

KPHA



Kentucky Public Health Association

Newsletter

October 2011

Letter from President

The days are getting shorter and the temperatures are cooling off. Autumn is here. Depending upon where you live the leaves are already starting to change or soon will be. The foliage is becoming much more colorful. Public Health is going through many changes as well. Just like the fall foliage in Kentucky this may be the time for Public Health to become much more colorful.

Charles Darwin is quoted as saying, "It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent that survives. It is the one that is the most adaptable to change."

Being able to adapt to the changes thrust upon us by the Affordable Care Act, Medicaid Managed Care, and the current economic situation is crucial to our survival. But we should not just be trying to survive we should be looking for new opportunities to thrive.

Public Health is reinventing itself across the nation. During this great time of change it is comforting to know that Kentucky is well represented on the national level. Dr. Douglas



Scutchfield from the University of Kentucky has played a key role on the Public Health Accreditation Board and the Franklin County Health Department served as a Beta test site for accreditation. The accreditation process has now gone live. The Three Rivers District Health Department has been the first health department in Kentucky to apply and be accepted for the accreditation process. I am sure they will learn many valuable lessons that will be useful for sister health departments as they embark upon this process.

Kentucky is also well represented on the Board of Directors of the National Association of County and City Health Officials. NACCHO's members are the 2700 local health departments across the United States. NACCHO's vision is health, equity, and well-being for all people in their communities through public health policies and services. NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives. Dr. Georgia Heise and Dr. Swannie Jett are both currently serving on the 27 member board of directors.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Nurse Fellows program is a highly competitive national nurse fellowship program designed to expand nurse leadership and position nurses to help lead change in the United States health care system. There were 138 applicants for the 21 three year fellowships for 2011. Two members of the Kentucky public health system were selected to participate. Ruth Carrico, PhD is an assistant professor at the University of Louisville School of Public Health and Information. Colleen Swartz, MSN, MBA is the chief nurse executive at University of Kentucky Healthcare and a member of the Clark County Board of Health.

Kentucky was also well represented at the recent National Association of Local Boards of Health (NALBOH) conference. Judge Buddy Gallenstein has long been active in NALBOH as a member of the Buffalo Trace District Board of Health. Two members of the Clark County Board of Health, Dr. Brian Andreas and Pamela Blackburn, gave a presentation at the NALBOH conference highlighting their experiences in passing a smoke free regulation. The National Public Health Leadership Institute is a one-year leadership development program for high-potential leaders with a commitment to leading in their own organizations and communities, but also leading system change on the national scene. Past scholars in this program include leaders at HRSA, CDC, universities, foundations, the private sector, and state and local health departments across the nation. Three scholars in this year's cohort were public health directors from Kentucky. These directors are Swannie Jett, Crystal Caudill-Miller, and I, Scott Lockard. This was a rewarding experience that helped each of us to grow as leaders in public health.

The above are just a few examples of how public health leaders in Kentucky are engaged on the national level. As Public Health continues to go through its metamorphosis it is reassuring to know that our colleagues are actively engaged on a local, state, and national level to help shape our future.

Kindest Regards,

A. Scott Lockard, President



2012 Conference Save the Date!



**KPHA & SHA 2012: PUBLIC HEALTH...Where We've Been...
Where We're At...Where We're Going**

**March 27-30, 2012
Crowne Plaza Hotel, Louisville, KY**

Learn more online @ www.kpha-ky.org



Home Health/Home Visiting Section

The Home Health/Home Visiting Section chairpersons are asking all members of that section to get involved NOW. We want you to have an opportunity to impact the 2012 conference offerings for your section. Thanks to those who have responded to the e-mail and completed the section survey. If you have not taken the short survey please follow this link to do so <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NY9TBHB>. Contact information for the chairpersons can be found on the KPHA website. Click on "Sections" then click on "Home Health/Visiting". We want to hear from you.

Attention Environmental Health

Have you joined KPHA's Environmental Health discussion forum? Log into <http://kphaenvhealth.boardhost.com/index.php> and sign up for an account. The cost is NOTHING and the information/discussions are what you make of them. Conference, program and general information categories are available as well as a joke or two. Check it out!

School Health Section Update

School Health is a topic on the minds of many both in the state and nation. In August the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky held a retreat to participate in strategic planning for the next five years. Based on results of phone surveys, personal interviews and interviews of all Board and Community Advisory Committee members, two areas were identified for focus the next 5 years: policy and children's health- (including school health). For more information about the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and to watch for upcoming information and potential funding opportunities go to: <http://healthy-ky.org/default.aspx> KPHA has been asked to send a representative to the Kentucky Department of Education's Coordinated School Health Advisory Council. The group met August 31st. There was discussion about a possible summer school health conference to be sponsored by the Kentucky School Boards Association, particularly since the Foundation for A Healthy

Kentucky will no longer be hosting the Coordinated School Health Institute. They will be working with a number of partners including KPHA. Other topics include program review (which is how health and physical education content is measured since the components are no longer part of state testing); a joint letter from Commissioner of Health, Dr. Hacker, and Commissioner of Education, Dr. Holliday, on 100% tobacco free schools that went out to all school districts in Kentucky and 2011 Youth Risk Behavior Survey data. For more information on Coordinated School Health activities from the Department of Education go to:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Coordinated+School+Health/>

Our school health section is in the process of doing a survey across the state to determine topics for the March conference sessions, determine knowledge related to KPHA and to determine level of interest in a summer conference. Results will be used to help guide the section in helping achieve their goal of increased membership which was established for 2011-2012. Preliminary results from over 450 school nurses, counselors, Family Resource/Youth Service Center staff, health department directors, health educators and school administrators show that 65% of respondents are familiar with KPHA and that activities most valuable to them as members include education and resources. There is great interest in both health education and clinical updates when it comes to conference planning.

