



KPHA E-NEWS UPDATE

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

February 21, 2008

Questions? director@kpha.us

Table of Contents

[KPHA Finally Gets VISTA's](#)

[Safe Kids Johnson County Needs Your Help!](#)

[Legislative Update](#)

[Job Openings](#)

[Public Health Launches "Elder Smiles," A New Oral Health Program in Johnson County](#)

[News from APHA-National Public Health Week](#)

KPHA Finally Gets VISTA's



After almost two years of working on the VISTA grant application and trying to recruit volunteers, KPHA finally became a real sponsor to the VISTA program! Melissa and Amy joined KPHA after attending their PSO training in New Mexico in January. They are a delight and we feel so lucky to have gotten such quality volunteers. If you are not familiar with AmeriCorp/VISTA, you can contact director@kpha.us to learn more. In essence, this is the domestic Peace Corp program by the Corporation for National Service (a Federal agency). VISTA's are paid volunteers-but they only receive \$800 per month and are provided health insurance. They work full time-24/7 for a year for an organization. Our VISTA's are putting together Section Workshops/Forums/Webinars for KPHA and the public.

Melissa Moss, Tonganoxie**Joins VISTA, KPHA and Douglas Co HD****Amy Hallacy, Pittsburg****Joins VISTA, KPHA, and Crawford Co HD**

Melissa Moss, a resident of Tonganoxie, KS, and **Amy Hallacy**, a resident of Pittsburg, KS, were both recently sworn in as members of VISTA, the nearly 40 year old national service program dedicated to helping fight poverty in the United States. Moss has been assigned to the Kansas Public Health Association, (KPHA) Douglas County Health Department site and Amy Hallacy has been assigned to the KPHA Crawford County Health Department site to help develop and implement educational and public awareness trainings for the public health workforce and for the public. The VISTA program allows the community to utilize the talent and skills of folks such as Melissa and Amy, to help lift individuals and families in our community out of poverty. The KPHA VISTA grant's purpose is to put together regional workshops on various health issues, such as the public health system, disease prevention, immunizations and epidemiology. At the county level they will be working with health department staff that work in the area of health education. They will be assisting with in-service education, public education, and programs such as Head Start, etc.

Moss, who grew up in Tonganoxie, KS, has always been an active volunteer in the community. Moss is a May '07 graduate of Kansas State University. Moss was a team member of the Kansas State International Community Service Project and assisted Doctors in Diabetes Research in Puebla, Mexico Summer '07. Since, Melissa has worked as a Phlebotomist for ZLB Plasma Services in Lawrence, Kansas. Melissa will be working for Kansas Public Health Association in Topeka, as a statewide training coordinator and will be based out of the Douglas County Health Department. She will also be working with a VISTA member based out of Crawford County. In her new role as a VISTA member, one of her first projects will be to promote and organize forums for National Public Health Week in April. She will also be putting together regional workshops on various health issues, such as the public health system, health policy, disease prevention, immunizations and epidemiology. Moss will spend a year as a VISTA member serving at Douglas County Health Department with KPHA. In exchange for her year of full-time service, she will receive a modest living allowance along with health insurance, training, and travel expenses. When she completes her service, she'll receive an education award that she can use to help pay for schooling or to pay off qualified student loans.

Amy Hallacy is a graduate of St. Mary's Colgan high school and is now working on her second degree in Nursing at Pittsburg State University. Hallacy was an AmeriCorps volunteer last year with the Community Health Clinic of Southeast Kansas. She worked along with Nancy Evans with the National Diabetes Collaborative and the Prescription Assistance Program. In her new role as a VISTA member, one of her first projects will be to start up a Get Ready Campaign in our community. The **Get Ready** campaign, sponsored by the American Public Health Association, provides information resources and tools so that all individuals, families and communities in the United States are more prepared for Potential influenza pandemic, Outbreak of an emerging infectious disease, and Other hazard or disaster. Hallacy will spend a year as a VISTA member serving at Crawford County Health Department. In exchange for her year of full-time service, she will receive a modest living allowance along with health insurance, training, and travel expenses. When she completes her

service, she'll receive an education award that she can use to help pay for schooling or to pay off qualified student loans.

For 40 years, VISTA has been helping bring communities and individuals out of poverty. Today, nearly 7,000 VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country—working to fight illiteracy, improve health services, create businesses, increase housing opportunities, or bridge the digital divide. If you are interested in learning more about the VISTA program or in helping with the KPHA VISTA project at local Health Departments, or other member sites, please contact Elaine Schwartz at director@kpha.us.

