



PUBLIC HEALTH

Connections

Bureau of Community Health Systems

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Motivational speaker to address public health staff

by Amy Gaier, Public Health Specialist, Local Public Health, KDHE

When those COVID-19 curveballs keep coming – the cancelation of “in-person” recovery events, challenges to masks in schools and third dose vaccines (to name a few) – we all need a break.

Brett Culp, a well-known filmmaker and

motivational speaker, will provide just that to the Kansas public health workforce during a special Zoom webinar at **2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1**. Culp’s message is described as perfect for groups seeking good news and desiring to be re-invigorated with



Filmmaker and motivational speaker Brett Culp will address public health staff Sept. 1.

purpose at every level. Culp’s presentation will

See ‘Culp’s’ on page 2

Saline County Health Department director’s ‘support never wavers’ before and during pandemic

by Lisa Horn, Public Health Nurse Specialist, Local Public Health, KDHE

Supportive, encouraging and inclusive. These are just some of the words used to describe Jason Tiller, Saline County Health Department director, by those who work with him.

Tiller, who’s been at the helm of the department for the past six years, continues to steer the agency during the uncharted course COVID-19 has presented.

Even before the pandemic, he recognized that working in public health is not a one size fits all approach, said Sherri LaFollette, Saline County Health Department Maternal Child Health/ Becoming a Mom Coordinator.

“You have to change, bend, compromise, collaborate, educate, listen and provide services to our



Saline County Health Department Director Jason Tiller takes a “selfie” with current and former employees at a past Governor’s Public Health Conference. Pictured behind Tiller, from left to right are: Tricia Fry, Mona Hargrave, Magie Cumberland, Joyce Schumacher, Sherri LaFollette, Meghan Diehl and Tammie Schneider.

communities the best we can to meet an array of individual needs,” she said. “He knows how difficult this can be at times, especially during a pandemic. However, his support never wavers, which is something staff know they can depend upon.”

See ‘Tiller’ on page 2

Culp's message aims to elevate and inspire

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take the place of the regularly-scheduled COVID-19 Update for Local Health Departments that day (the COVID-19 Update webinars will take place on **Aug. 30** and **Sept. 3** this week).

All local health department staff are

encouraged to [register](#) to hear his presentation.

Denise Kelly, KDHE Preparedness program director, first heard the filmmaker and social entrepreneur when he was a speaker at the National Healthcare Coalition Preparedness Conference in 2019.

"Brett Culp is a very energetic, engaging and inspiring speaker," Kelly said. "His presentation was awesome."

Kelly said his hero stories of "everyday" people helped her staff find new ways to connect with their communities and find solutions together. She strongly encourages

everyone to attend.

"His insights gave me a renewed sense of hope for the future, something we can all use a little more of during the COVID-19 response," she added. "His presentation emphasized that our efforts can and do make a real impact on those around us."

Tiller guides staff through unknowns before and during pandemic

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He provides guidance and insight even if it varies from staff's own viewpoints, LaFollette added.

And, "he provides encouragement and invites us to challenge ourselves as we strive to maneuver through all the unknowns we face today in our public health systems," she said. "He promotes outside of the box thinking/brainstorming and motivates us to embrace all possibilities that may seem out of our reach."

Phillip Smith-Hanes, Saline County administrator, agreed.

"Jason had some things he was planning to do when I first came on board, but by three months in, COVID-19 was consuming our lives," said Smith-Hanes, who started in December 2019. "Jason has done a great job leading and supporting

his staff through the pandemic."

"What I really admire about him, however, is the way he engages staff in lots of conversations about things we are doing in the county," Smith-Hanes said. "When I ask a question of departments, most of the time I'll get a couple responses from department heads – and then I'll start getting responses from health department staff, because Jason has engaged his entire department."

A goal Tiller is striving to reach for both clients and staff is a new location for the health department.

The department's current building is around 50 years old, Smith-Hanes said, with hallways in odd directions and three entrances. The parking situation is also a poor design, because the parking closest to the street that the building "faces" is actually owned by a business across the

street.

"There wasn't near enough space to add contact tracing staff... they ended up packed in conference rooms and break areas," he said. "We really need to get the health department a space that is functional, not fancy, and I'm glad Jason is making this a priority."

COVID-19 has been the biggest project that Tiller and Michelle Barkley, Saline County Emergency Management director, have worked on since she started in her position two years ago.

He has been a tremendous help supporting the non-congregate shelter, collaborating on resource requests and helping keep spirits up for all involved in the pandemic response, she said.