In August 2011, the Kids Count Data book was released, showing that Kentucky ranks 41st in the nation on childhood well-being. There is not much room to go but up when it comes to providing effective services for children in the state. And finally, as you all know by now- the Cabinet for Health and Family Services announced a one month delay in implementing Medicaid managed care in Kentucky. According to a report from Kentucky Voices for Health, the managed care strategy "emphasizes a holistic approach to health care" with a goal of improved health outcomes. Preventable illness and chronic disease care including reduced emergency room visits, are the essence of well designed school health programs. What a opportunity for managed care organizations if they are willing to see the connection! Those interested in school health need to be vocal about the outcomes impacted through the services you provide every day!

Eva Stone, APRN

School Health Section Chair

APHA

APHA will be Oct. 30-Nov.2 in Washington, DC. Visit www.apha.org for additional information.

National Release of Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators

The Healthy People 2020 Leading Health Indicators will be launched on October 31, 2011, The 25 indicators, organized under 12 topics, were selected from the set of Healthy People 2020 objectives and align with other key priorities within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and across the Federal Government. These indicators will be used to assess the health of the U.S. population over the decade, to facilitate collaboration among diverse groups, and to motivate individuals and communities to take action to improve their health. Learn More About the [Leading Health Indicators](#).

KPHA Volunteers

We want to thank the KPHA volunteers for working the State Fair. These individuals, along with others, provided blood pressure management and health education in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services Health Horizons exhibit area. What a great example of our

partnership! This translates into a substantial in-kind contributions for individuals and agencies and it is very much appreciated by the Cabinet of Health and Family Services and the Department for Public Health.

- Phyllis Skoniki
- Ted Hanekamp
- Sandi Maciuba
- Cris Sparks
- UKCPH
 - CPH (10 students)
 - Preventive Medicine Residency (2 MD students)
- Three Rivers DHS
 - Katherine Gilson
 - Diane Coleman
 - Rebecca Wilson
 - Alicia Banta
 - Deborah Jones
- Bullitt County HD
 - Andrea Renfrow
 - Marci Flechler
 - Liz Crigler
 - Brittany Taylor
 - Frances Foster
 - Carol Beeler

If you have made any time or monetary contributions to the KPHA for which you have not been reimbursed, please remember to complete the Volunteer Time Log which can be downloaded at <http://kpha-ky.org/Members.aspx> in the Member Info section.

Why Bother with Interpretation?

Close your eyes and visualize this scene: You are alone with your small child. He is very sick, and you don't feel so well yourself. You are sitting in a crowded waiting room with people who don't speak English. The staff doesn't speak English, either. You have no idea how to access this thing called health care and you have no family or friends to help.

For many patients this scenario is a scary, intimidating reality they must face to access even the most basic forms of healthcare. According to www.censusscope.org, in 2000 there were approximately 148,000 people living in Kentucky who spoke a language other than English at home. This population keeps growing due to the more than 2,500 refugee immigrants who are resettled annually into Kentucky. In fact, we are the 15th largest resettlement state in the U.S.!

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 states that **any program receiving federal money (i.e. health departments) must provide qualified and trained interpreters to patients who do not have English as their first language and for those individuals with hearing/sight impairments.** Interpretation must be provided from the time patients walk into your office until they leave. This is the bridge between good healthcare and patients who do not speak English. However, this bridge is only accomplished through the diligence of providers and office staff like you.

By providing qualified interpreters through tele-interpreter phones or face-to-face interpretation, you can ease patients' anxiety level and increase the level of care. Now imagine the above situation, except now the receptionist greets you by pointing out a poster that states clearly in your preferred language or method of communication that interpretation will be provided. Using a tele-interpreter, the nurse explains the process of the visit. The doctor comes in and assures you (through the same tele-interpreter) that

your son will be fine with some medication. Your worry lessens and your confidence in the health care world increases.

When patients begin to trust their health care providers, they become happier and healthier. And isn't that your main goal?

Article submitted by: Sandra Roland

KPHA 2012 Conference Poster Submissions

KPHA is now accepting submissions for poster presentations from students, professors and local health departments for the 2012 Kentucky Public Health Association Annual Conference. Please download the Poster Submission Form at <http://kpha-ky.org/Conference.aspx> for more information. Deadline to be considered for an Oral Presentation is November 15, 2011. All other submissions should be received by January 31, 2012.

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<http://www.barrenriverhealth.org>

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