

Cycle VI Capstones

KPHLI Cycle VI scholars completed the following capstone projects:

Caring for Tiny Teeth: Delivering a Uniform Dental Curriculum Training for Those who Care for Young Children in Rooks County

Lorraine Baughman, RN, AND, CBE; Administrator, Rooks County Health Department

Abstract: *Early childhood caries can destroy the teeth of an infant or child, resulting in additional health problems later in life. Early tooth loss caused by dental decay can lead to impaired speech development, reduced self-esteem, and increased school absences. If decay is untreated, the child often has to be hospitalized to repair the damage to the teeth, which is not only painful but expensive. Dental caries is the most common childhood disease, more prevalent than asthma. Parent education regarding the oral and dental health of young children was inconsistent and sometimes lacking among those who provide care for these children in Rooks County. Child care providers who could provide a critical role in the care of young children's teeth had not received education and training on this health topic. This project provided education and resources so all health care and child care providers in Rooks County might deliver a uniform message to parents on topics such as: the importance of establishing a dental home, beginning routine examinations at 12 months of age, proper brushing technique, weaning by one year, limiting the frequency of exposure to sugary liquid, and the importance of fluoride and fluoride varnish application at recommended intervals.*

Educating Allied Health Professionals in Emergency Preparedness

Leslie Berryhill, MSED; Campus Administrator – Southside, Comotora, and Health Sciences, Wichita Area Technical College

Abstract: *As a lifelong educator, my project choice was driven by my never-ending desire to inform and educate. The need for all health care professionals to be educated in emergency preparedness came to light during the statewide core curriculum alignment for the Medical Assistant (MA) Program. The addition of emergency preparedness to the MA core curriculum led to the realization of the importance to educate all health professionals. Wichita Area Technical College (WATC) is accredited with the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association (HLC-NCA). This accreditation allowed the development of a one credit hour emergency preparedness course that would be transferable to other colleges and universities or serve as Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for working health professionals. The course was developed in an on-line delivery format in order to make it accessible to health professionals outside Wichita and the surrounding communities. The main focus of the class is to provide health care professionals with an orientation for their possible future roles in disaster response and the importance of staying within the scope of practice of the profession. Those enrolled in this class will be prepared to meet the expectations of their employers, to volunteer effectively, and to be confident and safe responders. Healthy People 2010 focus areas addressed include Educational and Community-Based Programs, Health Communication, and Public Health Infrastructure.*

Are We There Yet? Navigating the Road to Health Information Accessibility by Evaluating a Summer Program for a Low Vision Student

Julie Broski, MaED; Project Manager, KU Medical Center, Dykes Medical Library

Abstract: *Eliminating health disparities continues to be a significant challenge in the United States and in Kansas. In order to achieve health equity, all people will be able to “attain their full health potential.” Access to quality health information is fundamental to empowering people to influence their health potential. Although health information can be found for people with low vision, the vast majority of online information does not meet accessibility standards. The purpose of this capstone project is to explore concepts surrounding accessibility of health information for people with low vision on the Internet, as well as possible correlations to diversity in the health care workforce. The rationale for exploring this topic is based on research regarding access to online health information for people with low vision, statistics on employment opportunities for people with very low vision, and limited opportunities for interaction between individuals involved in developing and publishing online health information and people with low or no vision.*

Estimating Natural Disaster-Generated Debris Volumes for Typical Kansas Communities

April Dixon, PE, BSCE; Director of District Offices, KDHE, Bureau of Environmental Field Studies

Abstract: *An evaluation of the volumes of residential debris generated as a result of three recent Kansas natural disasters was conducted to attempt to: (1) compare available Kansas data with volume projections generated by estimating tools commonly used in response to natural disasters; and (2) determine either a similarity to, or distinction from, these standard estimators of predicted waste volumes. The value of confirming the usefulness of standard estimating formulas was expected to contribute to Kansas public health goals and was conducted within a practice setting based upon recent data, as available. This study is believed to contribute to two core public health functions and two CDC-identified basic public health practices. It would contribute to effectively assessing health needs, within the core function of Assessment. Secondly, as a tool for assessing adequate appropriate (e.g., permitted) regional landfill space, it would aid in the development of plans and policies to address priority health needs, as a part of the core function of Policy Development.*

A Needs Assessment for a Center for Health Promotion in Kansas: What do Key Stakeholders Want?

