

NEWS RELEASE
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Contact: Lisa V. Horn
Communications Coordinator
Office: (785) 856-7362

**Results of local public health system assessment in;
public asked to participate in concerns survey**

(Lawrence, KS) – The results of the Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) are now available. The LPHSA, conducted Dec. 9, focuses on the local public health system — all organizations and entities within the community that contribute to the public's health.

Participants in the dialogue involved representatives from various areas of the public health system, to include law enforcement, corrections, education, economic development, mental health, drug treatment, health care and elected officials.

Participants answered questions such as, "What are the activities and capacities of our public health system?" and "How well are we providing the Essential Public Health Services in our jurisdiction?" Responses to these questions help identify strengths and weaknesses and determine opportunities for improvement.

The local public health system had the highest performance providing services related to:

- Diagnosing and investigating health problems
- Informing/empowering people about health issues
- Enforcing public health laws and regulations.

The lowest capacity areas were:

- Evaluating services
- Mobilizing partnerships.

The results in their current form are available at ldhealth.org. Moving forward, the Health Department and the KU Work Group for Community Health and Development, which led the assessment, will put the results into a more useable format to be shared with assessment participants and the public. Areas where the system scored low will be reviewed. The efforts needed to increase capacity in those areas also will be considered.

The next step in the Health Department's accreditation work has already begun, with the release of a community concerns survey regarding health issues and the conditions that contribute to health. The survey is now available to the public at healthylawrence.org. Paper copies are available at area libraries. Results will be used to make recommendations to bring about improvements in our community's health.

-30-

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