



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

Ph: 233-3103
Fax: 233-3439
Email: director@kpha.us
<http://www.kpha.us>

May 16, 2006

Questions? director@kpha.us

Table of Contents

[Legislative Update-2006 Session Has Ended!](#)

[Governor's Column: Taking Action to Make Kansans Safer](#)

[Kansas Puts Restaurant Violations on Web](#)

[APHA Looking for Articles in the PHEHP Newsletter](#)

[KPHA Signs on to Letter Send to Senators in Washington](#)

[Martha Froetshner, KPHA, Attends May's Immunize Kansas Meeting](#)

[KPHA Presents at "Conference on Poverty"](#)

[KPHA Fall Conference Planning Continues to be a Success!](#)

Legislative Update-2006 Session Has Ended!



The Legislature finally left town last week only to return for Sine Die on May 25. Here's some wrap-up legislative action from last week that might be of interest:

Stem Cell Research Legislation Fails

A fight against human cloning and embryonic stem cell research dispute centered on a provision the House added to its version which banned the state from using tax revenues to finance research into human cloning. Supported by abortion opponents, the provision covered research that involves inserting cellular material into a human egg. The Senate rejected a cloning ban in March, and its negotiators don't want the anti-cloning provision in the budget. Supporters of the provision contended legislators needed to set a cloning policy and, until then, shouldn't fund embryonic stem cell research, which abortion opponents view as cloning. The provision in the budget bill described human cloning as introducing material from the nucleus of tissue cells

into an egg before it is mature. The definition covered what is known as somatic cell nuclear transfer. In that process, researchers replace the nucleus of an unfertilized human egg with the nucleus of another cell, stimulate growth in a lab dish, harvest the resulting embryonic stem cells and destroy what is left. Stem cells form early in an embryo's development and can mature into various cells to form organs and other body parts.

Servitude Case Legislation Heads for Governor's Desk

Legislation providing better protections from abuse for disabled and mentally ill Kansans, prompted by the Kaufman group home scandal, was sent to the Governor. The House passed the compromise bill 122-0 a few hours after the Senate gave it a 37-0 stamp of approval. The bill creates the Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of Persons with Disabilities Unit within the attorney general's office. It would have access to reports of abuse or neglect received or generated by the departments of Aging; Social and Rehabilitation Services, and Health and Environment. The agencies would have 10 days to inform the attorney general about confirmed reports of abuse or neglect, or cases where agencies were denied the opportunity or didn't have the ability to conduct a full investigation. The unit will be funded by \$350,000 included in a final budget bill awaiting legislative action. That includes \$122,000 for the current budget year and \$228,000 for the next spending year, starting July 1. As passed by the Senate, the bill created a partnership between the attorney general's office and Disabilities Rights Center of Kansas. The bill going to the governor says the attorney general can contract with other agencies to assist the unit.

Sex Offender Bill Passes After Private Prisons Fails

Legislation imposing tougher penalties on child molesters and other sex offenders also went to the governor's desk. Passage of the bill, dubbed "Jessica's Law," was part of a deal worked out by House and Senate negotiators last week, after the House rejected a compromise bill bundling the popular sex offender measure with legislation the Senate wanted to allow private prisons in Kansas. The Senate voted 36-2 for the sex offender bill with no debate, and the House followed with a vote of 122-0, after which members applauded. The House voted 74-48 against the bill allowing the Department of Corrections to license and regulate such facilities in counties where voters approve the idea. It also included \$20.5 million in bonding authority to expand state prisons. "I feel like this is a positive victory in that we got Jessica's Law separate from an unpopular bill," said Rep. Jan Pauls, D-Hutchinson. Pauls later thanked colleagues who "hung in there" until Jessica's Law was separated from private prisons. The bill calls for a minimum 25-year sentence for adults convicted of any of seven violent sex crimes against anyone younger than 14, including rape, aggravated sodomy and sexual exploitation. A second conviction, no matter the victim's age, means a sentence of 40 years, and third-time offenders face life without the possibility of parole. Once released after serving every day of their sentences, offenders face a lifetime of parole and wearing a Global Positioning System bracelet, which would let the state track their movements. All other offenders, such as those convicted of a first offense in which the victim is older than 14, face lifetime parole when released. If they violate parole, they must wear the tracking bracelet for life.

