Strengthening Communication and Collaboration Strategies Among Patients, Programs, Local and State Agencies

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Overview

- About Me
- My Journey
- APE Site 1
  - Preceptor
  - Products: Background, Methods, Results, Limitations
  - Child Care Licensing Division and FIFA World Cup
- APE Site 2
  - Preceptor
  - Products: Background, Methods, Results, Limitations
- Discussion

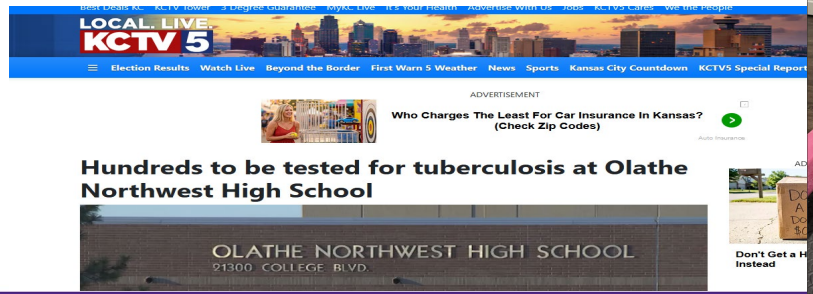
About Me

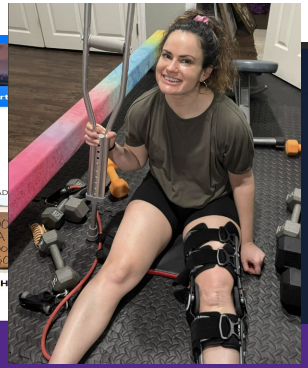




My Journey

- Fall 2023: Large scale contact investigation
- Winter 2024: Fall 2025: KC metro TB outbreak
- Spring 2025: New role as Disease Investigator RN
- Spring 2025: Knee Surgery and rehab
- Summer 2026: New career as Infection Preventionist at AdventHealth

