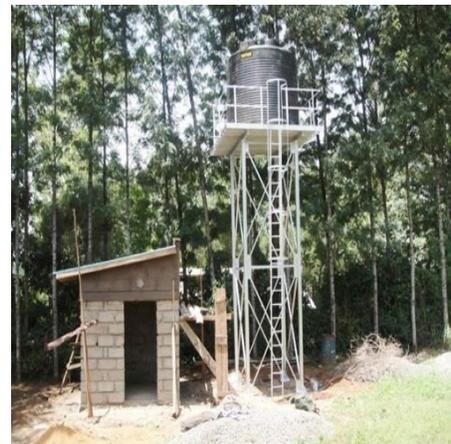
By Nikki Keene Woods, Secretary, PhD, MPH & Erick Ogwangi

Imagine waking up at dawn every day in search of clean water. Sometimes the search could include over three miles of walking and long lines once water is found. For one Wichita State University student, this was a daily occurrence. Erick Ogwangi has used his childhood experiences and public health education to start “Project Maji Safi Kwa Wote” with the goal of improving life in his home community in Kenya.

Project Maji Safi Kwa Wote means “clean water for all people.” The project is geared towards providing

clean, safe, and easily accessible water to all people in rural Kenya. According to the Joint Monitoring Program's 2012 report, access to safe water supplies throughout Kenya is 59%. There is a huge unmet need in rural and urban areas for both water and sanitation. It is also estimated that 17.5 million people in Kenya lack clean water and 43.4% live in poverty. Kenya is one of many countries in Africa that faces challenges in water provision with erratic weather patterns that often lead to droughts and water shortages.

Erick has been working hard to raise funds to drill a well in the rural Nyamira district. He held a 5K run fundraiser in 2015 and has an active GoFundMe page. The well will help provide clean water to people in his village and across Kenya. It will also help to educate local residents about sanitation, healthy living, and convenient ways to handle and use the well. In addition he hopes that providing clean water can greatly reduce water-borne diseases in his community, create more time for



families to spend together, improve local health through increased availability of fresh farm goods made possible by irrigation, and lend to a more peaceful community. Erick also hopes to expand the reach to other communities in the future. His passion and dedication for improving his home community are an exceptional example of service-learning.

Erick's GoFundMe: <https://www.gofundme.com/sb6pqjs>



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*Promoting and Improving
Population Health in Kansas*

Announcements

Save the date! The APHA 2016 Annual Meeting & Expo will be in Denver, Colorado from October 29th through November 2nd. The theme will be *Creating the Healthiest Nation: Ensuring the Right to Health.*

Can't get enough? Check out [Public Health Connections](#) – a monthly publication from the Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

The Kansas Health Institute is accepting applications for 3 positions. See information for each position:

[Qualitative Research Analyst](#)

[Quantitative Research Analyst](#)

[Director of Research](#)

For more job postings, check our [blog](#).

Do you have a story you want to see in our newsletter? We are now accepting submissions! Please submit your story to kpha@kpha.us by May 15th in order to be considered for the 2nd Quarter newsletter in June.

How is Public Health Benefiting Your Community?

KPHA wants your statements for NPHW

By Miranda Steele, Communications Chair

What does public health mean to you? Has your community or agency recently demonstrated its commitment to public health through a new initiative or achievement? We're looking for examples of local happenings to include in KPHA communications around National Public Health Week (NPHW).

NPHW is April 4-10. This annual observance gives organizations like ours an opportunity to tout the many benefits to funding and supporting our public health system. This is where you come in!

Submit your statement in an email to kpha@kpha.us and we'll share it in a variety of communications

during NPHW. Here's how:

Email us a statement or paragraph no longer than 5 sentences. Answer: "How has public health improved my community?" You can share something that's happened recently or simply share a general statement on what public health means to you.

We need to hear from you by **March 25**. This cut-off for statements will give KPHA time to prepare several communication items for NPHW. Your name or agency will only be used alongside your statement if we have your permission in writing.

