

KPHA Board and Staff



President Eldonna Chesnut, has worked in a variety of settings before public health; these include hospitals, clinics, home health, long-term care, and proprietary schools. Except for the academic setting, her focus has always been children and/or the elderly. While working on her bachelor's degree in nursing she was active in state and national student nurses associations as well as Alpha Sigma Tau sorority. Upon graduation she started working as an obstetrical nurse. Showing an early interest in management and leadership, she returned to school to pursue a degree in health care administration. Once into the program, she shifted her focus from general health care administration to nursing administration. She graduated at the top of her class with a Masters in Nursing Administration.

Eldonna is employed by Johnson County Kansas as Division Director of Adult and Child Care Facilities, Johnson County Public Health. She is active in Elder Abuse Committee, Johnson County CHAP, SRS statewide early education advisory committee, SRS Regional partners committee, Johnson County Multidisciplinary team, and is a KPHLI fellow. Eldonna's on-going initiative – *Elder Smiles* provides on site oral health services for the elderly. She is also serving on a local task force charged with starting an elder hoarding task force for Johnson County.

She is an APHA member, and attended the APHA annual conference in 08 and 09. She also attended the President-Elect meeting. She is past KPHA section chair, Conference Committee chair, Orientation Manual Project committee member, and past Membership Chair. She has been actively involved in the Joint KPHA/APHA membership project now, in its second year.



Heather Henke, President Elect is the Administrator of the Barber County Health Department and the mother of four Daughters and a wife to a wonderful supportive husband. She is practicing public health administration in the community in which she was raised. She sees population based health care as a way to touch the lives of the Kansans that she has grown to love. She began her health care profession as a nursing assistant in high school. She has provided direct patient care as well as population based care in many settings as an aide, an LPN, a registered nurse and public health department administrator. Heather has a passion for the programs she directs. Chronic Disease Risk Reduction and Tobacco Use prevention, Maternal Child Health, WIC, Immunizations, Family Planning,

Breastfeeding support, Oral Health improvement, and all Hazards preparedness are a few of the programs Heather directs and implements.

Heather is a member of KALHD, KPHA, APHA, La Leche League and NACCHO. She looks forward to continuing to serve the awesome people of Kansas by striving to ensure the highest quality health care services are available to the public. Heather has served as a Section Chair 2 terms and as Director at Large for one term.



Secretary Tanya Honderick is Assistant Director of the KU-Master of Public Health and Master of Science in Clinical Research programs. She graduated from the University of Kansas with a B.S.N. in 1996 and with a joint M.S. in Nursing/M.P.H. in 2003. Her clinical experience spans a decade in public health, with her particular interest being maternal and child health. She has worked in well child, WIC, family planning, and prenatal clinics in both the Reno County and Johnson County Health departments. She also has experience as a medical-surgical/oncology nurse in the hospital setting and in clinical management in the home health setting.

Honors include traveling to China in 2006 with People to People International as a Community Health Nurse Delegate, and completion of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute in 2008. In November 2009 she presented a poster at the APHA national conference in Philadelphia for research addressing pregnancy outcomes for diabetic clients in the High Risk Prenatal Program at the Johnson County Health Department.



Treasurer, Linda Frazee, has practiced in a variety of professional settings since obtaining her Bachelors in Nursing degree from Ft. Hays State University in 1977. Her hospital clinical experiences include labor and delivery, women's post surgery, and postpartum nursing. She taught nursing for four years at Hutchinson Community College. Linda's public health career began in 1985 at the Reno County Health Department. Her work with the State began in 1991 at the Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility. Linda came to KDHE in 1997 as a Public Health Nurse Specialist at the Hays District Office.

Linda's role expanded to Public Health Workforce Development in 2003. Linda coordinated last year's Public Health Certificate Program. She recently developed an online Essential Services Tool for the public health workforce (now available on the KDHE OLRH web site), co-authored the new KPHA Public Health Manual, and helped revise the "Learning with Lilly" public health nursing course from Missouri (available soon on KSTRAIN), making it more specific for Kansas.

She serves on the Advisory Board of the Washburn School of Nursing, the Mid-Continental Regional Medical Library, KPHLI, and the Public Health Workforce Development Coordinating Committee. She graduated from the first Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute in 2004, and has served as a mentor since that time.

Linda's daughter, Sarah, is an Apache helicopter mechanic in the Army, and has been in Iraq for two deployments. Her son, Ben, is a radiology technician at KU Medical Center and is married to Mandy.