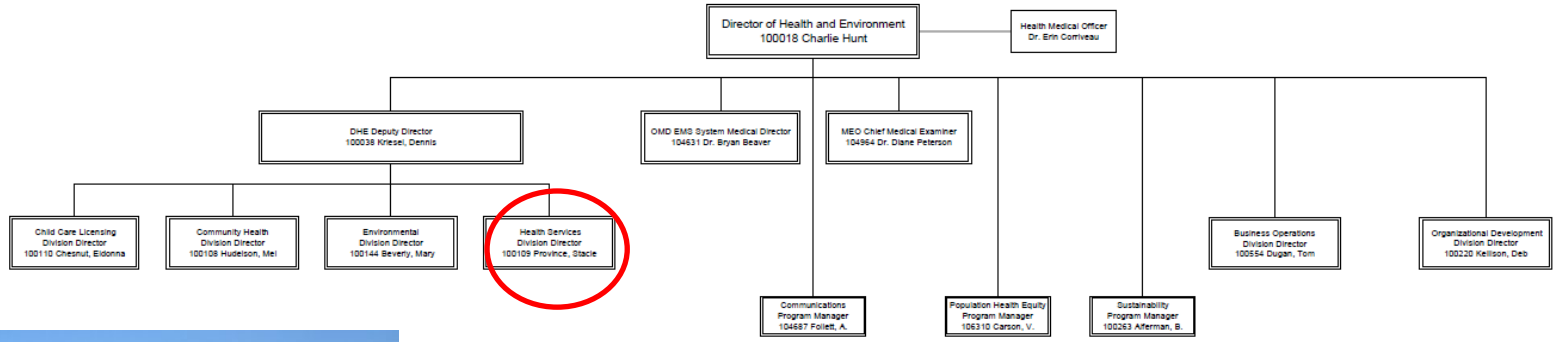




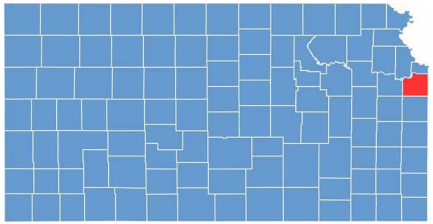


APE Site 1

Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, Olathe, KS







Norma Gatica



Public Health Nurse, BSN, RN

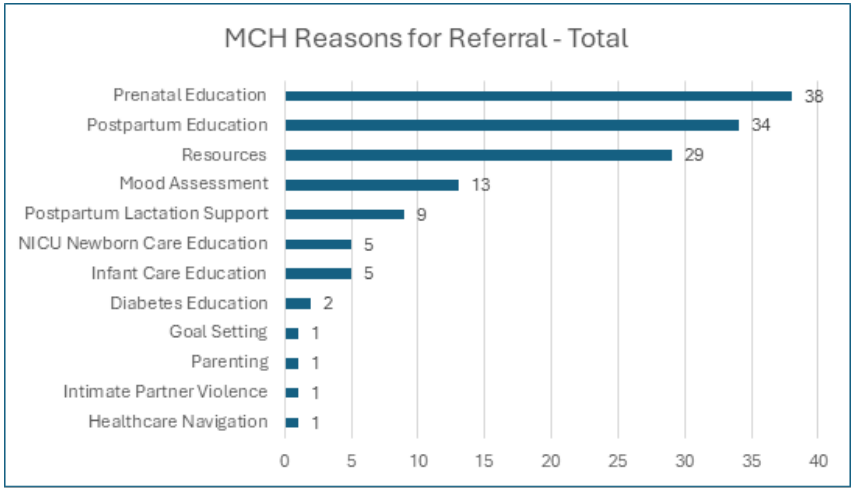
Background

- Over 60,000 women in the US experience severe maternal morbidity (Howell, 2018)
- Hispanic and Black women experience mortality rates 3 to 4 times higher than white women (Hoyert, 2026)
- In Kansas, black women experience infant mortality rates that are nearly double the statewide average of 5.2 deaths per 1,000 live births (KFF, n.d.)
- In Johnson County, Kansas, Black and Hispanic women experience higher rates of infant mortality, preterm birth, and low birth weights.
    - Minority populations are also less likely to initiate prenatal care within the first trimester (Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, n.d.)



Maternal Child Health Outreach Program





(MCH Outreach Program, personal communication, March 2026)

Home Visits

- Planning
  - Chart review
  - Teaching topics
    - *INJOY* Tools and resources
- Physical, Mental, and Social Assessments
  - Blood pressure screening
  - Edinburgh Postnatal Depression Scale
  - Power and Control Wheel
  - Comprehensive infant assessment
- Education
  - Pregnancy
  - Labor and Delivery
  - Postpartum
  - Breastfeeding
- Connection to care and other community resources
  - Safe Home, Ticum therapy, Parents as Teachers, Infant/Toddler Services



Objective 1: *Integrate preventative health education into maternal and infant home visits*

Child Care Licensing and FIFA World Cup



Objective 2: *Increase childcare provider awareness about the potential community impacts of the upcoming 2026 FIFA World cup, with a focus on safety, infectious diseases, and preparedness efforts.*

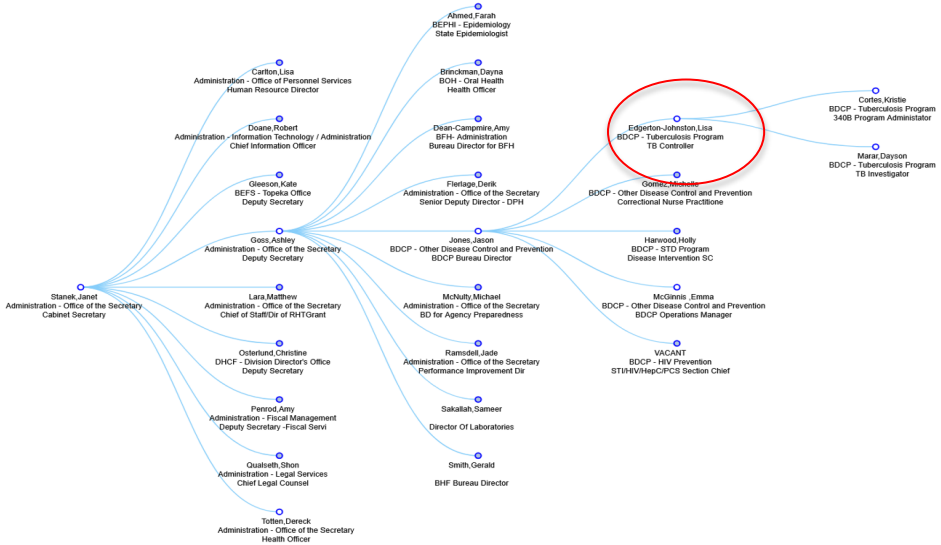
Teaching Topics

- FIFA World Cup 2026
- Impact on our community
- Potential Infectious Disease Threats
- Disease Prevention
- Johnson County Preparedness

Future opportunities for collaboration between Disease containment and Child Care Licensing