"He and his wife had a coffee bar and scone day," Barkley said. "Jason

dressed up like Santa last December and dropped off gifts to different departments and to command staff."

He will often email an inspirational quote or something else to boost the spirits of Incident Command and health department staff, Barkley added.

Tiller also recognizes the strain of keeping up with the demands the health department has faced in the past one and a half years and the continued workload, LaFollette said.

"With this, he reminds us to take care of ourselves too," she said. "We matter, we are needed and we are heard. He understands the importance of our roles to the community and he always reminds us this means obligations to ourselves and families have to be part of the process in order for us to be resilient through it all."



Kansas Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) sub-award available

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) program is requesting proposals from public or private non-profit community-based organizations, local health departments, units of city and/or county government, health systems and tribes/tribal organizations.

The funding will help support projects that address drug overdose prevention in Kansas. Projects will be designed to reduce the incidence of substance use disorder and drug-involved morbidity and mortality through the implementation of community-based prevention strategies. Proposed projects must be evidence-informed, data-driven and align with project requirements.

Eligible applicants are required to propose and, if funded, implement activities from a list of allowable strategies (see "[Purpose and Uses of Funding](#)" and "[Examples of Allowable Strategies](#)") as approved by KDHE. Additionally, the [Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Misuse and Overdose Strategic Plan](#) may be used to guide local-level prevention efforts.

Applications are due by **5 p.m. Sept. 10**. More information, the application and budget forms are available [here](#). Please direct any questions to Julia.N.Baughman@ks.gov.

New housing resource released by the Kansas Disability and Health Program

Good health depends upon adequate housing that is safe and does not contribute to health problems. It is difficult for people with disabilities to find adequate housing if they require accessible features, such as a barrier-free entrance, accessible bathroom or an environment free of harmful chemicals. Furthermore, discrimination can hinder people with disabilities in their search for housing and income limitations can make it difficult for people with disabilities to find housing that is adequate and affordable.

"Housing for Kansans with Disabilities: A Resource" is a new publication available from the Kansas Disability and Health Program (DHP). In addition to describing the barriers to adequate, affordable housing that people with disabilities often face, the resource explains housing regulations such as the Fair Housing Act (FHA) and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). It also lists legal, advocacy and funding resources available to people with disabilities as they seek housing and explore accessibility modifications to their homes.

You can download the resource [here](#).



New program provides Kansas job seekers with money for child care

A new state program will provide Kansas job seekers with money for childcare. The project is being tested in 62 central and western Kansas counties. The program has been launched with \$500,000 in federal funding to provide child care so that parents are able to work outside the home.

"It's tough for a young person, or anyone for that matter, first starting a job to be able to afford to pay for day care," said Andy West, of the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

People can apply online through DCF or Kansas workforce centers. If the program is a success, it could be expanded to more counties. More information is available [here](#).



Apply for funding from Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program

KDHE's Overdose Data to Action team has just released a request for proposal for implementation of the Overdose Detection Mapping Application Program (ODMAP) for eligible organizations (Kansas local law enforcement, EMS, fire departments). The purpose of this project is to track suspected drug overdoses in near real time, facilitate collaboration between units of local government and community partners and use these data to target overdose prevention and response efforts.

Applications are due by **5 p.m. Sept. 10**. More information, the application and budget forms are available [here](#). Please direct any questions to Julia.N.Baughman@ks.gov.

Initiative seeks to increase number of BIPOC lactation consultants



Color-Filled Breastfeeding Clinical Lactation Training Program

A Program of  Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition received an Impact Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation to create “Color-Filled Breastfeeding: Clinical Lactation Training Program.” This lactation consultant clinical training program will offer individuals an opportunity to receive hands-on clinical lactation experience.

Students will be paired with an experienced mentor at local hospitals, health departments and other settings in Kansas. Sapphire Garcia-Lies, program coordinator, has already begun recruiting clinical

sites and students for the program. To become a site or if you're a student interested in the program, contact Garcia-Lies at **(316) 500-0629** or email info@ksbreastfeeding.org.

Color-Filled Breastfeeding is open to all Kansans. To ensure families receive culturally congruent lactation care, scholarships will be provided to Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC) students. This new program reflects the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition's commitment to addressing inequities in breastfeeding rates. Breastfeeding rates in Kansas are on the rise. Yet, a “rising tide” does not raise all boats. Inequities persist among races and ethnicities. Kansas birth certificate data for the period of 2017-2019 shows breastfeeding initiation rates for Black families was 8.6 percent lower than the state average.

