

NEWS RELEASE
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Cuts, price increase affect Health Department services

(Lawrence, KS) – Tight city and county budgets, decreased grant funding and low program attendance have forced the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department to make adjustments to its 2009 budget.

Some of those changes have already taken place or will be implemented in the coming months.

They are:

- Effective in August, increase vaccine administration fee from \$12 to \$14.
- Effective in August, discontinue private-pay Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccinations. Clients that have already started receiving the shot series will be able to complete the series at the Health Department.
- Effective in September, reduce hours and eligibility requirements for Well Child Health Assessments. The Health Department will offer the wellness screening program for children up to age 5 without health insurance and children up to age 8 who are first-time Kansas school entrants and without health insurance.
- Effective in September, eliminate Health Screening Clinics for People over 60 and the Health Department's involvement in the PATH (Personal Actions to Health) program.
- Over the next few months, reduce the hours of several staff positions. Staffing reductions will impact a number of clinic programs and Maternal Child Health case management services.

“Agencies like the Health Department are a refuge for people hit especially hard by the tough economy,” said Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department Director. “Fewer clients are paying for services than they have in the past, which affects our revenue and our bottom line.”

Federal grants have also diminished, Partridge said, and while other grants have stayed level, they have not grown to meet increasing inflation.

The final Health Screening Clinics for People over 60 will be this month. The Eudora clinic will be from 9 to 10 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 19 at Eudora City Hall, 4 E.

Seventh St. The last clinic offered in Lawrence will be from 9 to 11 a.m.
Wednesday, Aug. 20 at Babcock Place, 1700 Massachusetts St.

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