APE Site 2




Ahmed,Farah
BEPHI - Epidemiology
State Epidemiologist
Carlton,Lisa
Administration - Office of Personnel Services
Human Resource Director
Brinckman,Dayna
BOH - Oral Health
Health Officer
Doane,Robert
Administration - Information Technology / Administration
Chief Information Officer
Dean-Campmire,Amy
BFH- Administration
Bureau Director for BFH
Edgerton-Johnston,Lisa
BDCP - Tuberculosis Program
TB Controller
Cortes,Kristie
BDCP - Tuberculosis Program
340B Program Administator
Marar,Dayson
BDCP - Tuberculosis Program
TB Investigator
Gleeson,Kate
BEFS - Topeka Office
Deputy Secretary
Fierlage,Derik
Administration - Office of the Secretary
Senior Deputy Director - DPH
Gomez,Michelle
BDCP - Other Disease Control and Prevention
Correctional Nurse Practitione
Goss,Ashley
Administration - Office of the Secretary
Deputy Secretary
Jones,Jason
BDCP - Other Disease Control and Prevention
BDCP Bureau Director
Harwood,Holly
BDCP - STD Program
Disease Intervention SC
Stanek,Janet
Administration - Office of the Secretary
Cabinet Secretary
Lara,Matthew
Administration - Office of the Secretary
Chief of Staff/Dir of RHTGrant
McNulty,Michael
Administration - Office of the Secretary
BD for Agency Preparedness
McGinnis ,Emma
BDCP - Other Disease Control and Prevention
BDCP Operations Manager
Osterlund,Christine
DHCF - Division Director's Office
Deputy Secretary
Ramsdell,Jade
Administration - Office of the Secretary
Performance Improvement Dir
VACANT
BDCP - HIV Prevention
STI/HIV/HepC/PCS Section Chief
Penrod,Amy
Administration - Fiscal Management
Deputy Secretary -Fiscal Servi
Sakallah,Sameer
Director Of Laboratories
Qualseth,Shon
Administration - Legal Services
Chief Legal Counsel
Smith,Gerald
BHF Bureau Director
Totten,Dereck
Administration - Office of the Secretary
Health Officer

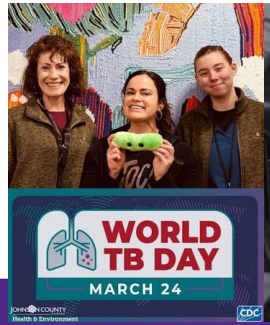
Lisa Edgerton-Johnston



TB Controller and 340B Program Manager

Background

- Globally, *TB* is the world's leading cause of death from a single infectious agent and among the *top 10* causes of death (WHO, n.d.)
- TB disproportionately affects already vulnerable patient populations: In 2025, non-U.S. born individuals experienced TB case rates at 15.4 cases per 100,000 compared to U.S.-born 0.8 per 100,000 (CDC, 2026)
- In 2024, Kansas experienced one of the largest TB outbreaks ever recorded in U.S. history.
  - 116 cases of active TB
  - 3.9 cases per 100,000 population, exceeding the national average of 3.1 cases per 100,000 population (CDC, 2026)



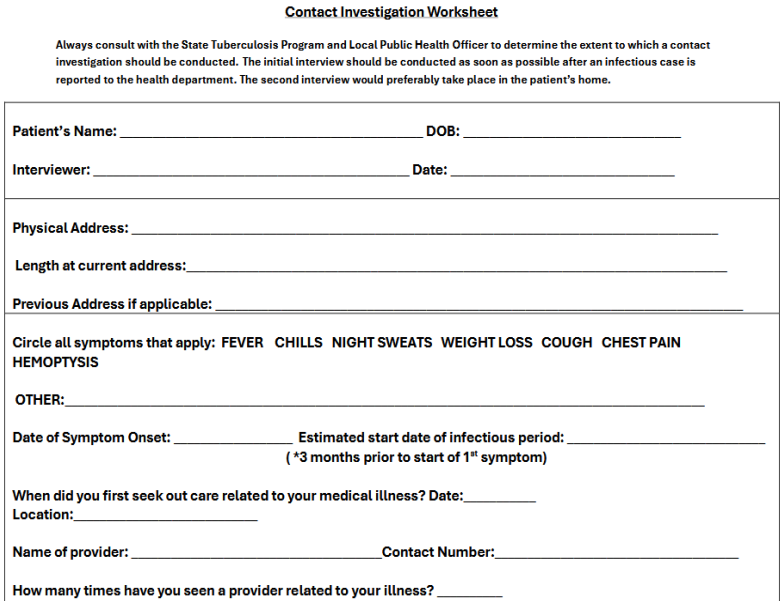


KDHE TB Program SOP

- **Objective 3:** *Apply knowledge, skills, and experiences in local public health TB control and prevention to support statewide TB control efforts.*