ARGC Representative, Shirley Orr serves as Director of Local Health in the Bureau of Local and Rural Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. In her current role, she is responsible for the state aid-to-local funding process and state-local liaison activities with 100 local health departments, public health workforce development, public health quality improvement and preparation for public health accreditation. Ms. Orr also serves as founding Co-Director of the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute and the Kansas Public Health Workforce and Leadership Development (WALD) partnership.

She is an adjunct faculty member for the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and an instructor for the Wichita State University (WSU) School of Nursing.

Ms. Orr received BSN and MHS degrees from Wichita State University, and is a graduate of the National Public Health Leadership Institute. She is ANCC certified in Nursing Administration at the advanced level.

Professional memberships include the National Public Health Leadership Society, Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society, American Public Health Association (APHA), American Nurses Association, Association of State and Territorial Directors of Nursing (ASTDN), Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), and Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA). She has served on the Board of Directors of ASTDN, KPHA, and KSNA. She is a past president of ASTDN and KPHA and is currently the Kansas Affiliate Representative to the APHA Governing Council.

Ms. Orr was recognized as the 2009 WSU School of Nursing Distinguished Alumnus and was the 2004 recipient of the Samuel Crumbine Medal from the Kansas Public Health Association. She is presently an RWJ Executive Nurse Fellow.



Director at Large, Barbara Mitchell is the Division Director of Health Education for the Johnson County Health Department in Olathe, KS. Barbara oversees the programs, projects and events of the Health Education Division and supervises a staff of eleven full and part-time staff.

She also serves as the Public Information Officer for the Department. She received her Master's Degree in Social Work from Fordham University, New York, N.Y., and has worked for the Brain Injury Association, Adolescent Resources Corporation and the American Heart Association.



Director at Large Dr. Ruth Wetta-Hall, a nearly life-long resident of Kansas, was raised on a farm just outside Wichita. She is an Assistant Professor and Vice Chair in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita, and is a registered nurse holding master degrees in nursing administration and public health, and a Ph.D. in Community Psychology. She teaches public health administration, public health evaluation methods and performance improvement in the KUSM-W, MPH program.

Ruth has 15 years of clinical experience in emergency and intensive care nursing, and more than five years of experience in performance improvement and Outcomes Research in the acute care setting. Since 1997 Ruth has served as the Coordinator of the Sedgwick County Community Health Improvement Project (CHIP), and as a member of Project Access Operations Council and the Sedgwick County Board of Health.

Her most recent research includes health services research and evaluation of education programs, health care access in uninsured populations. Ruth was a member of the 2002 class of Leadership Kansas, the Kansas Health Foundation Community Leadership Initiative, and the Kansas Public Health Leadership Institute.

Ruth currently serves as an item writer for the national Public Health Credentialing Exam, and is a member of the UKSM-W institutional review board (IRB), the Sedgwick County Emergency Services Advisory Board, and the board of Abstinence Education Consultants.



Director at Large, Dr. Ellen Averett, received a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Duke University in 1984 and a Master of Health Services Administration from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 1999. Prior to joining the Health Policy and Management faculty in 2004, Dr. Averett was engaged in consulting and clinical practice and supervision. As a provider in our health care system, she has practiced in a number of settings including private practice, a managed care group model HMO, state and private psychiatric and medical hospitals, and a university counseling center.

In the Department of Health Policy and Management, Dr. Averett teaches the U.S. Health Care System, Health Services Research, Health and Social Behavior, and Ethics. Dr. Averett's consulting and research interests include health communications, public health education and disease prevention, health-related behavioral change, training long-term care workers in communication and leadership skills, quality improvement methods in health care organizations and public health systems. Recent publications of hers appear in the CDC's *Emerging Infectious Diseases* and in the *American Journal of Health Behavior*.

Her professional and community service includes being a board member and chair of the Research and Evaluation section of the Kansas Public Health Association; a board member of the Menorah Legacy Foundation; chair of the Ethics Faculty Network of the Association of University Programs in Health Administration; a member of the University of Kansas Hospital Ethics Committee, a former examiner with the Kansas Award for Excellence and a member of the American Society for Quality.



Health Section Chair, Diana Rice, is the Administrator Edwards County Health Department. Originally from Colorado, Diana has resided in Kansas now for over 15 years. She has four children, and three grandchildren. Diana received her Medical Assistant Certification in 1994 and worked in the hospital environment till she began her work in Public Health in 2000. She started as the Clerk for her Health Dept, then the Office Manager and is currently the Administrator.

She says she has grown to love Public Health and has learned so much in the 8 years she has worked in this field. She is a member of KPHA, KALHD, APHA, NACCHO and SCKCPH.

She also has a passion for Emergency Preparedness, and with that became a NIMS Certified Instructor with Center of Domestic Preparedness for the ICS 300 and ICS 400 courses for the Emergency Preparedness and Response in Public Health. She also says she has an awesome staff that strives to provide the best services possible.