Boosting breastfeeding among black families is especially significant in Kansas, where recent data from KDHE indicated that black infants are more than twice as likely to die in infancy than their white neighbors. Having access to culturally congruent lactation care to help families start and continue breastfeeding is an important tool to combat these deaths because breastfeeding has profound long-term health benefits for infants and can increase the odds that they will live to see their first birthday.

“Nearly 90 percent of families in Kansas choose to breastfeed,” said Stephanie Rupnicki, chair of the KBC Board of Directors. “Yet too many families struggle to find breastfeeding support near them and from someone who looks like them. This new program will address that.”

Color-Filled Breastfeeding will increase the number of lactation consultants in Kansas, specifically the number of BIPOC consultants. With increase access to lactation care, more Kansans will be able to reach their breastfeeding goals.



Nominations now being accepted for Kansas Health Champions awards

The Governor's Council on Fitness is now accepting nominations for its annual Kansas Health Champion Awards. Awards are given to one outstanding individual and one outstanding organization that make an exceptional effort to model, encourage and promote health and fitness in Kansas. Award recipients will be recognized at the Community Health Promotion Summit in January 2022. The deadline for nominations is **Sept. 30**.

Nominees would be expected to have demonstrated:

- Work that goes beyond what is expected to model, encourage and promote a healthy lifestyle
- Work that overcomes health inequities that lead to sedentary lifestyles and/or undernourishment
- Far-reaching impact
- Sustainable influence or activity.

The Governor's Council on Fitness advises the Governor and others on ways to enhance the health of all Kansans through the promotion of physical activity, good dietary choices and prevention of tobacco use.

For more information and to submit a nomination, go to getactivekansas.org, and click on the nomination form link. For questions about the nomination process, contact Candice McField at Candicemcfield@candicemcfield.com.

Project seeks to understand black women's perinatal experiences

As part of a KDHE project to understand the health care experiences of non-hispanic black mothers in Kansas both pre- and post-partum, Wichita State University's Center for Applied Research and Evaluation is conducting interviews with women who meet the criteria below. Please provide the following information to women who fit the criteria:

Who is eligible to participate:

- Non-hispanic black women
- Women who have given birth or been pregnant
- Women 18 years of age or older
- English speakers.

What does participation look like:

An interview will last no more than 90 minutes and will include questions about opinions and experiences related to seeking treatment during pregnancy and after and tools that would be helpful when navigating the health system.

Time and place:

Time will be determined by participant schedules. All interviews will be conducted using a video conference platform such as Zoom.

Protection of confidentiality:

No identifying information will be collected at any time. No comments will be linked with a name or identifying information. All of the responses will be combined to create themes across all interviews.

Voluntary participation:

All participation is voluntary. Eligible women can choose to participate or not. They may choose not to answer any or all questions during the interview and can stop at any time.

Compensation:

Participants will be offered a gift card of \$20 for their time.

A participant screening survey is [here](#). Contact Paigton Mayes at paigton.mayes@wichita.edu for more information.



Job Postings

Barton County Health Department

[Registered Dietitian \(part time\)](#)

[Public Health Nurse](#)

[Social Worker](#)

Flint Hills Community Health Center

[LPN - Eureka Clinic](#)

Greenwood County Health Department

[PRN Nurse](#)

Johnson County Department of Health & Environment

[Advanced Practice Registered Nurse \(APRN\)](#)

[Certified Nurse Assistant](#)

[Customer Service Specialist](#)

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Positions are available for public health nurses, epidemiologists, community health specialists, program managers, environmental health, lab staff and others.

[Click here to search](#)

Kansas Health Institute

[Policy Analyst](#)

[Data Analyst](#)

Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health

[Child Care Licensing Surveyor](#)

[Communications Officer](#)

[COVID-19 Call Center Support Staff](#)

[Garden Intern](#)

[Human Services Supervisor](#)

[Preparedness and Epidemiology Coordinator](#)

[Public Health Nurse](#)

[Sexual Health Social Worker](#)

Riley County Health Department

[COVID-19 Contact Tracers](#)

[Maternal and Child Health \(MCH\)
Social Worker - OPEI Home Visitor](#)

[Public Health Nurse- Clinic](#)

Shawnee County Health Department

[Health Information Management Systems Specialist
\(HIPAA Officer\)](#)

[Registered Nurse in Nurse-Family Partnership](#)

