



Together, day by day, building a healthy community

The Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department's mission is to advance policies, practices and programs that promote health for all, prevent disease and protect the environment.



In photos above, clockwise from top left: Local Radio Show Host Hank Booth interviews Director Dan Partridge and Case Management Supervisor Jenn Preston; Public Health Nurses Shirley Grubbs and Carolyn Ball test masks used for their personal protection; Healthy Families Case Manager Mandy Gwartz works with a young boy in the program; and Breastfeeding Peer Counselors Elizabeth Sedita-Laufer and Cary Allen host a Jeopardy game during the Douglas County Breastfeeding support group second birthday celebration at the Health Department.



ON THE COVER: St. John Catholic School students cheer on a student who is completing a marathon, 26.2 miles. He participates in the school's 100 Mile Club. The club meets twice a week and students run or walk to accumulate miles. Prizes are awarded when they reach milestones: half marathon, marathon, 50, 75 and 100 miles. The goal is to complete 100 miles during the school year, but each and every mile is a success because they're on the path to a healthier lifestyle. **Photo by LeeAnn Hartwick**

Director's Report

My message in last year's Annual Report focused on the work of assessing the health needs of our community. This assessment identified access to healthy foods, physical activity, access to health care, access to mental health services and poverty as key focus areas if we are to improve health outcomes within Douglas County. I am pleased to report that in 2013, based upon this assessment, 100 community members participated in the completion of a community health plan. The plan, also known as the *Roadmap to a Healthier Douglas County*, outlines this community's vision for a healthier Douglas County and has been formally accepted as a guiding document by Douglas County as well as, the cities of Baldwin City, Eudora, Lawrence and Lecompton.



This plan has already served as a catalyst for collaboration and change. A few activities that illustrate community progress include:

- **Access to health care** — Several area organizations trained staff as Health Insurance Marketplace navigators and are helping local residents apply for health insurance.
 - **Mental health** — Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center continues to offer Mental Health First Aid and in 2013 added a youth Mental Health First Aid program.
 - **Healthy foods** — Lawrence Parks & Recreation adopted nutritional standards for food and beverage services at recreation facilities beginning in 2014.
 - **Physical activity** — In 2013 several new trails were built in Douglas County. The Sunflower Foundation provided trail grants to Baldwin City and Eudora as well as the nonprofit organization Outside for a Better Inside in Lawrence.
 - **Poverty** — Passage of the USD 497 school bond, included funds for a College and Career Center. This center will provide opportunities for education in high-demand industries such as technology, energy and health care.
- The goals of the community health plan are ambitious but through our collective efforts they can be achieved. Each of the five work groups formed to develop the *Roadmap to a Healthier Douglas County* emphasized the need for specific and measurable outcomes. I encourage you to visit www.healthydouglascounty.org to share your success stories and to track our progress. Together, day by day, we can build a healthy community!

Dan Partridge, RS, MPH

Earning national recognition for Quality Improvement



Child Care Licensing Surveyors Brenda Hawkins, left, and Karen Flanders, right, visit with Holly Turner, executive director of Children's Learning Center in Lawrence, after a routine inspection.

The Health Department's Child Care Licensing program received a national award in July for developing a process that helps child care providers improve compliance with paperwork regulations and ultimately, keeps children safer.

The process was one of 38 public health initiatives selected for the 2013 Model Practice Award given by the National Association of County and City Health Officials.

Child Care Licensing Coordinator Karen Flanders has shared the project with other health departments in Kansas. She also has worked with community agencies like Child Care Aware that can assist providers with implementation of the process, which includes organizational binders and training.



Child Care Licensing Coordinator Karen Flanders, center, accepts a Model Practice Award from the National Association of County and City Health Officials during its annual conference in July in Dallas. Pictured with her are NACCHO CEO Robert Pestronk, left, and NACCHO President Terry Allan.

“Your project reflects a strong local health department role. There was collaboration. It was innovative and the value was demonstrated through evaluation.”

— Ivey Wohlfeld, of NACCHO's Model Practice team

Creating unique partnerships to improve community health



Stephen Fawcett, director of the KU Work Group for Community Health and Development, offers his support for the Douglas County community health plan during the Lawrence City Commission meeting Dec. 3, 2013.

In February 2013, the University of Kansas Work Group for Community Health and Development and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department officially launched a new kind of partnership, called the Academic Health Department, the first in Kansas and one of only a few in the country. The Health Department benefits from the knowledge and expertise that KU research provides; meanwhile, KU faculty and students are able to put their research into practice at the Health Department.

“The Academic Health Department plays a pivotal role in helping to evaluate and document the successes and failures of policies and systems that aim to improve community health.”