Will Evans, DC, PhD, CHES; Director of Wellness Initiatives, Parker College Research Institute

Abstract: *The Cleveland College of Chiropractic has been in the Kansas City Metro area for over 80 years. Recently, a shift toward university status has occurred and an early emphasis will be on health sciences. A master’s degree in health promotion (MS) has been created partially from funds allocated by a federal education grant. To support the MS and other health science programs that could assist the state and region in achieving health goals, a center for health promotion at the college has been proposed. Goals established by the government call for both health education and health promotion to be delivered by a variety of health care providers, and a center could play a variety of roles in assisting both students and the community. Holding focus groups of key stakeholders is the first step in investigating how others may view such a center. This effort assessed interest and investigated what others feel a mission, special objectives, or focus areas a center should consider.*

Funding the Future: Finding New Funding Strategies for the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA)

Nicole Heim, BA, MPH, REHS; Principal Consultant, NHPH Consulting

Abstract: *The Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) is in need of continued financial support from membership dues, grants, and conference fees. As the economy began to crumble in 2008, KPHA found it much more difficult to gain new members while retaining current membership, grants became more competitive, and conference attendance had reduced. This project is intended to give KPHA fresh ideas regarding funding to sustain the organization into the future by surveying the other American Public Health Association (APHA) state affiliates to better understand their resources. According to the surveys, 22 of the 25 responding state affiliates have paid staff and they vary widely, from one part-time employee to twenty-four employees, with a mixture of full and part-time and contract positions. All of the state affiliates receive funding from membership dues, twenty-three of them conducted a conference for funding, and twenty-one collected funds from successful grant applications. Only twelve respondents conducted a fundraiser, and eight obtained outside contracts to help fund their organization. The prospect of finding new solutions to KPHA's funding issues was an exciting notion. Through this survey, there may be only one or two additional sources KPHA could be exploring: fundraising and contract services. Through this survey, KPHA was hopeful that new funding opportunities would be brought to the forefront. However, many of the funding strategies other state affiliates are participating in were already in consideration.*

Public Health Training for Elected Officials in Kansas: Translating an Assessment into Practice

Tim Norton, BS, MSED; Commissioner, Sedgwick County Government

Abstract: *The United States contains more than 3,000 counties. Of the governing bodies of these counties, approximately 60% also serve as the Board of Health for their jurisdictions. For the 105 counties in Kansas, state statutes designate that the Board of County Commissioners may either serve as the Board of Health or may appoint an advisory board of health. In either instance, county elected officials should be aware of their obligations promulgated by state statute and understand the important role they play in public health promotion, administration, and funding. For County Commissioners to perform their duties, particularly in their role as the Board of Health for their jurisdiction, an educational program that provides orientation to pertinent information about their statutory obligations as members of the Board of Health (BOH) is needed. The purpose of this project was to (1) assess the content of training for Kansas County Commissioners (CC) that prepares them to serve as the local board of health, (2) assess commissioners' orientation to public health issues that may affect the populace within their jurisdiction, and (3) use the assessment findings to design, develop, and disseminate a training program specifically for public health preparation for county commissioners.*

Evaluating the WIN Program: How Can We Use Our Data to Increase Program Efficacy?

