



# KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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## Kansas House Leadership Chosen This Week!



By a vote of 47 to 31, state Rep. **Melvin Neufeld**, R-Ingalls, was elected Speaker of the Kansas House over Rep. **Kenny Wilk**, R-Lansing. State Rep. **Ray Merrick**, R-Stilwell, unseated House Majority Leader **Clay Aurand**, R-Courtland, for the House Majority Leader position, by a vote of 50 to 27. State Rep. **Don Dahl**, R-Hillsboro, defeated Rep. **Lee Tafanelli**, R-Ozawkie, for the post of House speaker pro-tem, 43 to 35. There were no contested races for minority leadership posts. Elected were: Rep. **Dennis McKinney**, D-Greensburg, as minority leader; Rep. **Jim Ward**, D-Wichita, assistant minority leader; Rep. **Eber Phelps**, D-Hays, as minority whip; Rep. **Marti Crow**, D-Leavenworth, agenda chair; Rep. **Barbara Ballard**, D-Lawrence, as caucus chair, and Rep. **Paul Davis**, D-Lawrence, as policy chair.

Below is an article written by KPHA member organization Kansas Health Institute:

## **Health Policy Veteran Neufeld Chosen Kansas House Speaker**

By Mike Shields

KHI News Service

TOPEKA, Dec. 4 — Republicans in the Kansas House elected new leaders Monday, tapping Rep. Melvin Neufeld of Ingalls to replace Topekan Doug Mays as speaker.

Reps. Kenny Wilk of Lansing and Mike O'Neal of Hutchinson also sought the post. O'Neal was eliminated in a first round of secret balloting, as Neufeld garnered 29 votes to Wilk's 25 and O'Neal's 24. In second-round voting, Neufeld received 47 votes; Wilk, 31.

Of the three candidates, Neufeld is the one thought to be the best versed on health and social service issues. A long-time member and later chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, Neufeld did journeyman work there on social service budgets. He also has been chairman of the Select Committee on Healthcare and chairman of the joint Health Policy Oversight Committee, positions now expected to be filled by others in the coming session

In August, Neufeld was one of five Kansas delegates to the Midwest conference of the Blue Sky Initiative to hear about a revolutionary concept of health system reform that targets improved health for the overall population while better aligning the medical system with public health efforts in disease prevention and health promotion.

Some health advocates said they were pleased Neufeld was chosen speaker.

"I think that this is great news for public health and public health advocates," said Kimber Richter, legislative chair of the Kansas Public Health Association, "because Mr. Neufeld has experience working with Medicaid and also is one of the two representatives that chaired the oversight committee for the Kansas Health Policy Authority and has seen that develop from the beginning. And I think he has floated some very innovative ideas for improving the health care of Kansans."

Among those ideas was an attempt by Neufeld to find ways for local health departments to be reimbursed through Medicaid for safety net services, Richter said.

"That's one, if we could make it happen, we'd be as rich as public health in New York, because that's what they do," she said.

"He's got tremendous history and is a solid public-health advocate. So I think we're happy."

The Kansas Public Health Association has more than 600 members. It represents public health workers.

Neufeld wouldn't say who was in line for key committee chairmanships. He said he and the new House leadership team would soon meet to choose committee assignments and develop an agenda for the coming legislative session, which begins Jan. 8. He said no one had been promised committee slots in exchange for votes of support.

"We do have a common enemy," Neufeld told fellow Republicans in his brief victory speech. "It's not the Senate, not the governor's office. It's poor public policy that prevents all Kansans from being all they can

be.”

Quoting humorist Will Rogers, he pledged to keep an open door and an open mind.

“We’re all ignorant, just on different topics,” Neufeld said.

Neufeld has been skeptical of health initiatives put forth by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, a Democrat. In August, responding to news that Sebelius would push to expand health insurance coverage for more Kansans, Neufeld said lawmakers would have enough to do meeting obligations to K-12 education.