Marriage Age Limit Advanced to Sebelius

Legislators on Thursday sent Gov. Kathleen Sebelius a bill that prohibits anybody younger than age 15 from getting married in Kansas. The House's 119-0 vote Thursday followed Senate approval of the measure a day earlier, 36-4. The legislation, which was requested by the governor, allows somebody who is 15 to marry, but only if a state district court judge decides it is in the person's best interest. Also, anyone 16 or 17 can marry if they have permission from a parent or legal guardian and judicial consent; both parents and any legal guardian; or a judge if the parents are dead and there is no legal guardian. The legislation was prompted by a case in which a 22-year-old Falls City, Neb., man got a 14-year-old girl pregnant and married her last year in Hiawatha in northeast Kansas. After the girl became pregnant, the girl's mother gave permission for the couple to get married in Kansas. People must be at least 17 before they can marry in Nebraska, but Kansas doesn't have a minimum age with parental or judicial approval.

[Back to top](#)

Governor's Column: Taking Action to Make Kansans Safer

The following is a column by Governor Kathleen Sebelius:

The primary responsibility of government is to provide for the protection of its citizens, particularly our most vulnerable Kansans, and I'm proud to say we have made real progress this year in making our streets and neighborhoods safer. Last year, the Legislature and I teamed up to pass a law making it harder for meth makers to get the ingredients needed for this deadly drug. That was a real victory for Kansas, because we've seen the number of meth labs in our state cut by nearly half. This year, our focus is on stopping those criminals who perpetrate some of the most horrible crimes imaginable: sex offenses, particularly against children. Starting in 2003, and again in my State of the State address in January, I called on the Legislature to increase penalties for these dangerous criminals. I also proposed a measure to provide law enforcement officers with new tools to track the movements of repeat offenders who have served their prison time. This week, the Legislature passed a bill known as Jessica's Law, which cracks down on criminals who prey on children by imposing tougher, longer prison sentences. First time offenders, for example, will receive a minimum 25-year prison sentence, with penalties increasing to the point that third-time offenders will never have another chance to harm a child, since they'll spend the rest of their lives in prison with no possibility of parole. These new sentences are complimented by my proposal, now law, to use electronic tracking devices to keep track of the movements of second-time child sex offenders who are released into communities. This was a priority for me because it gives law enforcement officers a new tool to protect Kansas children. At the same time as we're protecting children, action is being taken to protect other vulnerable Kansans from abuse. A new investigative unit in the attorney general's office will be formed to investigate and prosecute cases of abuse against disabled Kansans. That's another step forward in our efforts to protect vulnerable Kansans. These actions are all designed to make Kansans safer, and I applaud the cooperation that went into making these protections a reality. [Back to top](#)

Kansas Puts Restaurant Violations on Web



Kansas is making it easier to find out if the kitchen at your favorite restaurant is dirty. KDHE announced that it is putting restaurant health inspection reports on the Internet. No more writing to Topeka and waiting a week to get a report back. Now learning about the conditions found at a restaurant means going to www.ksfoodsafety.org, where you should be able to look up any of the thousands of food service establishments that the state inspects every year. The state will keep up to two years of restaurant information on the Internet. The state joins Kansas City and Overland Park, which have been posting inspection reports on the Internet for several years. The restaurant industry opposed the state's decision to put inspection reports online. [Back to top](#)