[Social Worker - BSW](#)

Unified Government (Wyandotte County) Public Health

[Administrative Coordinator](#)

[Disease Intervention Specialist](#)

[Health Outreach Worker](#)

[Licensed Practical Nurse \(LPN\)](#)

[Management Analyst \(Epidemiologist\)](#)

[Media Relations Specialist](#)

[Public Health Nurse Supervisor](#)

[Special Health Projects Coordinator \(Health Equity
Taskforce Coordinator\)](#)

Upcoming Trainings & Conferences

Kansas TRAIN course helps develop Chief Health Strategist skills

The Strategic Skills Training Series aims to help prepare public health practitioners to develop the practices and competencies associated with being a Chief Health Strategist. You can find the first module on Kansas TRAIN [here](#) (course #1085866).

The modules in this series use the community health improvement planning process to introduce the basics of four strategic skills areas. This [first module](#) covers systems thinking. The modules use a case study approach, set in the fictitious “Tycho County,” to help you think about ways to leverage these skills as a Chief Health Strategist to address real world problems in your community.

Follow how the Tycho County Health Department could adopt a systems approach to inform its thinking and planning while developing a community health improvement plan focused on a familiar public health problem – opioid misuse.

By the end of this module, you should know how to:

- Consider events, patterns, and structures related to a complex problem
- Explain what a complex adaptive system is
- Explain how mental models impact the way we perceive a problem
- List some key systems thinking habits to develop
- See how you can incorporate these concepts in your practice to address a major public health crisis.

Kansas Diabetes Prevention program launches online platform

A free webinar to introduce a new platform for Kansas Diabetes Prevention programs to deliver the National Diabetes Prevention (DPP) program to their participants will be at **noon, Sept. 14**. The webinar will provide an overview of the platform’s key features and discuss how important such a platform is to effectively deliver the National DPP to Kansas participants.

For more information, please contact Meredith Slan, meredith.slan@ks.gov.

Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Conference goes virtual in October

Join the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition virtually for its annual conference from **8:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 14, 15, 28 and 29**. Up to three continuing education credits per day (a total of 12) will be offered to those who attend the sessions live.



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

Registration is \$145 for all sessions and includes free membership to the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition and access to recordings for three months. For the full agenda and

more information, visit [this site](#).



WSU badge courses for health care professionals resume

Wichita State University (WSU) is now offering [badge courses](#) (short online courses for practicing professionals) for health care professionals.

Enrollment is now open for the fall semester. Apply, be admitted and enroll in a badge course by **Sept. 8** and receive a scholarship for one badge course (fall semester only). Scholarships will be available on a first come basis until all funds have been awarded.

Worried about not having enough time? No worries. You can start these online badge courses at any time during the fall 2021 semester. Online badge courses not only provide you with college credit, but also they count for CEUs, and you will receive a digital badge upon successful completion that you can display on your social media accounts to demonstrate your proficiency. Feel free to share this information with other healthcare professionals that you know.

Badges of particular interest to [healthcare professionals](#) include:

- Care of Populations: Public Health
- Anatomy & Physiology of Lactation
- Medical Terminology
- Creative Interventions.

You can begin badge courses between **Aug. 16 through Nov. 10**. All badge coursework must be completed by **Dec. 9**. To enroll, [click here](#). If you have questions, please call (316) 978-7579 or email workforce@wichita.edu.

APHA's 2021 Annual Meeting & Expo Registration is now open

APHA's 2021 Annual Meeting and Expo is open for registration. The event will take place **Oct. 24-27**, both in-person and virtually. In-person attendees will participate at the Colorado Convention Center in Denver, while virtual attendees will participate online from anywhere globally. The 2021 theme is "Creating the Healthiest Nation: Strengthening Social Connectedness." Check out the [updated expanded schedule](#) and [register now](#).



You can find more information by [clicking here](#).

Project ECHO series explores hepatitis C and HIV in Kansas

Physicians, advance practice clinicians, nurses and social workers are encouraged to join one or all of the sessions of the "Roadmap to Zero ECHO: Role of Kansas Providers in HIV and HCV Testing and Linkage to Care." Best practices for screening/assessment, treatment, linkage to care and harm reduction strategies of these infectious diseases will be discussed **Sept. 1, Sept. 8, Sept. 15, Sept. 22** and **Sept. 29**. All sessions are virtual and will be from **noon to 1 p.m.** There is no cost to participate and continuing education is available. However, pre-registration is required. Register [here](#).