

# KAMU Update – April 2008

*From the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved*

KAMU & Member News ♦ Funding ♦ Advocacy ♦ Conferences & Trainings ♦  
♦ Research & Resources ♦

## KAMU & Member News ...

### Update Your Emergency Preparedness Plan

KAMU will provide an incentive of \$500 to clinics that update their emergency preparedness plan. Plans need to be submitted to Denice Curtis, [dcurtis@kspca.org](mailto:dcurtis@kspca.org), by **April 30, 2008**.

In addition, on **July 18, 2008** (location to be announced), KAMU will host a **tabletop exercise** that will test the emergency preparedness plans. Clinics will receive another \$500 for participating in that exercise.

### Scholarships Available to Dentists

KAMU will offer five scholarships for dentists working at safety net clinics to attend the 2008 Association of Institutional Dentistry Annual Meeting on **June 2-4, 2008** in Bloomington, Minnesota. Scholarships are on a first-come, first-served basis.

Approximately 15-16 credits will be provided for the three days of course work. For more information contact Erin Scrapper at [escrapper@kspca.org](mailto:escrapper@kspca.org) or Denice Curtis, [dcurtis@kspca.org](mailto:dcurtis@kspca.org).

### Dental Hub Proposals Due May 5

KAMU has released the request for proposals for the **second round of Dental Hub funding**. The RFP, cover page, work plan template and a separate budget form are posted at [www.kspca.org](http://www.kspca.org). Address questions to Jane Faubion, [jfaubion@kspca.org](mailto:jfaubion@kspca.org), 785-233-8483.

Again this year, public and private funders have collaborated to expand access to oral health services in Kansas. Through the outstanding efforts and commitment of United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Sunflower Foundation: Healthcare for Kansans, Kansas Health Foundation, Delta Dental Foundation of Kansas, REACH Healthcare Foundation, and Kansas Office of Primary Care (KDHE), a minimum of \$1.8 million will be available for up to three years of funding. This funding will make an important difference in the lives and health of underserved Kansans.

### Sen. Brownback Visits CHC/SEK

U.S. Senator Sam Brownback visited Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg on March 18 and toured the new facility.

“His first visit was in 2003 when we were designated a federally qualified health center, and we were pleased to be able show him what a good investment it has been,” said Krista Postai, CEO and Executive Director of the health center. For the story, see the *Pittsburg Morning Sun* at [www.morningsun.net](http://www.morningsun.net).

### KAMU Members Visit Federal Lawmakers

A contingent of KAMU members went to Washington, D.C., in mid-March to attend NACHC’s Policy and Issues conference and visit federal legislators from Kansas.

The group included: Cathy Harding and Tony Wellever, KAMU; Susan Wilson, Executive Director, Harold Johnson and Tom Niehus, Wathena Medical Center; Otis Latimer and Jimmy Brown, Swope Health Services; Krista Postai, Executive Director, and Douglas Stuckey, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas; and Lougene Marsh, Executive Director, Flint Hills Community Health Center.

During “Day on the Hill” visits, group members met with Reps. Jerry Moran, Nancy Boyda and Dennis Moore, as well as staff members for Sen. Sam Brownback, Sen. Pat Roberts and Rep. Todd Tiahrt. The KAMU representatives advocated for an increased \$248 million in FQHC appropriations, a reauthorization of the Community Health Center act, and approval of the Medicare Adjustment to Community Health Centers (MATCH) Act, which improves access to health care for America’s elderly by removing caps for cost-based reimbursement.

Mark your calendars now for the **March 2009 Capitol Hill visits** and annual P&I conference. All KAMU members are invited to attend and advocate for our state’s safety net.

## Funding ...

### HRSA Program Assistance Letter Addresses Base Adjustments

The Health Resources and Services Administration has issued Program Assistance Letter (PAL) 2008-03 to announce the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Base Adjustments to Health Center Program Grants. The PAL is available at [bphc.hrsa.gov/policy](http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policy).

HRSA will award approximately \$39.4 million in supplemental grant awards to health centers funded under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act in FY 2008 to support base grant adjustments for existing health centers (i.e., an increase in base funding). In addition, a limited number of health centers that serve a high percentage of uninsured or that experienced significant increases in the number of uninsured patients will receive an additional adjustment to their base grant.

### National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment

The National Health Service Corps is a competitive program that recruits fully trained and licensed health professionals to provide primary health services in NHSC community sites in selected Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) identified by the U.S. Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. In return, the NHSC LRP assists clinicians in their repayment of qualifying educational loans that are still owed.