"I'm real concerned about some of the things I'm hearing proposed from the governor's office," Neufeld told the Associated Press. "I don't think we are in a position to be spreading out and starting new programs."

#### **Others selected for top GOP House posts:**

- Rep. Ray Merrick of Stillwell defeated Rep. Clay Aurand of Courtland, 50-27, to become majority leader. Merrick had been speaker pro tem; Aurand, majority leader
- Rep. Don Dahl of Hillsboro defeated Rep. Lee Tafanelli of Ozawkie, 43-35, to become speaker pro tem
- Rep. Jene Vickrey of Louisburg defeated Rep. Lana Gordon of Topeka, 59-18, to become assistant majority leader
- Rep. Rob Olson of Olathe was unopposed for majority whip; Rep. Dick Kelsey of Goddard was unopposed for caucus chairman

#### **Democratic members of the House also met Monday unanimously re-electing:**

- Rep. Dennis McKinney, Greensburg, minority leader
- Rep. Jim Ward, Wichita, assistant minority leader
- Rep. Eber Phelps, Hays, minority whip
- Rep. Marti Crow, agenda chair
- Rep. Barbara Ballard, Lawrence, caucus chair
- Rep. Paul Davis, Lawrence, policy chair

Mike Shields is a staff writer for KHI News Service, which specializes in coverage of health issues facing Kansans. He can be reached at [mshields@khi.org](mailto:mshields@khi.org) or at 785-233-5443, ext. 123.

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## **KDHE Launches “Don’t Let Flu Bug U” Multi-Media Seasonal Flu Campaign**



KDHE would like to announce the start of a multi-media seasonal flu campaign. "Don't Let Flu Bug U" advertising on radio and television began on Thursday, Nov. 16, and newspaper advertising appeared in several major newspapers across the state on Sunday, Nov. 12.

The campaign will continue for one month with 30-second TV commercials on a wide variety of TV stations, including broadcast and cable programming during various times throughout the day. A 30-second radio spot will be played by several radio networks across the state during the same time frame. A 60-second TV commercial and corresponding radio spot in Spanish will start next week. The TV ad will air on Univision on cable and a network station in Wichita. The radio spots will be aired on several Spanish-language radio stations. [Back to top](#)

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## Job Opening



The Kansas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program will have a position of Program Manager (Public Service Executive) posted this evening via the State of Kansas job vacancies. This position will manage and oversee aspects of Licensure and Certification as well as Pre Renovation Education. Applications will be accepted for 2 weeks.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Thank you

Michelle Miller  
Program Director  
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program  
Bureau of Consumer Health  
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 330 Topeka, KS 66612  
785-368-7155  
785-207-1295 (cell) [Back to top](#)

## KPHA Executive Director Receives Training in Albuquerque from the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS: Americorp-VISTA)



Right before Thanksgiving I flew down to New Mexico for 4 days of Supervisor training of prospective VISTA volunteers that KPHA will be receiving next year. It was a phenomenal training. In the words of a colleague there from Dallas, (who had been to many federal trainings after a career in the military), "this training was a wonderful supervisory experience and one better than most federal

trainings." It was truly a personal growth experience!

Our VISTA's will be a special addition to our efforts in education for public health. The KPHA office will be getting two full-time (paid volunteers by the National Corporation for Community Service) and 3 health departments will receive 2 each, full time VISTA's for a year, to help with their educational programs and to help set up the regional health section trainings for KPHA. The regional trainings will be the Section Workshops that were discussed at the Fall Conference.

The counties chosen were due to a high rate of poverty. Crawford County Health Department's Health Director, and KPHA President Elect, Janis Goedeke, was the first county chosen. Janis has indicated that she is looking forward to two committed Corp volunteers that will work with her educational programs. Finney County is the second county at which two VISTA's will be located. Kristi Schmitt, Health Director of Finney County said, she too, is excited about the opportunity. The third county, Wyandotte County, has not committed to sponsoring the volunteers and if they do not, we will need another county to be involved. With receiving 2 full-time (actually 24/7) workers, I don't think that will be hard to do!!

