



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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January 5, 2007

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Information from the New KPHA Oral Health Section Chair Dr. Katherine Weno, KDHE, on Summit

Dr. Toni Pickert (WSU), (last year's Oral Health Section Chair) recruited Dr. Katherine Weno, KDHE, to take over her position with KPHA as Oral Health Section Chair. We will be changing our website and Board information to show Katherine as the new Chair. In the meantime, Dr. Weno has sent information out on a Summit in February:

The Kansas Office of Oral Health and Oral Health Kansas are holding a Public Statewide Oral Health Planning Summit on February 23, 2007 in Topeka. This meeting is part of a statewide planning process for the development of a Kansas Oral Health Plan.

A State Oral Health Plan is a public health strategic plan to provide an overarching direction or roadmap

to systematically address the burden of oral diseases and to enhance oral health of all Kansas citizens. A state plan designs a comprehensive, integrated approach to meeting oral health needs through oral health promotion and disease prevention and control. Summit attendees will review information on the oral health status of the population, look at current best practices, prioritize issues, and identify the roles of agencies and organizations to be incorporated in the Kansas Oral Health Plan. In order to design a plan that is comprehensive and inclusive, all state and community stakeholders, including dental professionals and consumers, are encouraged to attend.

The Summit will be held at the Ramada Inn in downtown Topeka, 420 Southeast 6th Ave, from 9am - 3pm on Friday, February 23, 2007. If you would like attend or need more information, please contact Dr. Kathy Weno at 785-296-6536, or kweno@kdhe.state.ks.us. [Back to top](#)

Information Alert from KPHA Member, Jamie Klenklen Change of Dates Public Health Spring Conference



"New Frontiers in Public Health" April 30-May 2, 2007 Grand Prairie Hotel, Hutchinson, KS

NOTE: The date has changed, so please change your calendar! It was April 11-13 but it is now April 30-May 2, 2007. Also, we have received approval to call it the 2nd Annual Governor's Public Health Conference instead of the MCH Spring Conference. This is a partnership with Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), Public Health Nursing and Maternal and Child Health (MCH).

We are planning the 2nd Annual Public Health Conference to be held in Hutchinson at the Grand Prairie Hotel on April 30-May 2, 2007. Our theme is "**New Frontiers in Public Health**" and it will be out of this world!

If you would like to be a presenter, call for presentations are due by January 12, 2007 to Linda Frazier.

For more information about Hutchinson, see their Web site: www.visithutch.com For more information about the Grand Prairie Hotel & Convention Center, 1400 North Lorraine Street in Hutchinson, see their Web site at: www.grandprairiehotel.com. Phone: 620-669-9311 or toll free 866-KS-Splash (1-866-577-

75274). **The Conference room rate is \$89.00 plus tax per night. April 16th is the deadline to reserve your room at this rate and ask for the "KDHE Governor's Public Health Conference rate."**

The countdown has begun. 5...4...3...2...mark your calendars...more details later.

Jamie Klenklen
Maternal Child Health Administrative Consultant
Children & Families Section
KDHE Bureau for Children, Youth & Families
1000 SW Jackson, Suite 220
Topeka, KS 66612-1274
Phone: (785) 296-1234
Fax: (785) 296-4166

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Job Opening



EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

SNCO HUMAN RESOURCES

200 SE 7th, Room B-28

Topeka, Kansas 66603

www.co.shawnee.ks.us/HA/GA/

(785) 233-8200, Ext. 4435

DEPARTMENT: HEALTH AGENCY

POSITION TITLE: COMMUNITY RELATIONS SPECIALIST

STARTING WAGE: \$15.08 Per Hr. (Starts @ Step 1-\$15.08-Tops Out @ Step 20-\$24.14)

RECRUITMENT NO: 20

APPLICATION DEADLINE: until filled

DEFINITION: Under general supervision, this position establishes and maintains community relations and communication between the public and the Shawnee County Health Agency. Performs other duties as required. This position is supervised by the Emergency Preparedness and Community Outreach Officer.

EXAMPLE OF DUTIES:

20% Schedules and coordinates workshops and special events.

20% Develops and coordinates the Risk Communication Plan and Response for the Agency.

15% Serves as the media coordinator for the promotion of Agency wide public health, clinical, environmental health programs. Prepares and presents public informational programs on services provided

by the Agency.

15% Serves as a liaison and spokesperson between the Agency and community agencies, organizations and the media.

15% Produces multimedia presentations and prepares news releases, presentations, brochures and annual reports.

10% Attends various community meetings. Develops and staff exhibits.

5% Serves as the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Health Agency in emergency situations.