The first educational offerings are well underway to being planned! The first two sections addressed will be Health Administration (Health Policy) and Emergency Preparedness. The Forums will be held during National Public Health Week, April 7-11th. Melissa and Amy are helping to put together approximately 20 Legislative Health Forums across the state. We need your help, KPHA members, in making sure we have a great turnout and involvement from the public. If you would like to volunteer in some way or another to help with these Legislative Forums, please contact Cindy Mullen (Emergency Preparedness Section Chair at or Debbi Baugher, Health Administration Section Chair at Another project that intertwines with the VISTA project is the Affiliate Capacity Building Initiative from APHA. The grant requires us to develop efforts to address APHA's Get Ready Campaign for Pandemic Flu. Mike Heideman, KDHE, is helping with this effort and is part of the task force helping to put together the Legislative Forums for Health Policy/Pandemic Flu. Thanks, Mike, for your help. Thanks, too, to his boss, Mindy Reece (past KPHA President) for your assistance in helping us address our efforts in the Get Ready Campaign. If you want more information on this campaign, visit the APHA website www.apha.org and click on the Get Ready box on their homepage. [Back to top](#)

Safe Kids Johnson County Needs Your Help!



Safe Kids Johnson County is in support of passing this legislation. See below for more details on how to support this life saving legislation!

The Bill: HR 4266 - The Katie Elise & Meghan Agness Bill - Formerly HR Bill 1861, it has been recently re-introduced as HR 4266 by Rep. Allyson Schwartz.

This bill would require any furniture or electronic appliances in jeopardy of tipping bear a warning label alerting consumers to the potential dangers of unsecured furniture. In addition, this furniture would be required to come packaged with anchoring devices and simple installation instructions, so it can be safely secured to wall studs.

We urge you to go online today and sign the petition to save the lives of children!

For more information contact:

Katie Schatte

Safe Kids Johnson County

Johnson County Health Department

Health Education Division
11875 S. Sunset, Suite, 300
Olathe, Kansas 66061
913-477-8312

[Back to top](#)

Legislative Update



HEALTH DAY AT THE CAPITOL

This year it is very important for health advocates to turn out in "droids" on Health Day at the Capitol in order for Legislators to see the importance of Health Legislation. If you can, come and walk the halls with Fact sheets, or display your health information at a table display. [Click here](#) for the flyer to sign up for Health Day. Here is the schedule:

Schedule of events for March 6

7-9:00 a.m. Booth Set Up

Check in on first floor at registration booth.
Booths located on both first and second floors

8-9:00 a.m. Walk the Halls

Invite Legislators and Staff to the Health Fair

9:00 a.m. Welcome & Kick-Off of Event

Dr. Marcia Nielsen, Kansas Health Policy Authority (2nd floor)

9 -11:30 a.m. Health Fair

Health information of all kinds

11:30-1:30 Special Speeches & Announcements!

Sen. Vicki Schmidt, Sen. Laura Kelly, Sen. Jim Barnett, Rep. Brenda Landwehr, Rep. Bob Bethell

Legislative Fitness Challenge Results

KPHA/AHA Make the KHPA Newsletter

If you are not getting the KHPA "Pulse", you can [click here](#) to see the publication. We are mentioned in this

issue!

KU Med School in Wichita Facing Funding Crisis

By Scott Rothschild, LJWorld

Topeka - Kansas University School of Medicine's Wichita campus - an essential component to producing doctors in Kansas - is facing a funding crisis that could threaten its accreditation and the health care of many Kansans, officials said Monday. Without accreditation, several residency programs at the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME) would have to shut down, according to Barbara Atkinson, chief of the KU Medical Center and KU School of Medicine. "These resident physicians are the backbone of care for many Kansans, especially those who are uninsured," Atkinson told members of the state House Appropriations Committee. She said WCGME faces a shortfall of \$9.6 million this year, approximately 20 percent of its budget. The shortfall could increase to \$12.5 million next year.

Committee members said the problem needs to be tackled by the Legislature and Kansas Board of Regents. "We need to make sure everybody is engaged," said state Rep. Bob Bethell, R-Alden. Bethell said WCGME is crucial to training doctors who eventually practice in rural areas of the state. The Wichita campus educates 55 students in each of the third and fourth year of KU School of Medicine classes. The campus partners with Via Christi Regional Medical Center and Wesley Medical Center, both in Wichita. Nearly 70 percent of Kansas counties depend on physicians who completed their residencies through WCGME, Atkinson said. The problem facing WCGME is two-fold. The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education has implemented new standards that require WCGME to have scholarly and clinical research. This means that many faculty members in WCGME programs, who currently are in private practice and volunteer to supervise residents, will need to be paid for time dedicated to research and scholarly activity, Atkinson said.