In her spare time she enjoys creating websites. She began with a simple page for her health dept and now its many pages filled with information on many public health issues. She moved on with that to create websites for other health departments and now they too provide needed information for their communities.

She believes Public Health has become a very strong voice to all communities and looks forward in being a part of KPHA and that "voice" that continues to educate all people on the importance of Public Health!!



Environmental Section Chair, Aqualia (Shauna) Nelson is an Environmental Health Specialist at Johnson County Environmental Department (JCED) in Olathe, Kansas. She works as a food inspector. Her duties involve protecting the public from unsafe food handling practices that may result in food-borne illnesses. Shauna is a Registered Environmental Health Specialist and has been involved in food safety for 7 years now. Prior to working for Johnson County, she worked as a food inspector for the City of Wichita for four years. She graduated from Texas State University with degrees in biology and chemistry.

Shauna has also received dual Masters Degrees in Management and Business. Her interests include event planning, decorating, and shopping.



Elder Issues Section Chair, Annette Graham, Wichita, is the executive director of the Sedgwick County Department on Aging and Central Plains Area Agency on Aging. She has worked as a social worker since 1982 in numerous capacities, including as a clinical social worker at COMCARE of Sedgwick County, supervisor of the Youth Service

Intake Unit and in the Adult Protective Service Unit at the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services. After meeting the requirements for clinical level licensure, Graham stepped into the position of director of the Central Plains Area Agency on Aging/Sedgwick County Department on Aging. In her current role, she is responsible for the oversight of federal, state and local funds that focus on keeping older adults in the community as long as possible.

In 2004, Graham was the president of the Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and for four years was the chair of the Aging and Mental Wellness Coalition of Sedgwick County. She is currently a member of the Kansas State Mental Health and Aging Coalition. Graham is a member of the American Society on Aging, The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association, The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, The Kansas Mental Health and Aging Coalition and the Sedgwick County Suicide Prevention Task Force. Graham holds a bachelor's in social work and gerontology from Wichita State University and a master's in social work from the University of Kansas.



Aaron is the Metropolitan Medical Response System Project Coordinator for the Sedgwick County Health Department. He has worked for Sedgwick County in the Health Protection and Promotion since 2006.

Starting at Sedgwick County while he was in college, Aaron has undergraduate degrees in Business Administration and in Integrated Marketing Communications. He has minors in Marketing and Management. He is currently seeking and MBA at Wichita State University.

He is a member of the Sedgwick County Health Department Diversity Council and the South Central Kansas Incident Management Team.



Research and Evaluation Section Chair, Dr. Theresa Shireman is an Associate Professor at the University of Kansas Medical Center with joint appointments in the Departments of Preventive Medicine and Public Health and Health Policy and Management. She is a health services researcher who specializes in pharmacoconomics and pharmacoepidemiology and who has extensive experience in working with administrative claims data. Much of her work involves analyses of Medicaid and Medicare claims and ranges from quantifying patterns of medication use to program or treatment evaluation. While her work has covered a wide range of medical topics (for example, mental

health, otitis media, asthma, osteoporosis), a central core has been cardiovascular health with a recent focus on cardiac medication use and outcomes in dialysis patients. She was awarded an R01 from NIDDK (DK080111) to study the effectiveness of cardioprotective medications in ESRD, a project whereby she is linking three national data sets. In addition to large data analyses, Dr. Shireman also provides critical health care cost modeling techniques, namely cost-effectiveness analysis, for a variety of public health interventions including smoking cessation and interventions to improve blood pressure management in the community. Dr. Shireman's expertise is shared with students through three graduate courses taught on the KUMC campus: pharmacoepidemiology (PRVM 811), management of public health data (PRVM 875), and cost-effectiveness and decision analysis (PRVM 878/HP&M872).



Oral Health Section Chair, Caron Shipley, RDH, BSDH, joined Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Bureau of Oral Health in 2006 and is the State School Oral Health Program Director. She formerly held the position of Fluoride Varnish Outreach Coordinator for KDHE and has 29 years of clinical dental hygiene experience in private practice.

At KDHE, Caron has developed and implemented the Standardized Screening Initiative. In this initiative, Shipley trains and calibrates dentists' and dental hygienists' in Kansas who perform oral screenings, so that results may be shared with others across the State in a standardized manner.

She has recruited over 200 volunteer dentists' and hygienists' to voluntarily conduct these school oral screenings. Caron recently created an online oral screening course entitled, School Oral Screening Initiative (Course # 1015144) accessible on Kansas Train (<http://ks.train.org>).