This program has been noted as the "domestic Peace Corp," as VISTA stands for "Volunteers In Service To America." Their focus is on fighting poverty and helping less fortunate people learn, be healthy and become successful in their endeavors. Here's a short description from their website:

The Corporation for National and Community Service:

- Acts as a catalyst by providing strategic critical support to volunteer organizations that, in turn, deliver much-needed services to communities throughout the country.
- Promotes a healthy, vibrant non-profit volunteer sector that can deliver community services efficiency and effectively.
- Builds character and creates career and educational opportunities through the volunteer experience.
- Develops and cultivates knowledge that will enhance the overall success of volunteer and service programs.
- Cultivates the growth of a culture of citizenship and service in which contributing to your community becomes commonplace.
- To accomplish these goals, the Corporation provides grants and training and technical assistance to developing and expanding volunteer organizations. In addition, the Corporation explores, develops, and models effective approaches for using volunteers to meet the nation's human needs and conducts and disseminates research that helps develop and cultivate knowledge that will enhance the overall effectiveness of national and community service programs.

**[Click here](#)** to read the fact sheet on Americorp-VISTA. If you are interested in hearing more about our project send me an email, or give me a call and I'll be happy to share more!

Here are a few pictures from the training.



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## KPHA Has December Board Retreat

Although the weather was horrible last Friday, the new KPHA Board still met (mostly via phone) and became oriented and acquainted. To find out who is on the Board, visit: [http://www.kpha.us/content/board\\_staff.htm](http://www.kpha.us/content/board_staff.htm). Below are some draft minutes from the meeting:

Those present by phone or in person: Ed K, Martha, Ed G, Janis, Eldonna, Barbara M, Cindy, Ellen, Jamie, Debbi, Eldonna, and Elaine

President Ed Kalas called the meeting to order. He is still learning lots and meets with Elaine weekly. Ed G. covered history of KPHA.

### Short overview:

Posting of first 50 years on the web- 86 years old-- July 1920. First Recorded info was in 1940. Ed joined in

1965—impressed with meetings, and debates over issue papers. Got away from debating those issues—there were many work groups and they made recommendations to the legislature. KAHLD started in late 70's. Secretaries of SRS and KDHE signed memorandum that local health departments would do child care inspections, (unfunded mandate). Then they went on to get other funding and got organized to form KAHLD. The splinter group of KPHA was KEHA. Back then half of the KPHA membership was KDHE. (Currently the KDHE membership is 44 out of 628 according to the membership database). In late 80's the locals and KDHE did a study as the Kansas response for the future of health. It was 3 years of work and was published in 1981—KPHA was a part of this. This brought attention to the association. In the late 90's KHF offered \$50,000 for a strategic planning grant, and was able to hire an Executive Director (ED). Volunteers and part time person were used till that time. Shirley Wilson held the Board meetings in her living room. KPHA hired first ED, who had business background but knew nothing about PH and ended up replacing him with a lobbyist type person, Sally Finney. Elaine was hired in 2004, and has a legislative background. Ed Kalas thanked Ed G for a great update.

Ed K. would like to have someone volunteer to fill in past the 50 years that are on the website. Several names were suggested: Shirley Norris and Sue Riley.

Ed moved on to the handouts that were emailed.

The Org chart was covered.

The Executive Committee was discussed and the need to appoint a Director at Large. Janis discussed past trend with the Director at large being the one with most seniority.

Currently the committee includes Ed, Janis, Holly, Sonja. Janis made motion to appoint Ed G as the Director at Large. Heather seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Ed covered the handouts sent previously, Board terms, Ed G. has the most years served—12 years, other newcomers were welcomed.

Discussion ensued on the membership rates and if a special meeting is needed. Ed asked for volunteers to help with the membership and Janis volunteered if it can be done by teleconference.

Board meetings will be held to two hours with information being sent prior to the meetings. There is a conflict with the lower eight and those members will email Elaine their times of conflict.

