



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE



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Questions? director@kpha.us

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Although attendance of legislators was a little sparse, the event was a success and we hope to keep the outcomes going. . . packets (information below) from the event will be delivered to the statehouse for those legislators who did not attend. We will also ask the Chairs of the Health Committees, in both the Senate and House, if they would like the presentation made to their committees. Thanks to those who called or wrote their legislator and invited them to attend. And, a special thanks to members: Kansas Health Institute for

hosting the event, Kansas Health Foundation for underwriting the event, Edie Snethen for her presentation on Local Health Departments, Secretary Bremby for his presentation on KDHE and HealthyKansas, Dr. Barbara Atkinson for her presentation on KU Med. Our illustrious President, Phil Griffin, gave a terrific presentation on Public Health history in Kansas and the current system. President Elect, Janice McCoy made the trip, from Winfield, and Past President Kim Richter (Legislative Committee Chair for 2005) was also in attendance.

Agenda

2:30-2:45 p.m.	Refreshments and seating
2:45-3:00 p.m.	Welcome and thanks to partners, KHI and KHF By KPHA Executive Director, Elaine Schwartz
3:00-3:30 p.m.	Overview of Public Health system in Kansas, By Phil Griffin, KPHA President

3:30-3:40 p.m.	Where to get help on state-specific questions/issues, by KDHE Secretary, Rod Bremby (handouts)
3:40-3:50 p.m.	Where to get help on specific local questions/issues, By Edie Sneath, KALHD (handouts)
3:50-4:00 p.m.	Where to get help on research/academic questions, By Dr. Barbara Adkinson, KU Medical Center (handouts)
4:00-4:15 p.m.	Questions and Answers
4:15-4:30 p.m.	Wrap-up, By KPHA President, Phil Griffin

Each Legislator received a packet of Public Health information from KPHA which included the following information:

Public Health Partners

Kansas Public Health Association, established on July 9, 1920 by a charter filed in the Kansas Office of the Secretary of State, declared the purpose of the Association was to "Unite all persons and societies engaged in the promotion of public health in one administrative body to the end that duplication of effort might be avoided; ..." Incorporators included Wm. White, editor of the Emporia Gazette, and Dr. Crumbine, M.D., executive secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health. For 20 years the Association met semi-annually. In 1940, officers were elected, and today, the Association is 500 members strong, representing all individuals and organizations of public health.

Kansas Health Foundation: The Wesley Foundation was organized to support the Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. In 1985 the Foundation was endowed with more than \$200 million in proceeds from the sale of the assets of the medical center to a for-profit company. With that endowment, the Foundation embarked on a wide variety of grant-making activities in health care, particularly focusing on basic research projects. Formed as the philanthropic arm of Wesley Hospital in Wichita in 1978, the Foundation later became an independent grant-making entity. In 1985, endowed with the proceeds from the sale of the hospital, the Foundation set out to respond to the needs of the people of Kansas. In 1992 the Wesley Foundation changed its name to the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) and refocused its grant-awarding philosophy. As a private philanthropy, based in Wichita, their mission is to improve the health of all Kansans. Using strategic grant-making, the Foundation focuses on three program areas: Public Health, Children's Health and Leadership Mission: To improve the health of all Kansans

The Kansas Health Institute is an independent, nonprofit health policy and research organization based in Topeka, Kansas. Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Health Institute conducts research and policy analysis on issues that affect the health of Kansans.

The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans, based in Topeka, Kansas, was created in August of 2000 as part of a \$75 million settlement between Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. The settlement charge that established the Sunflower Foundation directed it to serve the health needs of Kansans, including providing health care and health care information to indigent, uninsured, underinsured persons; promoting preventive health care, including, but not limited to, activities aimed at reducing the number of Kansas adults and youth who use and are addicted to tobacco products; and other health related services. The Sunflower Foundation will fund projects that focus on improving health status or access to quality, affordable health care for Kansans.

The **Kansas Public Health Workforce and Leadership Development (WALD) Center** was created in January 2002 as part of a statewide alliance involving several partners collaborating in the area of public health workforce and leadership development. These partners include: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Office of Local and Rural Health (Topeka) The University of Kansas School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health (Wichita) The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) (Topeka) The University of Kansas Public Management Center (Topeka)

The WALD Center is a Web-based virtual education center that enables the integration and coordination of a continuous preparedness, information and education endeavor for the public health workforce in Kansas. This allows for the promotion of competency-based public health workforce development and leadership in this state.