— Health Department Director Dan Partridge



Director Dan Partridge, left, meets with Vicki Collie-Akers and Christina Holt, members of the KU Work Group for Community Health and Development, before a community meeting April 23 about the community health plan.

Recognizing Douglas County Health Champions



Mike Yoder/Lawrence Journal-World Photo

Michel Loomis, an English teacher at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School, visits with an eighth-grade student in 2012. Loomis was recognized as one of the first Douglas County Health Champions after her retirement in 2013.

During National Public Health Week, the Health Department recognized for the first time a youth and adult resident for their exceptional efforts to model, encourage and promote health in the community.

Longtime Lawrence teacher Michel Loomis and Free State High School student Josie Naron were named 2013 Douglas County Health Champions.

Loomis taught English and physical education at Liberty Memorial Central Middle School for 31 years before retiring in 2013. Loomis helped start a 2-mile fun run and an after-school “Smart Strength” program. She also volunteered to open the gymnasium before and after school for students.

Naron, a volunteer at the Health Department, is using her experience to pursue a career in public health, where she hopes to someday help fight infectious diseases and solve societal issues.

“They not only model healthy behaviors and help educate others, but they’re working to create opportunities for others to live healthier lives as well.”

— Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board Chair David Ambler



Nick Krug/Lawrence Journal-World Photo

Free State High School student Josie Naron is pictured in April 2013 outside the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, where she volunteers. She was named an inaugural Douglas County Health Champion.

Improving access to healthy foods in Douglas County

The Health Department received a three-year, \$75,000 grant through the Kansas Health Foundation’s Healthy Communities Initiative in June 2013. The funding is being used to improve access to healthy foods in worksites and public spaces, such as community buildings, recreation centers, concession areas and food pantries. In October, the Health Department hired Aundrea Shafer as a part-time Health Promotion Specialist to work specifically on the initiative.



Douglas County’s food pantry, Just Food, started a garden in 2013 with the help of volunteers. The garden produced more than 10,000 pounds of food for low-income residents.

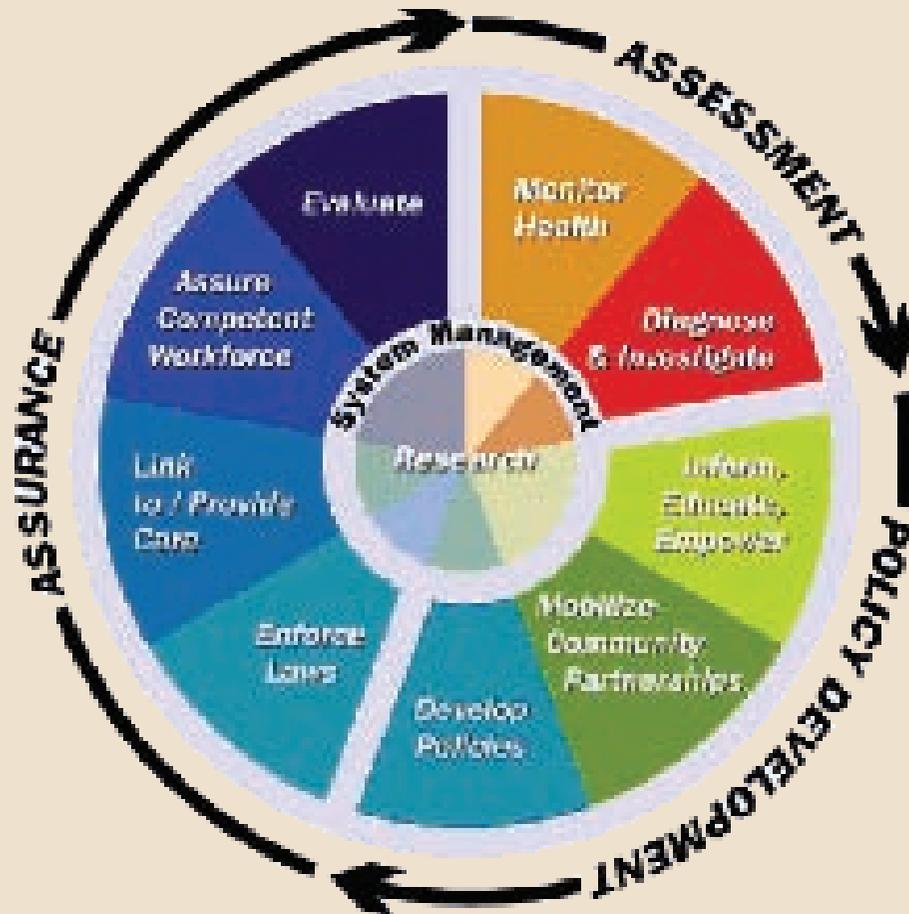


Health Promotion Specialist Aundrea Shafer tastes water infused with natural fruit and herb flavors at Lawrence Memorial Hospital. The water is available to staff and guests and promotes drinking more water and fewer sugary beverages.