APHA Looking for Articles in the PHEHP Newsletter



Please submit articles for the Spring/Summer issue of the PHEHP Newsletter " We are now accepting articles for the next issue of the Public Health Education & Health Promotion (PHEHP) Newsletter of APHA through May 19, 2006. Please consider submitting an article on a topic of interest to you . . . if it is of interest to you, it is likely to be of interest to other members. Don't forget to also submit a photograph or chart to go with the article to add more interest. Send us your success stories, job announcements, conference announcements, relevant links or resource ideas related to Alternative Health Practices in public health so we can inform our community. Updates about work you're doing, projects you're designing or implementing, or any other reports on your activities are of interest to our large and growing community. Please forward all materials to Carlos E. Rodriguez-Diaz at carodriguez@chsc-pr.org. Deadline for articles is May 19, 2006. To view the last issue of the PHEHP Newsletter click [here](#). [Back to top](#)

KPHA Signs on to Letter Send to Senators in Washington

Below is a coalition letter to Senator Barack Obama and Rep. Hilda Solis in support of their recently introduced Healthy Places Act of 2006, which addresses the relationship between the built environment and the health and safety of children and residents. 81 organizations signed on! The Healthy Places Act of 2006 (S.2506/H.R.5088) brings together all levels of government to address environmental health issues by: (1) establishing and supporting health impact assessment programs to proactively examine the potential health effects of major policy or programmatic changes, (2) creating a grant program to assist states and local communities to address environmental health hazards, particularly those that contribute to health disparities and (3) accelerating research on the relationship between the environment and health.

May 8, 2006

The Honorable Barack Obama
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Hilda Solis
United States House of Representatives
1725 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Obama and Representative Solis:

We the undersigned organizations, dedicated to improving our nation's health through health promotion, prevention and treatment programs, write to thank you for the introduction of S.2506/H.R.5088 The Healthy Places Act of 2006. The relationship between the built environment and the health and safety of all Americans is a vitally important aspect of public health. We are hopeful that with your leadership, Congress will soon address this critical health issue.

Chronic diseases such as diabetes and asthma are two of today's leading health concerns especially

among children in low-income urban populations. These health issues are often linked to factors associated with community design and the built environment. For example, exposure to poor air quality from industrial emissions and car exhaust as well as harmful agents in homes such as mold and dust are contributing to rising rates of asthma. Lack of opportunities to be physically active, lack of access to affordable healthy food and increasing dependence on cars are all contributing to rising rates of obesity. The populations at most risk for these health issues do not have access to affordable health services. The relationship between the built environment-including homes, schools, parks, transportation and community design-and the health and safety of children is a vitally important aspect of public health, because, without focused attention, healthy and safe communities could well be engineered out of existence. We applaud your bill for addressing these issues.

The lack of federal attention to this issue comes at considerable cost to our society as many diseases are caused or exacerbated by environmental hazards, including cancer, heart disease, asthma, birth defects, behavioral disorders, infertility and obesity. In addition, attention to injury prevention for all ages, but particularly for children and the elderly, is an essential element in the safe built environment and an essential element in reducing health and social costs. We believe the Healthy Places Act takes several important steps to address these issues, including (1) establishing health impact assessment programs to proactively examine the potential health effects of major policy or programmatic changes, (2) creating a grant program to assist states and local communities to address environmental health hazards, particularly those that contribute to health disparities; and (3) accelerating research on the relationship between the environment and health.

We stand committed to working with you to move this legislation forward. Thank you again for your leadership in beginning to address these critical public health issues.

Sincerely,

(KPHA was included in the signature block) [Back to top](#)

Martha Froetshner, KPHA, Attends May's Immunize Kansas Meeting



Below is Martha's report:

Immunize Kansas Kids Steering Committee is a group of that is identifying and assessing mechanisms to improve the immunization rate of Kansas children from 19 to 35 months of age. This group resulted after the 2004 Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Immunizations determined that Kansas ranked 43 out of the 50 states in up-to-date immunization rates these children. The starring committee is sponsored by the Kansas Health Foundation and is represented by health care, business, academic, professional organizations, and state of Kansas Immunization and Medicaid representatives. This diverse group brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to work towards solutions.