KNOWLEDGE, ABILITIES AND SKILLS: Knowledge of: Desktop publishing in preparing promotional brochures and other informational pieces; The principles and methods of planning and conducting a public information and relations program.

Ability to: Understand Public Health operations, promotion and strategies; Present information clearly and accurately, in English, orally and written, before staff, the public, and media; Multitask and work with a wide variety of personalities, issues, programs and ideas; Establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees, the public and other County departments while maintaining deadlines and prioritizing projects; Write and edit various forms of promotional and informational material and develop and/or utilize other forms of media such as films and exhibits; Show initiative in planning, conducting and promoting Health Agency programs and services and overall Agency public relations program.

Skill in: The use of a Personal Computer and software (particularly Microsoft Publisher, Access, Excel, Word, PowerPoint and PageMaker) and applications.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Proof of degree (transcript required) from an accredited college or university in communications, journalism, public relations, public health, health education or related field. Proof of valid Driver's License. If you are applying from out of state or have recently moved to Kansas, you will have ninety (90) days from the date of hire to provide a photocopy of your Kansas Driver's License to the supervisor in your department.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: Prefer two (2) years' experience in public relations, journalism, communications, public health, health education field. Prefer experience with Microsoft Publisher, Access, Excel, Word, PowerPoint and PageMaker.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS: After a conditional offer of employment, applicant must pass a pre employment physical and drug screen. At time of application, candidate must submit three (3) writing samples (which may include samples of press releases, brochures, training programs). [Back to top](#)

Governor and GOP Article on Health Plan



Below is an AP article you may be interested in.

GOP Resists Governor's Health Coverage Plan

The Associated Press
Wednesday, January 3, 2007

Topeka - Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has the backing of a key state agency for a proposal to expand state health insurance coverage for young children, but House Republican leaders are still resisting.

Sebelius unsuccessfully sought the expansion last year, hoping to ensure that all children, from birth through age 5, have coverage. This year, the Kansas Health Policy Authority is asking legislators to spend from \$4 million to \$6 million to make it happen.

But incoming House Speaker Melvin Neufeld, R-Ingalls, called the proposal the "wrong model." And Rep. Brenda Landwehr, R-Wichita, the new chairwoman of the House Health and Human Services Committee, called the plan socialized health coverage.

"Sure, everyone wants to see a child with health insurance, but it's at the expense of other people," said Landwehr, expressing concern that the state would have to rob other programs of money to sustain the spending in future years.

Sebelius said repeatedly during her successful re-election campaign last year that tackling health care issues would be among her top priorities during the 2007 Legislature, which convenes Monday.

Last year, some legislators said Sebelius needed to run her proposal past the Health Policy Authority, set up in 2005 to manage the state's health programs. Sebelius appoints three of the authority's members, while legislative leaders appoint six.

But expanding state health coverage for children is now the authority's top goal, spokeswoman Megan Ingmire told The Topeka Capital-Journal. The authority believes an additional 2,000 children would be covered during the first year.

Sebelius' fellow Democrats are behind her plan as well.

"I certainly support widening coverage to those who can least afford it," said Sen. David Haley, of Kansas City, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Health Care Strategies Committee.

Currently, children can obtain state coverage if their families earn up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level, or \$40,000 for a family of four. Sebelius wants to allow families earning up to 300 percent of the poverty level to buy into the program.

But Neufeld said the best way to help uninsured Kansans is to enable them to take their health insurance with them when they change jobs. He said most uninsured Kansans who lost their coverage within the past five years did so because of a job change.

"So if you want to address the uninsured thing, you have to address the portability issue," he said.

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KUMC Student to Take on Revising KPHA's Statutes and Regulations Book

Dr. Kim Richter, KPHA's Legislative Issues and Action Committee Chair sent out an email asking for assistance in going through the 2006 Session statutes for changes in public health law. Below is the email Kim sent:

Want to learn about Public Health Law?

Each year, the Kansas Public Health Association tracks changes to health-related statutes and regulation from the last legislative session. Norm Furse (Revisor Emeritus) let KPHA know that there is a new section on the Legislative Web site that gives the previous sessions changes in laws and new laws. We would need someone to go through the content list of statutes (attached) and cross reference them with the changes listed on the web to update the KPHA Statutes and Regulations book. Are you, or do you know of someone, that might be interested?

It's a great way to learn Public Health Law! If it were done as an elective, part of the requirements might include documenting the process for future students. Because the changes are available on the web, most of the work can be done at a distance, although I think at least one field trip to the Revisor of Statutes office would be useful and fun.