“Nutrition is vital to one’s health, so we’re working to make healthy foods more accessible in public spaces and worksites.”

— Aundrea Shafer, Health Promotion Specialist at the Health Department

Providing the 10 essential public health services every day



Assessment

- ✓ **1. Monitor Health.** Staff monitor data such as number of low-birth weight babies, immunization rates and communicable diseases.
- ✓ **2. Diagnose and investigate.** Tick-related illnesses were significantly higher in 2013. The Health Department investigated 20 cases compared to two the previous year.



Public Health Nurses Shirley Grubbs, left, and Ashley Halton work in the Health Department pharmacy.



Clinic Supervisor Kathy Colson talks about flu vaccination during a 6News television interview in September at the Douglas County Dental Clinic.

Policy Development

- ✓ **3. Inform, educate, empower.** Media interviews increased significantly in 2013 in addition to social media presence. Twitter followers grew by 180 percent.
- ✓ **4. Mobilize community partnerships.** The Health Department works with schools and health providers on prevention and investigation of infectious diseases.
- ✓ **5. Develop policies.** The Health Department helped develop the first Douglas County community health plan. The plan was adopted by the county and cities within the county as a guiding document.

Assurance

- ✓ **6. Enforce laws.** Child Care Licensing staff assure that state regulations are met at child care homes and centers. Additionally, the Environmental Health staff work to ensure the community has safe drinking water and school playgrounds.
- ✓ **7. Link to and provide care.** The WIC program provides nutrition education, food assistance and referrals to about 1,600 individuals in Douglas County. During the federal government shutdown in October, WIC staff members kept clients informed about the impact on services. The program also had contingency plans in place if the shutdown lasted longer and clients were no longer able to access food assistance.
- ✓ **8. Assure competent workforce.** The Health Department moved to a new coach-based evaluation system, where employees work closely with their supervisors on achieving specific goals.



WIC Supervisor Jolene Croxell, a registered nurse, visits with Britany Wisdom and her 3-year-old son John about nutrition during an appointment at the Health Department.

System Management

- ✓ **10. Research.** The Health Department gathers and evaluates local data from a variety of reputable sources, and then shares the data. In 2013, the Community Health team surveyed older adults about modes of transportation. The results were shared in public forums.

Providing more robust data through new electronic system



From left, Kim Ens, director of Clinic Services, Vince Romero, analyst, and Debbie Mitchell, office assistant, look over information in the new electronic health record system.

Case Management Supervisor

Jenn Preston looks on as Project LIVELY care manager Corey Rolofofs shows her the new health record system.



“With the new electronic system, there is more opportunity to identify trends, further analyze data and to share outcomes with others.”

— Vince Romero, Health Department analyst

The Health Department moved from paper health records to an electronic system on Jan. 2, 2013. The system has improved the flow of information across all areas of the Health Department. Staff members can better track and report time-sensitive information. The system also produces more robust data. The Health Department is using the system to look at patterns in clinic usage to see if it can better serve clients with different hours of services. In 2013, it had more than 7,000 unique clients.

Marking LiveWell Lawrence's five-year milestone

“It's encouraging and very exciting to see the progress that Lawrence and Douglas County have made toward improving the quality of life. ... Congratulations. Keep up the great work.”

— Dr. Robert Moser, Kansas Department of Health and Environment secretary and state health officer



Health Department staff helped create LiveWell's five-year report.

About 100 people attended the fifth anniversary celebration of LiveWell Lawrence, a coalition of businesses, organizations and individuals who are working to make it easier for Douglas County residents to eat healthy foods, be physically active

and live tobacco free. Sixteen individuals, including Health Department Director Dan Partridge, founded the group. Today, the coalition has more than 100 members and its efforts are coordinated by the Health Department.



Health Department Director Dan Partridge congratulates Marilyn Hull, program officer at the Douglas County Community Foundation, for her work in helping to establish LiveWell Lawrence.



Photos by Jeff Burkhead

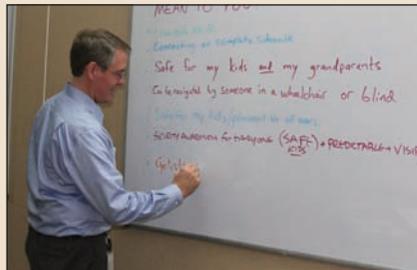
From left, attending LiveWell Lawrence's fifth anniversary celebration are: Marilyn Hull, program officer at the Douglas County Community Foundation; Jeff Usher, senior program officer at the Kansas Health Foundation; Dr. Robert Moser, state health officer; Cindy Johnson, LiveWell Lawrence chair and owner of TherapyWorks, and Chris Tilden, Community Health director at the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department.