- Introduction 1
- Program Stewardship and Accountability 8
- Conduct Overall Planning and Develop Protocols to Maintain Scope of Tuberculosis Services
- Standards of Care for Tuberculosis Services 13
- Manage Patients with Suspected or Confirmed Tuberculosis Disease 21
- Treatment of Drug-Resistant Tuberculosis 41
- Conduct and Manage a Tuberculosis Contact Investigation 46
- Manage Contacts to Confirmed or Suspected Tuberculosis Cases 54
- Manage Patients with Tuberculosis Infection 57
- Manage False Positive Investigations 60
- Manage Electronic Disease Notification System and Other Foreign-Born Referrals 61
- Conduct Targeted Testing 69
- Inventory Management of Medications and Supplies 72
- Conduct Surveillance Activities 81
- Data Reporting Requirements 84
- Interjurisdictional Notifications In-State and Out of State 96
- Implement Infection Control Procedures 106
- Maintain a Competent Workforce 110
- Monitor Budget Expenses 113
- Monitor Surveillance, Reporting, and Case Management Activities in Correctional and Detention Facilities 115
- Conduct Continuing Quality Improvement Activities to Maintain a Robust Tuberculosis Program Infrastructure 121
- Court-Ordered Management 126
- Confidentiality and Security Standards 130

Contact Investigations



Contact Investigation Worksheet

Always consult with the State Tuberculosis Program and Local Public Health Officer to determine the extent to which a contact investigation should be conducted. The initial interview should be conducted as soon as possible after an infectious case is reported to the health department. The second interview would preferably take place in the patient's home.

Patient's Name: _____ DOB: _____

Interviewer: _____ Date: _____

Physical Address: _____

Length at current address: _____

Previous Address if applicable: _____

Circle all symptoms that apply: FEVER CHILLS NIGHT SWEATS WEIGHT LOSS COUGH CHEST PAIN HEMOPTYSIS

OTHER: _____

Date of Symptom Onset: _____ Estimated start date of infectious period: _____
(*3 months prior to start of 1st symptom)

When did you first seek out care related to your medical illness? Date: _____
Location: _____

Name of provider: _____ Contact Number: _____

How many times have you seen a provider related to your illness? _____

(Texas Department of State Health Services, 2008)

- Contact investigation general requirements
- Initiating a contact investigation
- Prioritizing contacts
- Timeline for contact follow-up
- High priority contact evaluation, screening, and treatment
- Initial TB screening and testing of contacts
- Contacts lost to follow-up
- Site visits
- Expanding a contact investigation

Discussion

- Adaptability
- Experienced programs at various stages of development
- Enhanced communication strategies
  - Maternal Child Health Outreach Program, Child Care Licensing, KDHE's TB Program
- Collaborated with diverse public health programs and partners
- Demonstrated lasting public health impact
  - Public Health Education
  - Prevention and Preparedness

Synthesis and Integration of Competencies

Competency	Description of Synthesis and Integration
Host response to pathogens/immunology: Investigate the host immune response to infection.	Ensured that the contact investigation section of KDHE's TB Program SOP aligns with best practices from nationally recognized and credible medical and public health organizations. This guidance will enhance local and statewide public health efforts in the early identification, prioritization, testing, and treatment of TB contacts that are at increased risk of developing TB disease due to immunocompromising conditions. The contact investigation guidelines help prevent future cases of active TB and conserve scare public health resources.
Environmental/ecological influences: Examine the influence of environmental and ecological forces on infectious diseases.	Incorporated environmental/ecologic considerations into the contact investigation section of KDHE's TB Program SOP. The guidelines were developed to reflect best practices from nationally recognized and credible public health organizations. A comprehensive assessment of exposure settings will reduce unnecessary contact TB testing. The childcare provider presentation was adapted to provide education on infectious diseases while ensuring content was relevant and applicable to the childcare environment. The presentation enhanced provider awareness about various infectious diseases and prevention strategies.
Select communication strategies for different audiences and sectors	Adapted educational materials and communication strategies to enhance understanding and strengthen collaboration across diverse patient populations, healthcare programs, and local and state public health agencies.

List of Competencies

Specific products	Competency
KDHE TB Program's SOP: Contact Investigation	1. Competency 9: Design a population-based policy, program, project or intervention.
Child Care Licensing Presentation	2. Competency 21: Integrate perspectives from other sectors and/or professions to promote and advance population health
KDHE TB Program's SOP: Contact Investigation	3. Competency 22: Apply Systems Thinking Tools to a Public Health Issue
KDHE TB Program's SOP: Contact Investigation	4. Competency 1: Pathogens/pathogenic mechanisms: evaluate modes of disease causation of infectious agents.
Child Care Licensing Presentation & KDHE TB Program's SOP: Contact Investigation	5. Competency 3: Environmental/ecological influences: Examine the influence of environmental and ecological forces on infectious disease

Thank you for this opportunity!



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