In addition, while the two Wichita hospitals have helped cover shortfalls in the past, they can't anymore because their federal reimbursements to help offset the cost of graduate medical education are falling short. And their financial viability is being undercut by specialty hospitals siphoning away paying patients. Several Wichita legislators have indicated that perhaps some of WCGME's budget problem could be solved by shifting appropriations from KUMC in Kansas City, Kan. But Atkinson said that would simply produce problems at KUMC. "For example, shifting \$8 million or \$9 million from our budget in Kansas City would be the equivalent of defunding the entire budget for our School of Nursing or School of Allied Health," she said. "It's simply not a workable solution."

SMOKING BAN BILL HEARD

Senate Judiciary Committee had hearings this week on a bill and heard testimony from proponents of a statewide smoking ban in public places. Committee Chairman John Vratil, R-Leawood, said the committee will vote on the bill next week and he expected it would be approved by the panel. Opponents will testify tomorrow. The bill bans smoking in most public places, including workplaces, restaurants, bars and casinos. It requires each county to put a question on the November ballot asking whether voters want their county exempted from the law. Some supporters urged removing the county option provision, but sponsors said that is the only way the bill has any chance of passage in the Legislature.

KHPA/AHA Testimony

[Click here](#) to see the testimony provided by KPHA this past week. **[Back to top](#)**

Job Openings

Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA)

Position: Associate Director

Reports to: Executive Director

Position Summary: This position is responsible for projects approved by the KPHA Board of Directors and assigned by the Executive Director. The work involves outreach design, implementation, evaluation, reporting and administrative support as it relates to the completion of tasks associated to KPHA's mission. In all aspects of this position, the work is guided by the Executive Director.

Position Functions

- Membership Development
- Develops and implements an integrated plan for outreach and advocacy efforts.
- Coordinates advocacy training and outreach projects.
- Processes new memberships and renewals, maintains membership database, communicates with members, supports the newsletter and other member communications, prepares reports on membership, and implements membership recruitment programs.
- Builds a level of awareness about the opportunities and benefits of KPHA membership.
- Responds to requests for information, consultation and resources. Maintain membership services of the organization.

Fund Raising and Grant Writing

- Assumes secondary responsibility for fund raising and grant research and writing
- Coordinates with Board in sponsorship development, and membership recruitment. This includes seeking out and recruiting potential new members, maintaining regular communications with current members, supporting development and dissemination of the Journal and newsletters, etc.

Administrative Support

- Serves as an active member of KPHA's team
- Performs administrative duties as they relate to membership
- Prepares meeting locations, materials and logistics as they relate to the above statement requirements of this position

APHA Grant related activities

- Develop short- and long-term marketing strategies.
- Recruit new members among current public health professionals.
- Recruit new members among graduating students in health professions and give one free year of

membership.

- Perform membership development activities, like conducting satisfaction surveys.
- Conduct on-site orientation to KPHA.
- Research NALBO participation and involvement activities.
- Work with state businesses to recruit members from non-traditional groups.

Education and/or Experience

Bachelors or Master's degree from an accredited college or university; or two or more year's related experience and/or training; or equivalent combination of education ad experience.

Hours: Part time-20 hours per week.

Contact: director@kpha.us for more information

Akron Health Department



Position: Nursing Director

Salary: \$53,123.20 to \$80,808.00

The Akron Health Department is seeking an experienced professional nurse to serve as Director for its Nursing Division. The Nursing Director is a senior member of the department management team, reports directly to the Director of Public Health, and is responsible for planning and directing all public health nursing programs and services. The Division of Nursing employs a staff of 45 with an annual budget of \$5 million. Current programs include maternal and child health, adult health, and WIC. The division is an important component of the public health preparedness plan for Akron. The Akron Health Department is an academic health department and the Nursing Division is an active participant in health professions education. The new director will be encouraged to build the division's role in evidence-based, population-focused services, and community-wide assurance of high quality essential health services.

This is a position under the Akron Civil Service system. Eligibility requires graduation from an accredited college or university with a baccalaureate degree in nursing, a master's degree and at least five years of paid public health nursing experience with a minimum of three years of paid supervisory or administrative experience. In addition, candidates must be eligible for registration to practice nursing in the state of Ohio and must present proof of this registration prior to starting work. Possession of a valid Ohio driver's license is also required. Applicants must submit proof of the required college degrees in the form of an official transcript at the time of application. Akron residency must be established within one year of appointment and maintained throughout employment.

