

April 9, 2008

Questions? director@kpha.us

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Legislative Update



Happy National Public Health Week!! April 7-14.

We have a real opportunity this year to put Public Health on the front page of the paper in your area. The Legislative Health Forum held this week will offer the chance for the public, the public health workforce, and any one interested in the health of the public to visit with Legislators and elected officials about the importance of public health in Kansas. If we don't have a good showing, it may indicate a real lack of interest and, then we all really do have our work cut out for us to generate enthusiasm and great concern about health and health reform in Kansas. Please share the dates and times with your friends, your neighbors, your colleagues, and anyone you know and ask them to attend a forum with you. Here are the dates and times:

City	Sponsor/Health Dept	Date	Time	Place of Forum	Phone
Pittsburg	Crawford	4/7	6:00 PM	Pittsburg Memorial Auditorium, 503 N Pine St	(620) 231-5411

Ottawa	Franklin	4/8	Noon	Commission Chambers, Franklin Co Annex, 1418 S Main St	(785) 229-3530
Chanute	Neosho	4/8	6:30 PM	Neosho Community College Auditorium, 1000 S Allen St	(620) 431-5770
Wichita	Sedgwick	4/8	3-5 PM	Open House SE Health Station, 1530 S Oliver St, Ste 270	(316) 660-7350
Atchison	NEK Multi	4/8	6:30 PM	Atchison Middle School (USD 409), 301 N 5th St	(913) 367-5152
Olathe	Johnson	4/9	4:00 PM	JO CO Adm Bldg, 3 rd Fl Comm. Hearing Rm, 111 S Cherry St	(913) 894-2525
Garden City	Finney	4/10	6:30 PM	Clarion Inn, 1911 E Kansas Ave	(620) 272-3600
Oakley	Logan	4/10	7:00 PM	The Impact Center, 806 E 3 rd St	(785) 672-4502
Lawrence	Douglas	4/14	10:00 AM	Lawrence/DG Co Health Dept, 200 Maine St	(785) 843-3060
Winfield	Cowley	4/17	4:00 PM	Wm Newton Hospital Physician's Pavilion, 1300 E Fifth Ave	(620) 221-1430
Salina	Salina	4/17	1:00 PM	Salina/Saline Co Health Dept, 125 W Elm St	(785) 826-6600
Topeka	KPHA/Washburn	4/21	7:00 PM	Washburn University Kansas Room, 1800 SW Jewell St	(785) 233-3103
Independence	Montgomery	4/22	4:00 PM	Civic Center Memorial Hall, 410 N Penn St	(620) 251-4210
Manhattan	Riley	4/23	Noon	Family & Child Resource Center, 2101 Claflin St	(785) 776-4779
Emporia	Lyon	4/24	6:30 PM	Lyon County Courthouse, 430 Commercial St	(620) 342-4864
El Dorado	Butler	4/25	4:00 PM	Community Building, 200 N Griffith St	(316) 321-3400

Other Legislative News

The health reform conference committee which convened to iron out differences between the Senate-passed (SB 541) and House-passed health reform bills (SB 81) concluded their work Friday evening. Key provisions of the agreement include expanding Medicaid and dental services for pregnant women, including funding for cancer screening, promoting a statewide community health record, more funding for safety net clinics, several provisions aimed at using tax-advantaged dollars for the purchase of health insurance, and defining a medical home in statute, among others. A significant compromise was reached with the agreement to increase access to care for children through the HealthWave program with the inclusion of a premium assistance program (limited to employer sponsored health insurance). The compromises made and the work done by the conference committee are to be commended - the agreement represents an important first step in the multi-year reform efforts for improving the health of our state. However - there is clearly more work that must be done in the coming years to strengthen our health care system. The House and Senate adjourned before voting on the health reform compromise, so this issue will be taken after the legislature reconvenes at the end of April.

Update from Rep. Marti Crow-written on April 4

COAL PLANTS

This morning I had my radiation treatment at 8:00 a.m. because that was the best time for the radiation oncology department. I arrived to the Capitol at 9:30 a.m. and walked into the House, in session and in a "Call

of the House." The vote was final action on SB 148, the new coal plant bill. When I voted, it had 82 yea and 40 nay votes. One Republican was absent and excused and another was absent by strategy. If one side wants to work the other side of an issue for change of votes, they will have one Rep. hide out and do a call of the House. When we are under a call, no one leaves their seat and we wait. Meanwhile, members are on the phone pressuring other members to change votes. After I arrived, the hiding out member came in and votes yea, so we remain in a holding pattern with 83 yea votes and needing 84 to prove the Speaker's claim in the press that he has the 84 votes to override the Governor's veto. Of course, this is NOT the vote to override . . . and members may change when that is the issue. The call was raised at 10:20 a.m. after a little over an hour, with only 83 yeas.

WHEN WILL THE REGULAR SESSION END?

Last night the House worked late into the night on conference reports. The Senate left about dinner time. Today we have final action on three items after the coal plant bill . . . then more conference committee reports on bills, the big one being the conference report on the FY 2009 budget. Whether that will pass is a big question, because just about everything that affects ordinary Kansans has been put off to the wrap up session and many of us believe that we should use the regular 90 day legislative session to formulate the budget, not the wrap up session. In the past, the wrap up was used to reconcile the budget passed during the regular session with bills that passed with a fiscal cost or deduct. This may be a very long wrap up session . . .