The application is available online: [nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov](http://nhsc.bhpr.hrsa.gov). Deadline is midnight ET April 2.

## Advocacy ...

### Legislative Health Forums

The Legislature will take a break this month before returning on April 30 for the Omnibus session. During the break, the Kansas Public Health Association and its members are sponsoring a series of Legislative forums across the state to get input on health reform. This may be a good opportunity to express your support for safety net funding. For info, contact KPHA at 785-233-3103.

*This list gives city, county or sponsor, date, time and place of forum.*

Pittsburg, Crawford, 4/7/08, 6:00PM, Memorial Auditorium PSU

Ottawa, Franklin, 4/8/08, Noon, Commission Chambers of Franklin County Annex

Chanute, Neosho, 4/8/08, 6:30PM, Neosho Community College Auditorium

Wichita , Sedgwick, 4/8/08, 3-5pm, Southeast Health Station, 1530 S Oliver, Ste. 270

Olathe, Johnson, 4/9/08, 4:00PM, Johnson County Health Dept.

Atchison, NEK Multi, 4/10/08, 6:00 pm, Atchison Middle School

Garden City, Finney, 4/10/08, 6:30PM, Clarion Hotel

Oakley, Logan, 4/10/08, 7:00PM, Community Church 806 E. 3rd St.

Lawrence, Douglas, 4/14/08, 10:00AM, Douglas County Health Dept.

Winfield, Cowley, 4/17/08, 4:00PM, William Newton Hospital Physician's Pavilion  
Salina, Saline, 4/17/08, 1:00PM, Salina/Saline County Health Dept.  
Topeka, KPHA, 4/21/08, 7:00 PM, Washburn University Kansas Room  
Coffeyville, Montgomery, 4/22/08, 4:00 PM, Civic Center  
Manhattan, Riley, 4/23/08, Noon, Family & Child Resource Center, 2101 Claflin  
Emporia, Lyon, 4/24/08, 6:30 PM, Lyon County Courthouse  
El Dorado, Butler, 4/25/08, 4:00 PM, Community Building, 200 N. Griffith

### **National Network for Oral Health Access**

The mission of this Denver-based group is to improve the oral health status of the underserved through advocacy and support for health centers. For more information about membership and activities, contact Colleen Lampron, NNOHA Executive Director, at [colleenlampron@gmail.com](mailto:colleenlampron@gmail.com) or 720-838-7739. The registration form is available online at [www.nnoha.org](http://www.nnoha.org).

## **Conferences & Trainings ...**

### **Quality Conference**

The 13th Annual Kansas Health Quality Forum and Pre-Conference Learning Session is sponsored by the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC).

#### **Kansas Healthcare: Case #KS-041808 ... Evidence for Improvement**

April 17-18, 2008  
Wichita

The forum will feature a pre-conference learning session on Clues to Building a Community for Healthcare Quality Improvement. National and local experts will help "crack the case" to great quality improvement. See the brochure at [www.kfmc.org](http://www.kfmc.org).

### **HIV/STD/Viral Hepatitis Cultural Diversity Training**

April 24-25, 2008  
Curtis Bldg., Topeka, Kansas

Presenters: Sharon Goolsby, Arturo Ponce, Gayle Edmonds, and Buck Rowland

If you are interested in attending, register on KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>. For info, contact Melba Sutton at 785-296-8793 or visit [krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us).

### **3rd Annual Governor's Kansas Public Health Conference**

#### **Public Health in Kansas**

"There's No Place Like Home: Early Intervention Strategies for Healthy Families"  
Orientation Session, April 28, General Session, April 29-30  
Wichita

Conference registration is through KS-TRAIN at <http://ks.train.org>, Course #1012140. Information is posted at [krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us).

### **2008 Kansas Conference on Poverty**

#### **Electing to End Poverty: Why It Impacts Us All**

May 13-14, 2008  
Capital Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka

Focus areas are children, youth and poverty; supporting working families; and advocacy training. For information, visit <http://www.kacap.org/>.

### **Oral Health Event**

#### **Fluoride Varnish Mini-Summit – May 16** Kansas State Historical Museum, Topeka

This is a day to explore topics relating to fluoride varnish with dental and medical professionals, oral health advocates, community leaders, and others. The Mini-Summit is not a clinical training, but focuses on policy and operational issues. Tracy Garland, former president of Washington Dental Services Foundation, and a leader in developing new delivery systems for fluoride varnish in the state of Washington, will facilitate the summit. Online registration is available on the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund website: <http://www.healthfund.org/fvms08.php>.

