

**NEWS RELEASE**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Public health system assessment to be held Friday**

**(Lawrence, KS)** – Agencies from around Lawrence and Douglas County will come together Friday, Dec. 9 to assess the community's public health system. The Local Public Health System Assessment (LPHSA) focuses on the local public health system — all organizations and entities within the community that contribute to the public's health.

The assessment is part of the Health Department's work to becoming accredited. Questions the assessment plans to answer are, "What are the components, activities, competencies and capacities of our local public health system?" and "How are the Essential Services being provided to our community?"

The 10 Essential Services, which are public health activities that should be undertaken in all communities, will be used as the framework for the assessment. The services are:

1. Monitor health.
2. Diagnose and investigate.
3. Inform, educate and empower.
4. Mobilize community partnerships.
5. Develop policies.
6. Enforce laws.
7. Link to and provide care.
8. Assure a competent workforce.
9. Evaluate.
10. Research.

"While local health departments are often the face of public health to the community, we rely heavily on our partners to deliver these services," said Dan Partridge, Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department director.

In addition to Lawrence-Douglas County Health Board members and Health Department staff, 43 people from various areas of the public health system, such as law enforcement, corrections, economic development, mental health, drug treatment, health care providers, elected officials and schools will participate in the assessment.

“The goal of this event,” Partridge said, “is to benchmark our performance against the national standard to better understand the system’s strengths and weaknesses.”

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**NOTE TO EDITOR/REPORTER:** Media are invited to cover the local public health system assessment events from 8:30 a.m. to noon Friday. Because meetings will be held in various rooms throughout the Community Health Facility and its agencies, advance notice is required. To cover this event, please contact Communications Coordinator Lisa Horn at **(785) 856-7362/(785) 393-5600** or [lhorn@ldchealth.org](mailto:lhorn@ldchealth.org).