The **Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC)** is a Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). Their major contracts are with the Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). They also contract with many private companies. Throughout the various contracts, their role is to work with healthcare providers to develop ways to improve the quality of healthcare provided to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and ultimately all Kansas healthcare consumers. Their vision is to serve as the primary agent in focusing the statewide healthcare community to achieve significant and continuing improvement in the quality of healthcare. In this role, they will encourage the active involvement of the healthcare community. They strive to be both a partner and a resource to the healthcare community in joint efforts to improve the healthcare provided to our citizens.

The **REACH Healthcare Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation established in 2003 through the sale of Health Midwest facilities located in Kansas, to the Health Corporation of America (HCA). Under a settlement agreement developed between Health Midwest, HCA and the Kansas Attorney General, the REACH Healthcare Foundation received a disbursement of nearly \$100 million in June 2004. The settlement agreement charges the REACH Healthcare Foundation with the responsibility of advancing research, education and access to healthcare for indigent and uninsured residents of Johnson, Wyandotte and Allen Counties of Kansas. The Board of Directors of REACH will invest these with the goal of distributing grants totaling an estimated \$3 to \$5 million each year. REACH stands for research, education and access to charitable health care.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment. KDHE's mission is to optimize the promotion and protection of the health of Kansans through efficient and effective public health programs and services and through preservation, protection, and remediation of natural resources of the environment. Bureau's of the KDHE Division of Health include: 1. Child Care and Health Facilities, 2. Children, Youth and Families, 3. Consumer Health, and 4. Epidemiology and Disease Prevention, Offices of the Division of Health include: 1. Health Promotion and 2. Local and Rural Health.

Local County Health Departments 99 County Health Departments in Kansas promote and protect the health of County residents through education, prevention, surveillance and treatment, using public health functions of assessment, assurance and policy development. Their mission is to protect and promote the health of individuals in their respective Counties and Communities as a whole, with the ultimate goal of enabling all residents to have healthy choices available to them while living in a safe and healthy environment.

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Hutchinson, KS In 1986, the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church established the Health Fund with a portion of the proceeds of the sale of Wesley Hospital in Wichita. The Health Fund works with all of its resources to fulfill its mission of Healthy Kansans through strategic and cooperative philanthropy guided by Christian principles.

10 Essential Public Health Services and Examples of Services

1. Monitor health status to identify community health problems

- Conduct regular community health assessments addressing issues such as mental health (e.g. depression), physical health (e.g. obesity), and environmental health (e.g. water supply)

==> Example of benefit: Allows benefit managers to more easily identify employee health risks and design appropriate health plans

2. Diagnose and investigate health problems and health hazards in the community

- Investigate disease outbreaks such as food poisoning or water-borne illnesses
- Alert public to influenza outbreaks and recommend strategies to reduce health threat
- Develop emergency response plans for local, state and/or national health threats

==> Example of benefit: Alerts private sector to possible illnesses that may affect childcare, absences, sales or services

3. Inform, educate, and empower people about health issues

- Distribute information via radio, television, print to inform community of the risks of behaviors such as smoking, and the availability of prevention or treatment programs
- Provide health education programs and materials in schools

==> Example of benefit: Assists private sector in educating individuals concerning health improvements such as smoking cessation, healthy eating and the benefits of exercise

4. Mobilize community partnerships to identify and solve health problems

- Provide a web site listing community health resources and organizations
- Establish community partnerships with business leaders and health care providers to address local health needs

==> Example of benefit: Builds community relationships to assist businesses during crisis periods, and reduce costs of overall health promotion

5. Develop policies and plans that support individual and community health efforts

- Contribute research and support to develop model health policies (e.g. indoor clean air act)

==> Example of benefit: Potentially decreases work-related injury, worker compensation claims, absenteeism and illness

6. Enforce laws and regulations that protect health and ensure safety

- Provide enforcement activities in areas such as protection of drinking water, regulation of care provided in health care facilities, and laws governing sale of alcohol to minors

==> Example of benefit: Enforces clean working environments and communities, protecting employers and employees, and reducing the risk of illnesses that could damage business operations (e.g. food contamination in processing plants)

7. Link individuals to needed personal health services and assure the provision of health care when otherwise unavailable

" Develop initiatives to enroll eligible beneficiaries in programs such as Medicare, Medicaid

" Encourage culturally and linguistically appropriate staff for diverse populations

==> Example of benefit: Provides health care to employees who may not otherwise be able to afford service, decreasing illness and absenteeism

8. Assure a competent public and personal health care work force

- Maintain public health workforce standards, including processes for licensure/credentialing
- Identify gaps in local health care workforce