- Position will remain open until filled -

Submit applications to:

Personnel Department, Suite 130, CitiCenter Bldg.,

146 S. High St., Akron, Ohio 44308

Phone: 330-375-2720

Website: www.ci.akron.oh.us/person.html

Equal Opportunity Employer

Massachusetts Public Health Association



Position: Executive Director

Organizational Summary

The Massachusetts Public Health Association (MPHA) is a private, not for profit, statewide membership organization advancing health and social justice through advocacy, education, community organizing and coalition leadership.

Our mission is to improve the public's health, promote the establishment of health care as a human right and secure optimal community, personal and environmental health.

Our focus is on preventing injury and disease and promoting the health of all people and communities, particularly those vulnerable to disparities in health status because of race, ethnicity, gender, age and income.

Established in 1879, MPHA is one of the largest and most effective state affiliates of the American Public Health Association (APHA).

We are the preeminent public health education and advocacy organization in Massachusetts, with over 1,000 individual and organizational members. We are the only organization in the state uniting public health's wide array of constituencies and disciplines under one 'umbrella' to address public health issues on an interdisciplinary basis.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Bachelor's degree required, Master's preferred.
- 8 plus years senior management experience required including proven fundraising skills (private and public) budget and financial management, staff supervision, as well as successful work experience in community organizing and advocacy.
-

Demonstrated commitment to social justice.

- Proven leadership in and knowledge of the Massachusetts public health system.
- Experience in the analysis of health issues and public health policy development a plus.
- Proven communication skills including conference presentations or other professional materials desired.
- A successful candidate will have experience in building and expanding organizational memberships.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Apply by submitting a letter of interest describing your experience in each of the following areas:

- Leadership and Management including staff development, personnel management, analysis and problem solving;
- Institutional Development and Fundraising from private and public sources. Please include experience with individual and major donor campaigns, foundation grants, special events and public funding;
- Collaborating with External Partners and Stakeholders;
- Strategic, Financial and Project Planning and Management;
- Public Speaking and Presentations.

Interested candidates are asked to please also submit a current curriculum vitae along with at least three professional references with current telephone numbers.

Application materials will be accepted through close of business, March 15, 2008. **Please email materials to MPHA Search Committee at search@mphaweb.org.**

Salary is commensurate with experience and will depend on qualifications and anticipated contribution to the organization.

MPHA is an AA/EEO employer. People of diverse backgrounds are encouraged to apply.

**Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor of Community Health
School of Family Studies and Human Services, K-State Research and Extension
Kansas State University**

The School of Family Studies and Human Services, K-State Research and Extension, seeks applications for the position of Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor of Community Health. The Distinguished Professorship is to strengthen the Cooperative Extension Services' capacity to conduct community health programming across family and consumer sciences, youth, agriculture and community development areas. The ultimate outcome of the programming is measurable health improvements among youth, families and communities.

RESPONSIBILITIES

This 12-month, full-time, 100% Extension position, is expected to take leadership in bringing together resources at Kansas State University and throughout Kansas to design, implement and evaluate comprehensive community-based health education programs through the Cooperative Extension Service. The position will

address health issues that affect Kansas communities with an emphasis on primary prevention, which includes:

- health promotion,
- community education,
- community health assessment,
- community health planning, and
- development of programming and training for Extension personnel.

The Distinguished Professor is to engage communities and develop linkages, communication and collaboration with institutions of higher education, agencies and representatives of federal, regional, state and local networks. The Distinguished Professor will also lead the development and attainment of new extramural funds to support health-related programming.

QUALIFICATIONS

Requirements include:

- an earned doctorate in a community health or closely related field,
- a strong community health orientation with experience in youth-related, evidence-based/best practice program development and outreach,
- strong interpersonal communication and relationship-building skills,
- experience and accomplishments sufficient for appointment as an Associate Professor or Professor (i.e., leadership in attainment of funded extramural grants, scholarly writing, and effective teaching and programming).
- familiarity with Extension and the Land Grant University mission.

Extension experience preferred.

APPLICATIONS AND SCREENING

The successful candidate for the position will begin working during the summer of 2008. Review of applications starts on May 1, 2008, but applications will be accepted until a suitable candidate is secured. The applicant should submit a statement of interest and qualifications, contact information for at least three professional references, a current curriculum vitae, and original, sealed transcripts from academic institutions where degrees were received. Salary is competitive at an Associate or Full Professor level.