CONFERENCE REPORTS PROLIFIC

We have so far passed conference reports to:

- procedures for selecting and funding the Kansas Academy of Math & Science (KAMS), a special secondary school for math & science scholars at Hays State University. (SB 404)
- establish the Kansas Housing Loan Deposit Program to provide incentives for housing construction development loans, 50% of which must be in disaster areas (SB 387)
- expand audits, review and evaluation of state agencies, and enact the Kansas Transparency Act which requires creation of a searchable website so the public can access state and local revenue and expenditure information. (SB 316)
- establish the Military Service Scholarship Program and allow ROTC scholarships to community colleges. (SB 437)
- provide students, whose licenses are suspended after disciplinary action by their school, an opportunity for a hearing before the Dept. of Vehicles and repeal a law that makes a person, with a misdemeanor DUI conviction, ineligible for a teaching license in Kansas. (SB 470)
- enact the Prescription Monitoring Program Act to deter people who "doctor shop" to get multiple prescriptions for drugs, especially drugs used to make meth and create an advisory committee to operate the program with oversight by the Board of Pharmacy. (SB 491)
- allow every nursing home, assisted living home and hospital-based long-term care unit to serve as a voting place for its residents; specify when an election officer is not to mail ballots in a mail in elections to "inactive" voters. (SB 562)
- rename BOTA as the State Court of Tax Appeals; renames the 3 board members as "tax law judges" and create a new position, chief hearing officer. (HB 2018)
- require KDHE to study the feasibility of establishing a school based influenza vaccination program and requires public and private schools to provide information on immunizations to parents. (HB 2097)
- prohibit the seizure of firearms during a declared state of emergency by public officials. (HB 2280, formerly HB 2811)
- define "veteran" for the purpose of veterans preference and prohibit a veterans service representative from taking power of attorney in the name of the KCVA when assisting a veteran with a claim. (HB 2562)
- require the Kansas Health Policy Authority to study bariatric surgery for obesity including insurance coverage for the surgery. (HB 2672)
- allow the Board of Cosmetology to regulate persons engaged in "body arts" like tattoo, body piercing,

tanning, etc. (HB 2721) [Back to top](#)

Upcoming Conferences

Are you a: Manager? Supervisor? Team Leader? HR Professional? If any of the above apply, this conference is for YOU!

Registration is now open for the April 23, 2008 HR/Leadership Conference entitled "*The Rhythm of Teamwork.*"

This conference is intended for anyone who could benefit from training on the topics of Leadership and Teamwork. **Please forward this announcement to everyone in your agency.**

You can view the agenda, printable flyer, and register online: <http://www.da.ks.gov/ps/HRConference/registration.asp>

If you have an HR employee that you would like recognized at the Conference, please submit that information to: danelle.harsin@da.ks.gov.


*Due to increased operating costs, the registration fee has increased from \$20 to \$25.

The Public Health Conference Brochure is now available on-line at: <http://webs.wichita.edu/?u=conted&p=/PublicHealth/>

Conference registration is through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>., Course #1012140.

The Ninth Annual Missouri Valley Fire, Burn and Life Safety Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, June 18 - June 20, 2008. For additional information visit our website at www.mvpubed.com. [Back to top](#)

News from APHA

 <p>American Public Health Association</p>	<p>April 4, 2008</p>
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Want to make a difference in public health? Want to shape the direction and strengthen the leadership of the world's largest, most diverse public health organization? Consider running for a position on the Executive Board or for president-elect. Nominations will be accepted until Friday, April 18, 2008.

The work APHA does shapes science, influences policy and saves lives. This can only happen under the leadership of strong, committed public health professionals. Step up, take an active role in the organization. Serving as an Executive Board member or as president-elect is both challenging and rewarding. Learn more about the roles and responsibilities of each position and access nomination forms at <http://www.apha.org/about/gov/nominations/>.

And, APHA's Nominating Committee is here to answer your questions and support you in completing your application. Please reach out to us.

Alberto Cardelle - acardelle@po-box.esu.edu

Ingrid Davis - davisi1@michigan.gov

Johnnetta Davis - Joyce.davis@pire.org

Linda DeGutis - linda.degutis@yale.edu

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Debra Jackson - bessrfam@iafrica.com

Lisa Maldonado - Imm9@earthlink.net

Henry Montes - Jhmon54@aol.com

Howell Sasser - howell.sasser@carolinashealthcare.org

Priscilla White - whitepw@dhec.sc.gov

Good luck!

Lisa Maldonado
Chair, Nominating Committee
American Public Health Association

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Reminder of KPHA Fall Conference Call for Presentations and Posters

Call for Presentations
Small Steps Toward Great Change
2008 Kansas Public Health Association Fall Conference
September 16-18, 2008 ~ Capitol Plaza ~ Topeka, KS

KPHA invites you to submit a presentation proposal for the 2008 KPHA Conference to be held September 16-18 in Topeka, Kansas. There will be 10 breakout sessions to give you the opportunity to share your successes and innovative programs with a wide audience. Presentations need to be approximately one hour long. [Click here](#) for the Presenter form

The 2008 Conference goals are to:

- 1) Share best practices to promote partnership in public health.
- 2) Increase effectiveness of public health leadership and management roles.
- 3) Increase public health workforce competency.

Please contact Sonja Armbruster at sarmbrus@sedgwick.gov or call (316) 660-7335 for more information or questions or to send your Call for Presentation.

Call for Poster Submissions

Why present your work at Kansas Public Health Conference?

- Best student poster entry will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA
- Add to your resume or vita
- Get recognition and awards
- Share ideas with interested colleagues
- Participate in leadership
- Become active in your association
- Best practitioner poster will win a free membership to KPHA for the following year
- Best overall researcher submission will win a trip to the APHA Annual Meeting in San Diego, CA
- Be a part of enhancing the health of Kansans

Click here for the Poster Form.

Please contact Melissa Armstrong, at marmstro@kumc.edu or call (316) 293-2693 for more information or questions or to send your Call for Posters. [Back to top](#)



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



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

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