Ed covered the projects KPHA is working on and the KAHLD project of communicating to policy makers and business leaders. We need to decide if we want to use their colors and messaging in our projects. Ed asked the board members to look at it on the KAHLD website and help to decide if we are going to use their formatting.

Barbara Mitchell will be the chair for the grant for the Orientation Manual. The grant starts January 1, and ends December 31, 2007. Ed described the grant. It will include KAHLD, KDHE, and other stakeholders. He also covered the history of the Common Language Grant. KHF funded a smaller amount than the original discussion for the strategy of the orientation manual.

Sunflower Foundation grant was covered which is for technology—for equipment and the two trainings of Sustainability (done at the fall conference) and Advocacy—this year at the Health Day at the Capital.

The Vista Volunteer grant application was covered with the 8 Vista's coming to be a part of KPHA to do the section workshop trainings and new trainings for the 3 out-stationed county health dept sites: Crawford, Finney, and Wyandotte.

Ed covered his trip to DC earlier this year at APHA. He covered learning about APHA, and especially the Advocacy at the US Capitol. It was a great experience and encouraged others to plan to run for President-Elect.

Elaine covered the Legislative process and AHA-KS. Discussion was held on how the session will go and how Elaine's time should be spent

Membership rates will be covered in next few weeks.

Ed asked members to share a bit about themselves:

Eldonna introduced herself—and why she joined. Sections actually do something. Lots of great ideas, but includes so much now—almost too big. Have workshops, and conference calls. They want to be kept informed but not be active in doing too many things.

Barbara is PIO for Jo Co. Health Dept. She is Section Chair for CRFC. And is looking forward to working with KPHA.

Cindy—her group paid for her to be a member of KPHA. Scholar from KPHLI and is interested in becoming more involved.

Janis G. —smaller health dept—wears many hats—very challenging. She joined KPHA and was recruited to be on the Board and then Director, then Incoming President. She attended conference and decided KPHA is an organization that can help her to do her job better. Given her more skills learned through KPHA and KPHLI and take them to the local level.

(Discussion was held on next year's conference.)

Debbi joined KPHA because she came from a hospital background and needed to belong to a like organization. She's attended every conference since then (2001).

Martha got into KPHA by default as she spoke on Infectious Disease and was recruited to be the Chair of the Section since then (3 years). She has been involved since and has found that the section just wants the information and not be too involved. Barbara Berry is co-chairing her section.

Jamie Katz, Johnson, Wyandotte is with the regional prevention center. She joined because she presented a poster at KPHA. She would like to get the Regional Center's more involved. They work with Alcohol, Substance Abuse and try to build coalitions. Their focus is on youth.

Ed G. works as the Public Health Emergency Coordinator. He joined KPHA as he was in Environmental Health. His boss encouraged him to do two things: to give to their charity causes and join KPHA!

Ellen-is very interested in Public health systems research, which is how she ended up being Research and Evaluation Section chair. She teaches at KUMC in health policy and management. She is helping with the working on a future Institute of PH at KUMC. We would have possibilities of research resources to set up within KPHA. They changed the section name last year.

Ed K. took over for Ernie Barnes who was EH Section chair for 8 years. Last year the President Elect resigned and he volunteered for the position. He would like to get EH more involved with KPHA, in particular KEHA. Even if just Joint membership. He feels, he's gotten conferences down....since he chaired last year's and worked on the prior two. The committee does a lot of work and they are successful. Concerned about the finances and getting members engaged.

Heather is with Barber Co. joined KPHA when she became Administrator. Her dad was a doctor in the community and started the public health dept. He has passed and she continues to carry the torch and working with PH. Last year she took on Administrative Section Chair. Wanted to create guide but didn't get a lot of work done on it. Ed encouraged her to get with Barbara Mitchell. [Back to top](#)

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## **Dr. Kim Richter, KPHA Legislative Issues and Action Committee Chair Convenes AHA-KS to Discuss Upcoming Session**

Below are the notes from this meeting:

Present: Kim Richter KUMC, Mike Shields KHI, Susan Kang, KDHE, Chad Austin KHA, Jan Stegelman SafeKids, Carolyn Mittendorf KSNA, Susan Kang KDHE, Suzanne Wickle KAC, Linda DeCoursey Heart Assn., Jane Rhys DD Council, Cindy Luxem, KHCA, Rita Flickenger-Harvey Co Health Dept.