Kelley Rogers-Graham, LMSW; Executive Director, Wichita Women's Initiative Network

Abstract: *At my agency, the Wichita Women's Initiative Network (WIN), we serve survivors of domestic violence. We provide employment, job training, education, and advocacy. When I first came to WIN, there was no evaluation system in place to measure the progress of participants. In 2004, we started using several evaluation tools to help elucidate the process: the Self Esteem Ratings Scale (SERS), the Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs Scale, and a customized Employee Performance Review (EPR). The purpose of our evaluation in this program is to look at improvement over time of WIN participants' perception of how their needs are being met and their perception of their self-esteem and self-efficacy.*

Assessing Immunization Coverage among German Mexican Mennonite Children and the Role of a Rural-Based Local Health Department

Paula Rowden, MPH; Administrator, Stevens County Health Department

Abstract: *The delivery of vaccinations represents a cornerstone in the practice of public health, because the principles of public health are based upon prevention. However, many preschool children in the United States are reported to be underimmunized. While vaccination rates among children in the United States are reported to be increasing, immunization coverage among children of minority groups is on the decline. The goal of this leadership project will be to evaluate how local immunization practices, clinic processes for documenting vaccinations received, as well as perceived barriers to care are impacting the compliance rate of the 4:3:1:3:3 series for German Mexican Mennonite (GMM) farmworker children residing in Stevens County. The researcher executed the following steps in the current study: 1) conducted chart audits on all GMM children ages 12 months to 12 years registered at the Stevens County Health Department (SCHD); 2) interviewed GMM families who presented to the SCHD for services between June 15 and August 31, 2009, who had a child with a vaccination record reflecting gaps in service; and 3) interviewed agency professional nurses responsible for reviewing vaccination records, providing patient education regarding vaccinations, and administering vaccinations to children..*

Safe Slumber: Creating Safe Sleep Environments for Kansas Infants

Christy Schunn, LSCSW; Executive Director, SIDS Network of Kansas

Abstract: *Sudden Infant Death Syndrome is the leading cause of death for infants between 1 month and 12 months of age. In 2005, 49 Kansas infants died of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome; of the 49 deaths, over 67% were sleeping in unsafe sleeping environments. Therefore, this capstone project will focus on the need for a public health education campaign aimed at increasing safe sleep practices for all Kansas infants. This project will address the following core functions in public health: Assess and investigate the occurrence of the health need, develop a plan to address the health need, and inform and educate the public regarding proper safe sleep practices. The project will also address the Healthy People 2010 focus areas of health communication and maternal, infant and child health concerns. This capstone project will incorporate the above areas to conceptualize and implement an educational tool to address the need for infant safe sleep.*

The Right Track to Education

Shannon Steinbauer, RN, BSN; Regional Case Manager, Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Prevention Program, KDHE, Bureau of Environmental Health

Abstract: *The goal of this capstone project was to develop and initiate use of training materials to increase knowledge of lead poisoning prevention and healthy homes concepts for a broad audience, including nurses, nursing students, medical students, child care providers, realtors, and landlords. Learner needs were identified by reviewing pertinent literature and through meetings with potential users of the material. Training core concepts and pictures were adapted from the NCHH (National Center for Healthy Homes) Healthy Homes Practitioner Course available at National Training Centers across the U.S., including Kansas. The training modules were modified for electronic accessibility through KS-TRAIN, the learning management system supported within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Modifications to the*

learning modules will be made over time, reflecting user input gathered from evaluations of the electronic course. Initial use of the developed materials has begun within a public health nursing class at Wichita State University. Contacts have been made to request that the course become required curriculum for all nursing degree programs in Kansas.

Healthcare Quality in Rural America: Multi-State Hospital Quality/Performance Improvement Project

Chris Tilden, PhD, MHSA, BA; Director, KDHE, Bureau of Local and Rural Health

Abstract: *This project examined the feasibility of developing a formal governance structure among a group of states using a similar program to support rural hospital quality improvement. Kansas first began a program in 2005 to provide support services to help rural hospitals develop stronger quality and performance improvement programs. Later, several other states decided to adopt Kansas's approach. Kansas approached these other states about working together to share ideas and experiences to strengthen all state programs. There has been some limited dialogue among the project states, but this has been very informal. Developing a more formal governance structure among participating states would yield a number of benefits. As such, this project has sought to determine if a formal governance structure would be supported by member states and how difficult it would be to establish such a structure. There are ongoing efforts to determine if a formal structure could be achieved.*