

2016 KPHA Award Recipients

Samuel J. Crumbine Medal

Special Service Award

Public Health Policy Maker of the Year Award

Kansas City, MO, Mayor Sly James

Corporate Public Health Service Award

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Gianfranco Pezzino, MD, MPH

Debbie Nickels, RN, BSN

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The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board

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Karla Stenzel, MA

Mark Thompson, PhD

Gianfranco Pezzino, MD, MPH, is presented the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal.

The Samuel J. Crumbine Medal, KPHA's highest award, is given for meritorious service at the state or national level related to improving the health and environment of Kansas. This award includes a \$2,000 scholarship prize. Dr. Crumbine founded KPHA in 1920 during the time he began the national public health movement.

Gianfranco Pezzino is currently a Senior Fellow and Strategy Team Leader at the Kansas Health Institute (KHI). Since 2004, he has managed KHI's work on public health services and systems. His focus is on the development and dissemination of best practices for the organization and the financing and delivery of public health services. His work includes supporting local public health departments in their preparation for national accreditation and contributing to the field of applied public health services and systems research. Gianfranco's passion for public health service has spanned his career.

He obtained his medical degree magna cum laude at the University Of Bologna, Italy, and his master's degree in public health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Before joining KHI, Gianfranco served as state epidemiologist and medical director for the bioterrorism program with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. During this time, he was president of the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists.

As part of his role at KHI, Gianfranco co-directs the Center for Sharing Public Health Services, a multi-year, multi-million dollar national initiative funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The Center focuses on cross-jurisdictional sharing as a strategy to increase effectiveness and efficiency in public health. He works directly with small and large health departments to assess their capacity for service delivery in their communities and then helps



develop solutions for shared arrangements with nearby health departments to improve delivery of care and reduce costs. He has been a featured speaker at many national conferences around the country on this emerging topic.

In addition to his work at KHI, Gianfranco is the Shawnee County Health Officer. In this role, he is responsible for the guidance of the county's health department and is the official designee for community public health incidents, such as the recent Ebola outbreak. Gianfranco is also a site visitor for the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB), which guides health departments to achieve accreditation in their communities, for excellence in public health service.

Gianfranco is committed to the local community through volunteer service on the Board of the Family Service and Guidance Center, a community mental health center in Topeka that serves children. He is a Fellow of the American College of Preventive Medicine, is Board-certified in preventive medicine and public health and is certified in evaluation practice from George Washington University.

Gianfranco has contributed substantially to the public health system in Kansas, and his thought leadership has been recognized nationally. He is a deserving recipient of the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal.

Debbie Nickels, RN, BSN is presented the Special Service Award.

Special Service Awards are for individuals who have rendered outstanding service to Kansas in the interest of public health and environmental improvement.

Debbie Nickels has impacted public health in Kansas in a remarkable but quiet way. She is primarily responsible for developing and managing the Learning Management System (LMS) in Kansas since 2003 when the TRAIN system came to Kansas. The website is www.KSTRAIN.org and is led by the Public Health Foundation (PHF). Today, the National TRAIN system (Kansas being one of their affiliates) has over one million users who take online courses, 3,674 Course Providers, and almost 40,000 courses across the system. This LMS system has had immense national success within the public health system and beyond. In addition, Kansas has become one of the most robust and successful TRAIN affiliates in the country and has contributed to its growth.

Since Kansas became a TRAIN affiliate in 2003, under Debbie's leadership, it has grown from zero to over 75,000 users. To illustrate the impact of this number, Kansas is now ranked 5th in nation for number of users in TRAIN. This is only behind Texas, CDC, Kentucky and Colorado



which have a greater population density and resources for public health workforce development.

