

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Contact:** Lisa V. Horn  
Communications Coordinator  
Office: (785) 843-3060

### **Health Department to host community forum**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – During a special forum this week, community members will assist the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department in charting a new direction.

The Community Health Forum, which is by invitation only, will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 19. More than 60 people from various community organizations are expected to attend.

The forum is part of the Health Department’s journey to accreditation – a national effort that will begin in 2011 and will help agencies measure and ensure that quality programs are available to improve the health of their communities.

The Health Department’s current roles and responsibilities and how they relate to its public health mission will be discussed. Forum attendees will then be asked to identify their expectations and concerns and assist with setting priorities among the agency’s many public health responsibilities.

“In today’s budget climate and as health needs of the community change, the Health Department must adapt to meet those needs,” said Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Director. “The work we are doing now will help position the Health Department for future accreditation.”

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Healthy People Build Strong Communities  
[www.ldchealth.org](http://www.ldchealth.org)

**Note to Editor/Reporter:** The forum will be held in the second floor meeting room of the Community Health Facility, 200 Maine St. If interested in covering this event, please contact Communications Coordinator Lisa Horn at (785) 843-3060 for more information.