**Agenda:** Format for meeting with Legislators as to Health Platform, Legislative Priorities, and AHA-KS (continuing these meetings)

Kim gave a history of the group. We can decide to keep going, or not. Can be more proactive and more organized and decide how to proceed. Re: meeting with Legislators: we could get a list of names of legislators who should be there. We need to determine what we want to get out of the meeting. Jan stated she would like us to educate them about the breadth of public health and what we do impact. How public health works—health systems, etc.- Linda said we needed to tell them our agenda and educate them, give them sense of priorities both from AHA and from single organizations. Carolyn wanted to hear what they would like to see from Interim Committees, i.e. KHPA the big picture, funding, etc. Jane thought they should know how the federal law will affect the HCBS waivers, and what they (state legislature) may act on and their outcomes. Elaine added that we need to talk to them about Health Day at the Capital and how they can participate.

It was decided the meeting with the legislators should be for 1 hour, topics on paper—handouts with names of organizations—contact information and Action items. There should be an attempt to follow up with office visits—one on one or group. Kim suggested a meeting where we could all talk to them in a group, and then a little like speed dating where there would be a time limit set to visit with each one separately. It was discussed that some agencies do not have a platform. Chad reported that Rep. Pat Collison already has bill prepared for anti tobacco legislation.

Each group could prepare a one-page handout for their agency. Then we could all adopt one topic that we all could support. We would express that we “are an informal alliance of health advocates”. All 3-speaker candidates have indicated they will cut the number of committees, but we are unsure if any to do with health will be cut.

Susan asked Mike what their role is for the “Kansas Health Institute News Service”. Mike reported that they did a soft launch on the Internet last week. They will provide coverage of health issues that often go neglected due to the media’s lack of resources that may not surface otherwise. They will be like other reporters bu, the general media for health. Their website- [www.khi.org](http://www.khi.org) will carry all their news and updates. They are talking about doing a tracking service, but it is not all worked out. Will have daily updates. Would like the procedure the Ashley Hamilton developed emailed to him (Mike). KHI will have 4 people tracking and reporting on health legislation. Sarah Green, Jim McClean, Mike Shields and Dave Ranney will be the news team.

Kim summarized this meeting: We should have an hour long meeting, provide food, have time for individual

interaction, have each agency have a one page, and have one topic that we all agree on be presented as a AHA-KS platform. We want to provide adequate info. But not overload. Overview, and then more importantly "Mix."

Health Chairs, legislative friends of Health, those in Health care should be invited. KHCA has a sheet of new legislators and their backgrounds. Cindy will send it to Elaine, and Elaine will send out to the group. Elaine will send out email to list-serve asking which legislators everyone would like to see invited. We will try to limit the AHA group to 12-15.

The date and time for the meeting with the legislators— within three weeks of the beginning of the session, we should check the interim schedule to see when they will be in town before the 20th.

Kim asked what the platforms of each group are and most expressed that they were still meeting to determine them. Groups can send their platform to Elaine and she will send out. The Heart Assn has 2 statewide tobacco issue (excise tax) and funding for programs, PE in schools/nutrition. Kim covered KPHA's: **1. TOBACCO** a. clean indoor air ordinance b. hospital tobacco ban c. Tobacco tax hike and d. requiring group insurers to cover quit smoking medications (MN law) **2. Funding levels for Kansas citizens** – proportionate for all Kansans. **3. Health funding equity** – to use a per capita formula. **4. Regionalization and Infrastructure** – proper infrastructure in order to deliver a strong public health portfolio of services and programs. **5. MSA Funds for Public Health** – Although the MSA funding received by Kansas was originally directed for children's health services, the trend over the past two years has been to re-channel some of those dollars into tobacco prevention areas.