The original Governor's Blue Ribbon Task Force is for Kansas to achieve a 90% rate of up-to-date

immunizations for our children. The goal of "Health People 2010" a national health promotion and disease prevention, is for all states to achieve this 90% rate.. Immunizations are known to be one of the best mechanisms to reduce threats to the health of our children and prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Children should receive a full set of vaccinations by 18-24 months. This includes; 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 4 Hib; 3 Hepatitis B, 4 Pneumococcal, 1 MMR and 1 Varicella. These sets of vaccine prevent 11 diseases. Children 12 months of age or greater should also receive their first Hepatitis A vaccination.

The Steering Committee is working to identify mechanisms to increase the vaccination rates of our children. The committee is looking at financing mechanisms, barriers to receiving immunizations, the role a medical home plays in timely vaccinations, collaboration efforts between programs (i.e., WIC), more fully developing the Immunization Registry, engaging more providers to participate in the Vaccine For Children Program (VFC), parent reminder systems, community involvement are a few of the strategies identified. The issues are multi-faceted and will take innovation and perseverance to modify current rates. The end results will mean better immunization rates for our children who are healthier and better protected against many communicable diseases. Another positive outcome will be healthier communities. [Back to top](#)

KPHA Presents at "Conference on Poverty"

2006 Kansas Conference on Poverty

*Understanding the
Culture of Poverty*

As a result of formulating AHA-KS (Alliance for Health Advocates) by Dr. Kim Richter, KPHA Legislative Issues and Action Committee Chair, KPHA was asked to present at the "Kansas Conference on Poverty" last week with an attendance of over 300 people. The session in which we had the opportunity to do that included Carla James (Kansas Action Network) who discussed the KS Minimum Wage and Corporate Accountability issues, Gary Brunk with Ks Action for Children who talked about tax fairness issues, Mary Baskett discussed Ks Early Education Partners initiatives, and Tawny Stottlemire with the Community Action Agencies in Kansas, described the Asset Development

initiatives their coalition decided to pursue in Kansas, and the session facilitator (Richard Jackson) discussed the idea of a formation of a Kansas Commission on Poverty. Following that, Ken Canfield (Gubernatorial candidate), spoke. I gave a brief overview the legislative and/or policy initiatives related to the health of Kansas citizens. Click [here](#) for the handout I used. Of course it had a KPHA membership application on the back side! If you work with SRS, Rehab Services, Disability Determination, and Red Cross/United Way folks (who were most of the attendees), please encourage them to join us in Public Health-our missions and visions are definitely in the same line of work! [Back to top](#)

KPHA Fall Conference Planning Continues to be a Success!



“Speaking a Common Language:
The New Voice of Public Health”
September 26-28, 2006

Here's some of the sessions being planned: Marketing Preparedness to the Public Health Workforce, Addressing Social Determinants in Kansas: Progress towards Healthy Kansas 2010; Health Policy and Management/Ellsworth County Medical Center; Utilizing the Disease Protocols to Diagnose and Investigate Health Problems; The Mid America Alliance: Mutual Assistance for Public Health Preparedness; Reducing and Eliminating Health and Disease Disparities in Kansas: Progress towards Healthy Kansas 2010; Using a Computer Model to Evaluate Weight-Reduction Strategies; Community Partnerships for Understanding and Reducing Pertussis; Sustainability of a Project after the Grant Ends; Preventing Lead Poisoning in Our Communities; Early Disease Prevention, Risk Identification and Intervention for Women, Children and Adolescents: Progress towards Healthy Kansas 2010; Oral Health Initiatives in Kansas; Development and Evaluation of a Health Training Program for Somali Bantu Refugees; Mumps Outbreak, Kansas 2006; Nursing Notes on Disaster; A Common Language-Voice of Public Health; Health and Education Go Hand in Hand; Building Value into Evaluation: Incorporating Technology and CBPR into a "Wrap-Around" Evaluation Design and Tool; Drive-Thru Clinics: A Tool for Mass Vaccination; and Lifelong Communities and STEPS (Seniors Together Enjoy Physical Success).