Debbie has accomplished this by systematically expanding the definition of course users and collaboratively brought many governmental agencies to use KS TRAIN as their primary LMS. This has unified access to learning and also helped to unify the broader public health systems in Kansas and beyond. This includes many sectors in public service and government that cross sectors with public health such as EMS, Law enforcement, education, mental health, medicine, and fire to name a few. National and state-level organizations have marveled at the creative and service-oriented approach Debbie has provided for Kansas and numerous learning communities. Her work at both the individual and organizational levels has increased awareness, access, and learning across the public health system in ways that most other states don't have. This continues has brought recognition and prominence for public health workforce development in Kansas.

Because of Debbie's success and leadership with KS-TRAIN, she has also served as a national consultant to the Public Health Foundation and CDC regarding the use of TRAIN and LMS system needs.

Most recently she was responsible for hosting the national TRAIN conference in May 2016 in Lawrence Kansas. This was a first for Kansas and integrated the regional and national public health training center's mission with TRAIN community as well as other federal partners. Not surprisingly the conference evaluations indicated that this was one of the highest rated National TRAIN conferences on record.

Finally, she supports the coordination of the Kansas Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Council (KSWFDCC) which is a collaborative group of public health organizations to provide and promote public health training in Kansas.

It is clear that Debbie's work and impact on public health are commendable. She has accomplished this with deep dedication, commitment and excellence. While she is extremely humble and defines servant leadership, she persistently advocates for her current and future public health learners.

Kansas City, Kansas, Mayor Mark Holland and Kansas City, Missouri, Mayor Sly James are presented the Public Health Policy Maker of the Year Award.



Public Health Policy Maker(s) of the Year may be awarded annually to local, state, or federal lawmakers who are public health champions. Considerations should include legislation sponsored or co-sponsored by the lawmaker, any leadership provided in protecting public health programs and funding, policy initiatives designed to protect the public's health and any other examples of leadership that cannot necessarily be captured in a legislator's voting record.

Mayor Sly James and Mayor Mark Holland proclaimed April 7 as the first-ever Safe Haven for Newborns Day throughout the metro. The laws have been on the books since 2010, but the mayors want to make sure people know they exist. "The whole law is designed to give parents who are really stressed or really caught in a bind with a child or infant a way out," Mayor James said. "They need to know this law exists and it does offer them the potential to do that." In Missouri and Kansas, the child must be 45 days old or less. Safe Havens include hospitals, fire stations and police stations.

A press conference was held on Thursday, April 7, at the KCMO Police Headquarters, where the mayors and police chiefs of both KCMO and KCKS made the announcement. The occasion marked the very first time that both cities had signed a proclamation of any kind together. Because of this innovative initiative to partner together across state lines, both Mayors are being recognized for their collaborative support.

Additionally, Mayor Holland should be recognized for his support of the Tobacco 21 policy. See <http://www.kansascity.com/living/health-fitness/article45537861.html> and <http://mchc.net/safe-haven-for-newborns-day-press-conference/>

The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board is presented the Corporate Public Health Service Award.

Corporate Public Health Service Award may be presented annually to a company or organization which, through public policy activities, makes a significant contribution to the mission of public health and/or environmental improvement in Kansas.

An editorial board is a group of people, usually at a print publication, who set the tone and direction of the newspaper or magazine. They are chartered with preparing the paper's editorials and they determine what the publication will say on a range of issues. In Sedgwick County, we are fortunate to have The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board. The Wichita Eagle is the largest newspaper in Kansas, serving Wichita and the surrounding areas.

The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board has been fair and thorough in their coverage of public health