Providing Complete Streets Policy education and advocacy



Darren Smith, standing at left, a policy representative for Smart Growth and State/Local Affairs at the National Association of Realtors and a member of the National Complete Streets Coalition, talks about ways to improve the intersection of 23rd and Louisiana streets in Lawrence during a public meeting at the Health Department.

Community Health Planner Charlie Bryan adds a participant's thoughts about what Complete Streets means during a public meeting.



The Health Department hosted two public meetings Oct. 24 to help educate residents about Complete Streets, which are streets designed to enable safe access for all users — pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders. The Health Department's objective was to promote public involvement in the implementation of the Lawrence Complete Streets Policy that was adopted in 2012.

“Research shows the likelihood of people walking increases dramatically based on the availability of places to be active, like sidewalks, trails and parks.”

— Community Health Director Chris Tilden

Helping residents navigate new Health Insurance Marketplace



From left, Kaitlyn Johnson and her mom, Sharon Johnson, ask Amanda Kong questions about the Health Insurance Marketplace. Kong is an AmeriCorps member at the Health Department and a certified navigator, which means she is trained to assist residents with the Marketplace.

Brenda Powell, left, and her husband, Stephen, receive help with the Health Insurance Marketplace from Beeta Kashani, a Marketplace navigator and AmeriCorps member at the Health Department.



On Oct. 1, 2013, the Health Insurance Marketplace, part of the Affordable Care Act, opened. The Health Department had three staff members who were trained, certified and available to help the public. They answered phone calls and assisted individuals in person at the Health Department and in the community. They also fielded questions from the media. In 2013, they assisted 166 people and enrolled 12 people in a health insurance plan.

“I wanted to take the training so I could be educated about the Marketplace and then be able to share that knowledge.”

— Amanda Kong, AmeriCorps member at Health Department

Financial Statement

Unaudited statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the period Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2013

Operating Fund

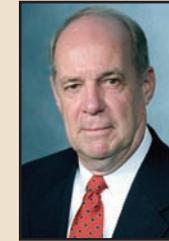
Beginning balance	\$967,506
Revenue	
County	\$980,413
Federal	\$808,902
City	\$648,929
State	\$344,965
Fees	\$276,342
KCSL	\$67,500
Other	\$223,632
Total revenue	\$3,350,683
Expenditures	
Salaries and wages	\$1,965,825
Payroll related expenses	\$761,990
Commodities	\$219,206
Contractual	\$338,271
KCSL	\$66,825
Transfer to funded depreciation	\$50,000
Transfer to reserve fund	\$0
Capital purchases	\$16,566
Total expenditures	\$3,418,683
Ending balance	\$899,506
Net revenue over expenditures	(\$68,000)

Reserve Fund

Beginning balance	\$1,043,684
Revenue	
Transfer from Operating Fund	\$0
Other	\$6,257
Total Revenue	\$6,257
Total Expenditures	\$0
Ending balance	\$1,049,941
Net revenue over expenditures	\$6,257

Funded Depreciation

Beginning Balance	\$147,583
Revenue	
Transfer from Operating Fund	\$50,000
Other	\$540
Total Revenue	\$50,540
Expenditures	
Capital Equipment	\$47,208
Total Expenditures	\$47,208
Ending Balance	\$150,915
Net Revenue over Expenditures	\$3,332



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Joe Gillespie



Paul Liechti



Shirley Martin-Smith



Dr. Kevin Stuever

Message from the Health Board

The year 2013 has been an exciting and productive year for the Board of Directors of the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department. 2014 promises to be even more exciting as we continue our work to improve the environment and change behaviors so we can improve the health of the community.

In May, we adopted Douglas County's first community health plan, *Roadmap to a Healthier Douglas County*, which will serve as a guide in forming community partnerships and collaborating with businesses, organizations and individuals to improve the health of Douglas County residents. We firmly believe that — *together* — we can make a difference; we are on the road to a healthier today and tomorrow!

Half of Douglas County adults are physically active, yet more than 8 of 10 adults do not eat a healthy diet and our obesity rate

is 47 percent. Four out of five adults have health insurance yet one in five have never had their cholesterol checked. Our employment rate is higher than the State of Kansas rate yet our household income lags behind the State medium. Through the implementation of the community health plan we believe we can remove these barriers and achieve a healthier Douglas County.

For more than 70 years, Douglas County residents have served as volunteers on the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board and provided leadership in protecting public health, providing a healthy community environment and promoting wellness. We are mindful of the history and legacy we represent. It is our honor to serve as your community health board.

David Ambler
Chair
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board



Health Board Vice Chair Maley Wilkins talks about the community health plan at a Lawrence City Commission meeting in December 2013.



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Find us on:



www.ldchealth.org

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