Remember, you still have time to nominate special people for the public health awards presented at the KPHA Annual Award Ceremony at the Fall Conference. Just click [here](#) to download the form, fill it out, and return to the KPHA office! Nominations must be received by Friday, July 15, 2006. The 2006 Samuel Crumbine Award winner will receive in addition to the award, a \$2,000 scholarship to attend any public health conference or meeting, continuing education courses, and public health classes at a college or university.

You also still have plenty of time to submit Poster/Paper Abstracts and Materials, for the Contest:

Best student poster entry will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, It will add to your resume or vita as a great experience, Get recognition and awards, Share ideas with interested colleagues, Participate in leadership, become active in your association. The deadline for submission is July 15, 2006. Click [here](#) for forms.

Best overall practitioner, submission will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, Be a part of enhancing the health of Kansans, Best overall practitioner submission will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in Boston, MA, Be a part of enhancing the health of Kansans! The deadline for submissions is July 15, 2006. Click [here](#) for the forms.

At the conference we will elect new officers. If you are interested in nominating someone or serving yourself on the KPHA Board of Directors, click [here](#) for the nominating form! At the annual meeting during the conference is when the bylaw changes are made and resolutions are considered. To read the current bylaws click [here](#).

Last but not least, if you are interested in helping out at the conference, Conference Chair, KPHA President-Elect, Ed Kalas, would welcome your assistance! Here are the Committees that you could get involved with:

Awards Committee, Shirley Orr, Chair: Solicit annual award nominations from the membership. Review nominations and select nominees to be approved by the Board of Directors. Plan and conduct the awards presentation program at conference.

Posters and Papers Committee, Melissa Armstrong, Chair: Solicit poster presentation abstracts. Review abstracts and select projects for oral presentations. Organize and assist with poster set up at

conference. Select judges and announce poster awards at conference awards program.

Continuing Education Committee, Holly Whitlock, Chair: Prepare applications for all continuing education programs. Register continuing education participants and distribute continuing education certificates at conference.

Breakout Sessions and Conference Coordination, Cyndi Treaster, Chair: Solicit and select breakout presenters. Each KPHA section should present a topic and speaker to this committee as well as each conference partner organization. The committee will select presentations to provide for a well rounded conference meeting the needs of as wide of a range of participants as possible. The committee will be responsible for collecting vitas and presentation needs from the speakers. Set up breakout rooms with appropriate AV equipment and work with room monitors to ensure evaluations are available, completed and turned in by participants.

Food Committee, Ed Kalas and Kay Powell, Chairs: Work with hotel to select menus for all conference events keeping in mind budget concerns and special dietary needs (we are having a tasting on June 15 at the hotel).

Raffle Committee (we need volunteers!): Solicit raffle and silent auction items. Prepare for and conduct raffles and silent auction at the conference.

Vendor Committee, Ed Kalas, Chair: Solicit vendors and coordinate setting up of the vendor display area at conference.

Evaluation Committee-(we need volunteers!): Prepare and assimilate evaluations for each breakout session, the general sessions and overall conference. Coordinate with room monitors and breakout conference coordination committee to ensure accurate evaluations are distributed and collected. We are looking into using a computerized evaluation tool post conference as APHA did last year, rather than paper!

KPHLI Activities, Shirley Orr and Suzanne Hawley Chairs: Link Activities of KPHLI with the conference activities.

Marketing and Conference Material Preparation, Executive Director's responsibility: Plan, design and carryout promotion of the conference to partners and others who may have interest. Put together conference materials and stuff bags day or two before the conference. Volunteers are needed for this, too!!

Just [email me](#) if you are interested in serving on any of these committees and I will get your email to the appropriate persons!

Again, "**Speaking a Common Language: The New Voice of Public Health**" takes place September 26-28, 2006, Capitol Plaza, Topeka, Kansas. Registration materials will be available soon, (in June) but mark it down now, on your calendars! [Back to top](#)



Visit our site at <http://ks.train.org>.



Copyright 2006. Kansas Public Health Association. All rights reserved.