All materials and inquiries will be kept confidential. Application materials should be submitted through U.S. postal mail. Applications and inquiries should be directed to:

Dr. Elaine Johannes, Search Committee Chair- Distinguished Professor of Community Health,
School of Family Studies and Human Services
343 Justin Hall
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506-1411
Telephone: 785-532-5773
Fax: 785-532-6969
Email: ejohanne@ksu.edu

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[Back to top](#)

Public Health Launches "Elder Smiles", a New Oral Health Program in Johnson County



The Johnson County Health Department in Johnson County, Kansas is launching a new oral health program for seniors living in Adult Care Facilities (nursing homes, assisted living, and home plus). The \$70,233 demonstration grant, funded by the REACH Healthcare Foundation, provides the springboard for this special service.

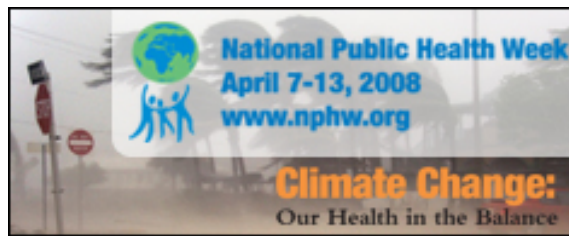
Elder Smiles is designed to provide on-site oral hygiene services in the form of cleanings and screenings twice a year and fluoride varnish and x-rays annually. The services will be provided by Extended Care Permit II hygienists (ECP II) and their sponsoring dentists. The program will start by serving Medicaid eligible nursing home residents in two facilities and will eventually serve all interested adult care residents/facilities.

Elder Smiles will be administered by the Adult/Child Care Facilities Division of the Johnson County Health Department. This program will serve as a safety net service and dental home for those facility residents that are unable to or have great difficulty going to a dental clinic for services.

"One of the important health needs in our county is oral health, particularly for many of our seniors", said Leon F. Vinci, DHA, Director of Public Health for Johnson County. Public health research has shown that approximately only one percent of residents in nursing centers have dental insurance and most seniors have not seen a dentist in the last year.

Eldonna Chesnut, Division Director for the Adult/Child Care Facilities Division said, "Several area nursing homes have expressed an interest in participating in this program. We look forward to providing this worthwhile service to the community." [Back to top](#)

News from APHA-National Public Health Week



Dear Affiliate Leaders:

Every year, the American Public Health Association (APHA) serves as the organizer of National Public Health Week (NPHW) and develops a national campaign to educate the public, policy makers, and practitioners about an important public health issue. This year, communities across the nation will celebrate NPHW from April 7-13, 2008. Throughout NPHW, APHA will work with its 50,000 members and hundreds of organizational partners to encourage Americans to create a healthier planet, with the theme "Climate Change: Our Health in the Balance."

Here in the United States, changes in our climate are causing more severe weather events. These extreme weather conditions, such as heat waves, high winds, snow storms, floods and hurricanes, have the potential to dramatically affect the health and safety of both individuals and communities. Changing ecosystems that allow for emerging or re-emerging infectious diseases like dengue or malaria change the spectrum of disease risks that affect populations. In poorer parts of the world, drought or floods often force people to move away from lands that can no longer produce enough food. Hunger and malnutrition often come as a result. In addition, contamination of drinking water results in outbreaks of diarrheal diseases on a large scale, with resultant dehydration and death.

The threats of climate change to the health of people around the globe are real. The issues can sometimes seem too big to address, but we have the power to slow events down and at the same time create healthier people in healthier communities.

Across the country, public health workers are beginning to make the connection between the way we live our lives, our impact on the planet and the planet's impact on our health. More and more we believe what's good for the planet is good for our health. By pointing out these links, we can help the public make better choices and lead lifestyles that are healthier for them, their communities and the climate.

APHA needs the help and support of the Affiliates to truly make this week a success. Please join us in observing NPHW by signing up as a partner at www.nphw.org. As a partner during NPHW, you can participate by:

- Connecting to the NPHW Web site;
- Organizing an event, health fair, or discussion in your community during NPHW;
- Disseminating information to your members and partners;
- Advocating for policies that support climate change initiatives and public health
- Posting your events on the NPHW calendar; and
- Talking with local media using approved campaign templates.

We look forward to working with you this year. For more information, please email nphw@apha.org or contact Regina Davis Moss, Director of Affiliate Affairs, at (202) 777-2515 or Kaitlin Sheedy, Policy Associate at (202) 777-2432.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping the public healthy.

Sincerely,
Georges C. Benjamin, MD, FACP, FACEP (E)
Executive Director

[Back to top](#)



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



Visit our site at <http://phpartners.org/>.

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