### **Missouri PCA Clinical Conference**

The Missouri Primary Care Association's annual clinical conference for dental and medical issues will be held in Branson, Missouri from May 29-31. It is open to all interested persons. Visit [www.mo-pca.org](http://www.mo-pca.org), "MPCA.Org's News to Know" for info.

### **Diabetes & Depression Continuing Education Opportunity**

Clinical studies suggest that a link between diabetes and depression is particularly evident in the workplace setting. New material on the National Diabetes Education Program's Web site helps employers prevent and manage diabetes and depression in the work place. The site also provides a simple way for medical professionals to learn more about the connection between diabetes and depression while earning continuing education credits. To learn more, go to [www.diabetesatwork.org](http://www.diabetesatwork.org).

### **Online Grant Writing Course**

The next Fort Hays State Grant Writing study at home eight-week certificate course begins May 19, 2008. Ten CEUs and a grant writing certificate may be earned through Fort Hays State University in Hays. This distance learning course requires no travel. Cost is \$150. See details at [www.fhsu.edu/sociology/8weekgrants.shtml](http://www.fhsu.edu/sociology/8weekgrants.shtml) or contact [sociology@fhsu.edu](mailto:sociology@fhsu.edu), 785-628-5840.

## **Research & Resources ...**

### **Quality Performance Measures**

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has released its annual analysis of state performance on quality measurements. The State Snapshots are individual looks at every state, including 149 separate measures of quality. The analysis also has a new feature to track state progress on meeting federal goals through the Healthy People 2010 initiative. Visit [statesnapshots.ahrq.gov](http://statesnapshots.ahrq.gov).

For more information regarding the indicators, visit [www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov](http://www.qualityindicators.ahrq.gov).

### **Patient-Centered Medical Homes**

A recording of National Academy of State Health Policy's March 6 Web cast on "Patient Centered Medical Homes" is now available online. "Supporting the Patient Centered Medical Home in Medicaid and SCHIP: Savings and Reimbursement" focuses on different reimbursement methods states are using currently to support patient centered medical homes in Medicaid and SCHIP programs. Connect to the program at [www.webcasts.com/medicalhomesavings](http://www.webcasts.com/medicalhomesavings).

## **HRSA Announcement: Digital TV Countdown Has Started**

Many of the vulnerable, elderly and disabled are confused about the upcoming transition to digital television. They have heard the news about the switch to digital television programming and think they must buy a new, expensive DTV or HDTV or be without TV after February 17, 2009.

HRSA has prepared a plain language fact sheet you can share with your patients and post in your clinic so know what their options are concerning the digital TV transition. It explains consumer options and what they will need to do to be ready for the digital transition in 2009: [www.dtv.gov/transitionbasics](http://www.dtv.gov/transitionbasics).

More information about the digital transition and converters is available at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov), or by calling any of the telephone numbers listed on the fact sheet.

## **Disparities Chart Book**

The Commonwealth Fund has issued a chart book on racial and ethnic disparities in health care compiled from national surveys and other studies. It includes data on health status and mortality, access to care, health insurance coverage and quality of care, as well as possible strategies to close the health disparities gap. Visit [www.commonwealthfund.org/publications](http://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications).

## **Documentary on Health Disparities**

UNNATURAL CAUSES is a documentary series that explores themes of health and inequality. Segments are set in different ethnic/racial communities to show the ways in which social conditions affect population health and how some communities are extending their lives by improving them. Airing nationally four consecutive Thursdays (March 27, April 3, 10, 17 at 10 pm) on most PBS stations. To learn more about the series and companion tools including interactivities, transcripts and a toolkit, go to [www.unnaturalcauses.org](http://www.unnaturalcauses.org)

## **Medical School Program Impact on Rural Physician Supply**

There have been long-standing questions regarding the effectiveness of medical school programs focused on increasing the supply of rural physicians. A new study reviewed six medical school programs and found their rural programs have been highly successful in increasing the supply of rural physicians, with an average of 53% to 64% of graduates practicing in rural areas.

The study authors feel the programs are generalizable and would substantially impact the supply and retention of rural physicians if widely replicated. "Medical School Programs to Increase the Rural Physician Supply: A Systematic Review and Projected Impact of Widespread Replication" by Howard K. Rabinowitz, MD, James J. Diamond, PhD, Fred W. Markham, MD, and Jeremy R. Wortman appears in *Academic Medicine*, Vol. 83, No. 3/March 2008 or is available at [krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us).

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"Observe always that everything is the result of a change, and get used to thinking that there is nothing Nature loves so well as to change existing forms and to make new ones like them."

- *Marcus Aurelius*