She serves on the advisory committee for ElderSmiles of Johnson County Health Department, the Children's Mercy Community Advisory Council and is a Board Member of the Kansas Public Health Association. She is a member of the Oral Health Kansas Dental Champions Class #3. At KDHE, Shipley volunteers as a trainer for "lay responders" and teaches CPR/First Aid classes.

She received degrees in Dental Hygiene from the University of Minnesota, Duluth; University of Missouri Kansas City; and is currently finishing her MPH Degree through KUMC to be completed in May 2010. Her capstone project is analyzing the screening data collected in the 51 counties of Kansas which participated in school oral health screenings in 2008-2009. Over 55,000 children were screened in year one of this initiative, far exceeding the original goal set of 30,000 children. This data will be displayed on the Bureau of Health's website in the spring 2010.

In 2006 Caron was honored with the RDH National Award of Distinction from Butler Sunstar in Las Vegas, Nevada. Caron and her husband Brad moved to Kansas from Minnesota in 1989 and have raised four beautiful children.



Tobacco, Substance Abuse, and Mental Health Section Chair, Jamie Katz is a Prevention Coordinator with the Regional Prevention Center of Johnson, Leavenworth, and Miami Counties, where she works on all levels to prevent substance abuse and its negative consequences. This includes community mobilization, coalition development, strategic planning, team building, multi-sector collaboration, grant writing, consultation and technical assistance, training and educational presentations, social marketing, legislative and media advocacy, program development and implementation, survey design, data collection, youth empowerment, research and evaluation. She continues to focus on empowering communities to create healthy environments for citizens to live, learn, and grow.

Jamie currently serves on several community coalitions and is involved in multiple Kansas City metro-wide initiatives in addition to KPHA – including Metropolitan Healthy Communities Coalition/Clean Air Kansas City initiative, Miami County Connect Kansas Coalition, and Coalition Against Substance Abuse in Miami County. Previously she was a research assistant at Indiana University working on cutting-edge research focusing on the neuroscience of drug addiction. Jamie has additional experience through the MPH program at KU, completing a 600 hour practicum at the University of Missouri – Kansas City, Department of Psychology, MOTIV8 Laboratory, studying medication adherence in HIV+ individuals. In addition to her research background, she has extensive experience working with diverse populations, especially those with special needs, in a variety of settings.

Jamie is a nationally certified prevention professional. She holds a Master's degree in public health from University of Kansas Medical Center and a Bachelor's degree in psychology and Jewish Studies from Indiana University - graduating Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, and With Honors in psychology.



Policy Section Chair, Marvin Stottlemire has earned a BA in political science from the University of Oregon; a MA and PhD in political science from Rice University; and, a JD from the University Of Kansas School Of Law.

He taught political science at Louisiana State University in Shreveport and was the Assistant Director of the University of Kansas Public Management Center.

He is currently Adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center. KUMC-Health Policy and Management. He is past president of the Kansas Public Health Association.



Infectious Disease Section Chair, Arrie Morris, is the HIV/AIDS Surveillance Director for the state of Kansas. She manages the HIV Surveillance grant and activities for the state and has been working in public health for the past 7 years. She was formerly the HIV surveillance coordinator for the Kansas City 11 county EMA, a maternal and child health program manager and communicable disease investigation epidemiologist and disease investigation specialist all for the Kansas City Missouri Health Department.



Membership Chair, Nicole Heim, BA, MPH, REHS; Principal Consultant, NHPH Consulting, former Associate Director for KPHA has volunteered to be the new Membership Chair for the organization in 2010. Nicole is a fellow of this year's KPHLI and wrote her capstone on new funding strategies for KPHA. Before working part time for KPHA she was employed by the Johnson County Health Department December 2006 to March 2008 as a Public Health Emergency Planner. Prior to this she was an Environmental Health Specialist with the agency.



Executive Director, Elaine Schwartz has been with the Kansas Public Health Association since 2004. KPHA represents approximately 800 members of health professionals, public health agency staff, academic staff, private businesses and corporations interested in promoting health.

Elaine worked at the Kansas Department on Aging from 2000-2004 as Director of Information and Community Resources, supervising over a dozen community outreach programs. From 1995 to 2000 she worked at the State's Medicaid agency, SRS, supervising Mental Health Community Residential Programs for older adults and the Medicaid long term care programs including all Nursing Facilities; Waivers, and Adult Protective Services.

From 1986 to 1994 Elaine served in the Kansas House of Representatives, representing Osage and Lyon counties. During her eight years in the legislature, she was a licensed insurance agent and Vice President of Heartland Health Systems. For 14 years, before that, she was a licensed Nursing Home Administrator.