issues in our community. While their job is to analyze data and endorse issues in a manner that best represents the voice of the Board, their ability to understand how public health affects the community on many levels demonstrates the depth of research they conduct in order to develop their editorials. The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board takes the time necessary to understand public health initiatives and the collective impact they have on the community and state. The time and effort that The Wichita Eagle Editorial Board devotes to understanding public health issues and addressing them in the public arena warrants them praise and recognition. While they remain a neutral entity that cannot form alliances with agencies, organizations or causes that would diminish their credibility, they are most deserving of a Corporate Public Health Service Award for their efforts to raise awareness to the community on public health issues that might otherwise go unnoticed. For example, last summer during the Sedgwick County Commission's public discussion of budget cuts to the Sedgwick County Health Department and other organizations that serve the health of the public, Mr. Brownlee studied the issues with great intent, met with several public health advocates in the community, researched in detail the evidence-based data associated with a strong public health system, and then published several powerful editorials as well as a multitude of letters submitted to the editorial board, in support of preserving the Health Department's programs and other health care activities that serve vulnerable populations. Mr. Brownlee, Ms. Holman and their staff incurred admonishment from County Commissioners for this endeavor, but they continued an open dialogue in their newspaper (with significant online content and visibility) on behalf of the greater good of our community. Mr. Brownlee and Ms. Holman are to be strongly commended for standing by their beliefs, backing their published editorials with hard data, supporting our public health system as well as other health care organizations in our community, all of which have in mind the best interest of the health of every resident in Wichita and Kansas.

Janis Goedeke, ARNP, is presented the Dorothy Woodin Award.

Dorothy Woodin Award is bestowed on a public health nurse for outstanding public health nursing services.

Janis began her public health career in 1989 as a nurse practitioner in family planning. Anyone who knows Janis will tell you she is a primary example of heartfelt love for Public Health. It doesn't take long for someone in a conversation with her to see that she is proud to be in Public Health and determined to make sure Crawford County knows how important Public Health is!

Janis is currently serving as Crawford County Health Officer overseeing roughly 17 programs in more than a few counties besides Crawford. She is a graduate of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and holds a nursing certificate in disaster preparedness from the St Louis University of Nursing.



She has served on two state committees: one to review protocols for the Kansas family planning clinics and a state training advisory committee for family planning. She presented the community learning garden poster to the 2000 American Public Health Association in Boston, Massachusetts. In addition, she has presented three posters to the Kansas Public Health association; in 1999 on the community learning garden, in 2000 on the Straight Talk Peer Educators, and in 2003 on the Franklin, Kansas, tornado. She co-authored "Outbreak of Pruritic Rashes Associated with Mites, Kansas" for the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

She has served on committees such as the Governor's Public Health Improvement Commission Work Task Force, the Judicial Youth Authority Steering Committee, the Crawford County Coalition, the Kansas Public Health Nursing Steering Committee, the Children's Advocacy Center Advisor Board, the FACT Inc. Advisory Board, the Head Start Advisory Board, and the Free to Know Medical Advisory Board.

Janis has been a member of the KPHA (KPHA) since 1999 and is active with the Kansas Association of Local Health Departments. She has served as secretary for KPHA's Nursing Section, a KPHA board member, and KPHA president. She received a service reward for her work as a Medical Advisory Committee member in the Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program. She was declared a Public Health Hero of Kansas by Americas Health Rankings, United Health Foundation in January, 2013. This is certain, in Crawford County and the state of Kansas Janis Goedeke, ARNP, represents Public Health in the best light.

Kendra Baldrige, LMSW, is presented the Jane Addams Award.

Jane Addams Award is for a social worker who exemplifies the qualities of Jane Addams, including a pioneering spirit, a trailblazer, and one striving to improve the health of the poor and the sanitary conditions of communities.

In recognition of her outstanding work and leadership of programs serving Kansas' refugee and immigrant populations, we nominate Kendra Baldrige, LMSW, for the Jane Addams Award. Kendra joined the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in 2007 as a case manager in the Kansas Statewide Farmworker Health Services Program (KSFHP). In that role, she demonstrated exemplary service and leadership. When the long-term section director retired in 2015, Kendra took on leadership of the section and now serves as Section Chief for Special Population Health/State Refugee Health Coordinator within KDHE. Kendra's service to



special populations predates her years at KDHE, and includes service as a Peace Corps volunteer in El Salvador.

Kendra has both passion for her work and compassion for those she serves. She approaches her work with families from a strengths perspective, always working to support families through helping to identify resources, provide education and support increased client knowledge and skills.