Discussion was held on how we see AHA-KS working this session with the same weekly meetings, or would another group like to take on convening this group.

Linda found AHA-KS helpful. (Maybe KHI is going to solve our problems.) Cindy found it helpful, too. Carolyn stated they try to join all healthcare groups. Maybe we could collaborate with the Monday morning group. Carolyn will check with Terri as to who that is. Discussed future years of having a paid staff to perform some functions and we have already been contacted for that purpose.

Kim summarized discussion. Elaine will send out notes, and a list of organizations involved. Only one person from each organization will be invited to the meeting.

#### **Here are the organizations involved in AHA-KS:**

##### **Organized to date by:**

Kansas Public Health Association

##### **Other agencies represented by staff:**

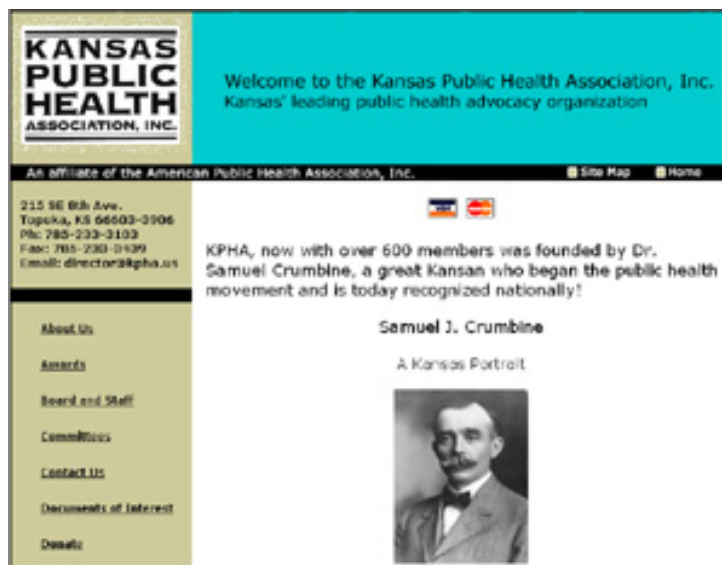
Dept of Preventive Medicine and Public Health, KUMC  
Kansas Developmental Disabilities Council  
Association of Mental Health Centers of Kansas  
Kansas Medical Society  
MERCK  
Coalition of Hispanic Women Against Cancer  
Kansas Academy of Family Physicians  
Kansas State Nurses Association  
Kansas Hospital Association  
Kansas Health Care Association

Kansas Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
Kansas LIFE Project  
Shawnee County Health Department  
Kansas Association of Local Health Departments  
Jefferson Co Health Department  
Ira Stamm, local psychologist  
SafeKids Kansas  
Kansas Dept on Aging  
Kansas Health Institute  
Living Independence Centers of Kansas—Big Tent Coalition  
Kansas Association for Better Care  
Kansas American Academy of Pediatrics  
Kansas Action for Children  
Midland Hospice  
Kansas Association of the Medically Underserved  
Kansas Foundation for Medical Care  
Kansas Health Consumer Coalition  
Kansas Chapter, American Heart Association  
Kansas Homecare Association  
Flint Hills Community Health Center  
Kansas Dental Hygienist Association  
Kansas AARP  
Tobacco Free Kansas  
Kansas Adult Care Executives  
Kansas NAMI  
Harvey County Health Department  
Planned Parenthood of Kansas  
Sedgwick County Health Department  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment  
Kansas Action for Children  
Kansas Association of Community Action Programs

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**Check Out Our KPHA Website!**



Our home page looks a little different! Go to [www.kpha.us](http://www.kpha.us) —on a side note: this week is the century anniversary of the creation of the flyswatter that came about because of Dr. Samuel Crumline! If you would like to contribute to a newsletter, the website, or any other publication with KPHA, just send it to [director@kpha.us](mailto:director@kpha.us)! [Back to top](#)



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