==> Example of benefit: Ensures safe, high quality health care is available to business and residential community members

9. Evaluate effectiveness, accessibility, and quality of personal and population-based health services

- Evaluate population-based services such as immunizations to ensure progress toward established goals

==> Example of benefit: Improves health programs specific to each community, increasing the health of the work force

10. Research for new insights and innovative solutions to health problems

- Identify public health best practices to use as models for organization and service delivery
 - Develop relationships with academic institutions to conduct epidemiological or health policy research
- Example of benefit: Creates opportunity to share data, improve community and national services, and decrease health costs. [Back to top](#)

New Director of Health hired by Secretary Bremby, Kansas Department of Health and Environment. KPHA served on the Selection Committee

After much work by KDHE staff and the Selection Committee, Secretary Bremby made the announcement of his selection for the Director of Health. (The Selection Committee is very pleased with the selection!) Dr. Rodenburg will make a great addition to Kansas. He is originally from Prairie Village, so in a way he is coming back home to Kansas. He also wants to work as an Emergency Doctor at least one shift a month, so he will be a "practicing doc", too. His experience in dealing with the hurricanes this past year in Florida is invaluable in working with the media, and in emergency preparedness. Below is the letter from Linda Kenny, announcing the selection:

Search Committee Members:

I am pleased to inform you, on behalf of Secretary Bremby, that the selection process to fill the Director, Division of Health is complete. An employment offer has been made and accepted by our candidate of choice, Howard Rodenburg, M.D., M.P.H., of Daytona Beach, Florida. Dr. Rodenburg will begin work with the agency on February 27, 2005.

As agreed, we believe that Dr. Rodenburg's experience in public health and emergency medical services, as well as his demonstrated commitment to health issues will be invaluable to the agency. We are extremely pleased with his decision to return to the Midwest to lead the Division of Health, and we will greatly benefit from his experiences abroad as well as his extensive background in medicine. Dr. Rodenburg will be a valuable addition to the KDHE team. Your formal endorsement of Dr. Rodenburg is invited and

welcomed!

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Governor Sebelius delivers State of the State Address on Monday and the budget on Tuesday

Highlights from the Governor's speech included:

1. A spending increase of less than 1%.
2. She spoke extensively about Healthy Kansas, her health care reform and availability program, which KPHA is supporting
3. She talked about audits under way of school districts to see how they spend their money,
4. Her Health care message included an executive order that consolidates all state health care purchases (from employee policies to Medicaid) to increase bargaining power. She's also working with Insurance Commissioner Sandy Praeger to lessen administrative overhead in insurance plans. She will oppose federal Medicaid cuts and wants help with a prescription drug import program (I-SaveRx) that she's started and which she says will yield lower pharmaceutical costs.
Her \$50 million health insurance proposal is to be funded with an increase in the cigarette tax.
5. She also said she "will continue to find ways to reward (state employees) for their good work,"

The budget includes 2.5% raises for state employees, about \$30 million more for higher education, and continues to fund waiting lists for home- and community-based services for the handicapped.

Total spending she's recommending for the next fiscal year is \$4.840 billion, of an estimated \$5.046 billion, for an ending balance of \$206 million or 4.3%. Mandatory spending increases are most of the new money in the budget.

New spending includes a total of \$29.3 million divided among the higher education reform package (SB 345) worth about \$9 million that might go to faculty raises, operating grant increases of \$18 million for regents universities, \$1 million in new money for vocational-technical schools, \$1 million for student financial aid and \$375,000 for more medical scholarships. The state employee raises of 2.5% cost about \$11.8 million, more home- and community-based services for the poor about \$6.5 million. There are no cuts for children, the poor or the sick. [Back to top](#)

KPHA members needed for Legislative Action and Issues Committee, chaired by Kim Richter, and the Spring Training Committee, chaired by Heather Fuller

Two committee chairs have been appointed by KPHA President, Phil Griffin: Kim Richter and Heather Fuller. Both need a group of KPHA members to help out with all the efforts that will go into both the Legislative Session and the Spring Training. If you'd like to get involved in the legislative process (there's so much to do!) contact Kim Richter at 913-588-2718 or email her at krichter@kumc.edu. The KPHA Spring Training will be held in Salina at the Rolling Hills Conference Center on June 2nd and 3rd. The focus of the training will center on "Chronic Diseases". KPHA hopes to get a grant that will help with the costs of the training. Anyone interested in helping with the grant, or working on the committee should contact Heather at 785-827-9639 or email her at hfuller@kdhe.state.ks.us. [Back](#)

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