In addition to her expertise in working with individuals and families, Kendra also understands in a more fundamental way that families live and work within the context of their community and society. This means that sometimes supporting families to improve their circumstances and challenges means not just direct work with clients, but also program development and policy leadership to facilitate empowerment of clients, and welcoming and nurturing communities. This is particularly true when working with Kansas farmworkers, who often face barriers due to a lack in legal status, limited English skills and limited/or resources.

Kendra has led the development and implementation of a marketing and social media plan for KSFHP. She developed the KSFHP Facebook page and was responsible for working with a graphic designer to create a new look for KSFHP (brochures, calendars, posters, displays, etc.). Kendra started this project as part of her Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute capstone and continued to build on this work after she completed the Leadership program in spring 2012.

Kendra is a critical member of the team that was recognized by Health Outreach Partners in 2009 through receipt of the Cecilia B. Abhold Award for innovation in health outreach services to migrant and seasonal farmworkers. Kendra assisted in the development of the 2009 Health Status survey of over 500 farmworkers in Kansas and in development of the annual focus groups that facilitate the collection of rich data to determine farmworker health status and needs. This information is the basis for the KSFHP strategic plan; operationalized in the annual action and evaluation plan.

Kendra is also recognized as a leader within the wider state health agency, KDHE. When other agency programs have questions or need consultation on understanding how to serve the Latino population in Kansas better, they seek out Kendra. Kendra took on an especially important role during the HINI outbreak and was responsible for communicating important information to Latinos in Kansas. Examples of her work include providing the translation of daily reports generated by the state health officer and leadership of a train the trainer program entitled Tomando Control, a chronic care self-management curriculum being implemented through the state of Kansas.



We believe that Kendra personifies the qualities that the Jane Addams Award recognizes. She is dedicated to working with the disadvantaged and underserved, specifically immigrant populations.

Karla Stenzel, MA, is presented the Virginia Lockhart Award.

Virginia Lockhart Health Education Award is given for outstanding service in the public promotion of health and/or environmental issues.

Karla is an outstanding candidate for this award because of all the hard work she has committed to the Wichita Public Schools Physical Education programs. She has been a strong leader for our teachers for the past 30 years as a teacher and curriculum coach. She has advocated for student health and well-being stressing the importance of physical activity and nutrition. One of the programs she has been instrumental in heading up for the district has been the fresh fruits and vegetable grant that allows elementary students an opportunity to try fruits and vegetables they normally would not have the opportunity to do. The program has grown over the past several years with Wichita having 31 schools involved in the program. She has been a member of the Wichita Public School Wellness Committee since 2004. She has also been a huge advocate for Kansas Kids Fitness day where for the past 15 years we have brought together close to 3000 third graders to participate in a day of physical activity. Karla supports all the physical education teachers in the district providing professional development, in-services and one on one support when needed. She has been a huge part of our success in developing quality physical education programs for our district. Karla has a strong passion for providing all of our students and teachers the opportunity to learn about good health and nutrition.

Mark Thompson, Ph.D., is presented the President's Award.

The President's Award is awarded at the discretion of the association's president to acknowledge special accomplishments of an individual or organization towards improving the public's health in Kansas.

The President's Award is reserved for those who demonstrate an unprecedented commitment to public health in Kansas. Mark has made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of the science of physical activity and nutrition within his organization and on behalf of KPHA. Mark continually strives for the adoption and enhancement of opportunities that support recess opportunities for our children and advocates for the maintenance and adoption



of guidelines that provide for balanced nutrition within our Kansas schools. In addition to being an advocate for physical activity, recess in our schools, and nutrition, Mark has spent countless hours working to support the mission of KPHA, Promoting and Improving Population Health in Kansas. The Kansas Public Health Association is very thankful for Mark's time and devotion, conference planning and organization skills, his humor and above all else his ability to be a strong supporter and champion for the wellness of our children.

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