Let me know if you're interested, or if you think of someone who would be.

Kim

Kimber Richter, Ph.D., M.P.H.
Associate Professor
Preventive Medicine and Public Health
University of Kansas Medical Center
Mail-Stop 1008
3901 Rainbow Boulevard
Kansas City, KS 66160

This has always been a tedious effort on the part of the KPHA office along with help from Marvin Stottlemire. This year it was Kim's idea to put out the email asking for a student to help us out and we got a wonderful recruit! Her response is below:

I think this sounds like a fun project and I look forward to working with you. I will be out of the office, after today, through Jan. 2 for a wedding in San Francisco. That being said, I wanted to let you know I will be contacting you today or if we don't connect, after the first of the year.

Looking forward to assisting.

Cydney

Ms. Cydney D. Rabourn, Esq.
Corporate Counsel and Contract Officer
KUMC Research Institute, Inc.

If any of you know Cydney, at KUMC, please give her a resounding "thanks" for stepping up to the plate. Once she goes through the effort of updating the book, we will have it available to all members. We are working on a "Members Only Section" for our website and will have it available in electronic format so that members can download and do searches rather than printing the 300+ page document.

Thanks, also to Dr. Kim Richter for her once again, for a brilliant idea!

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Getting Geared Up for the 2007 Legislative Session



There has been a flurry of meetings to discuss the upcoming session. KPHA is once again helping to put together the AHA-KS group, chaired by Dr. Kim Richter, but this year we will have lots of help from KPHA member Dr. Mike Fox-President of the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition, and Corrie Edwards, the KHCC Executive Director. They will be co-chairing the group with KPHA's Dr. Kim Richter. The first official meeting of AHA-KS will be Monday, January 8th, 10:30 a.m. here at the KPHA office. If you are interested in attending by phone or in person, please do! We are working on a meeting with key legislators and AHA members, and have contacted the Speaker and the Senate President to schedule this meeting.

A meeting chaired by the Kansas Action for Healthy Kids was attended by several KPHA members and it appears that legislation will be introduced this session to increase the Physical Education standards in Kansas along with a bill being drafted by KAC to place limits on vending machine contents and access in schools.

If you know of other health bills that are being introduced for the 2007 Legislative Session, please let the KPHA office know so that we can alert AHA-KS organizations and put it on our agenda for the meeting with key legislators. [Back to top](#)

News from APHA on Campaign for Children's Health Care

Dear Affiliate Leaders:

Happy New Year! Below, please find information from the Campaign for Children's Health Care about

satellite town hall meetings on children's health coverage that will occur around the country on Thursday, January 11, 2007.

Thanks,
Katie

Kaitlin Sheedy
Policy and Research Assistant
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We hope you had a wonderful holiday break and your batteries are recharged for the year ahead: We have a lot to do to make children's health coverage a top priority - especially for the new Congress. To jump-start the process, the Campaign for Children's Health Care is planning 36 satellite town hall meetings on children's health coverage!

[Click here to find out what's happening in your area.](#)

The town hall meetings will be held in hospitals across the country at 12:00 PM ET on Thursday, January 11, 2007. The Campaign for Children's Health Care has partnered with six national hospital associations to organize these town hall meetings and broadcast them via satellite and simultaneous Webcast. The national event will be moderated by Susan Dentzer, lead health correspondent for PBS's The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer.

[Click here to find out what's happening in your area.](#)

The town hall meetings will highlight the importance of providing all children with adequate health care coverage. The 35-minute national program will be broadcast via satellite from Washington, D.C., beginning at 12:00 pm EST, to be followed by a local event at each participating location. The national program will include a discussion about the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), Medicaid, and the plight of uninsured children by national health care leaders and policy experts.

After the national event, local town hall meetings will conduct a discussion among the local audience, community leaders, and elected officials. For more information about a

particular event, please contact the event coordinator listed under your local town hall meeting site.

Thank you,

Maryellen Barreca
Children's Campaign Coordinator

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KPHA Receives Request from Kansas Health Policy Authority for KHPA Advisory Councils



The KPHA office received the email below:

Thank you for your attendance at one of our town hall meetings this summer or fall. It was truly exciting to see how many Kansans came out to share their ideas about the Kansas health system. Attached is a letter from the Chair of the Kansas Health Policy Authority that may be of interest to you.

Luke Thompson
Manager of Government Affairs
Kansas Health Policy Authority
900 SW Jackson, Room 900-N
Topeka, KS 66612
785-296-7762

[Click here](#) for a copy of the letter from KPHA member and KHPA Chair, Connie Hubbell. [Back to top](#)



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