



**Kansas School  
Nurse Organization**

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<http://www.ksno.org>

# **KANSAS SCHOOL NURSE ORGANIZATION YEAR END REVIEW 2010**

**AUGUST 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2009 - JULY 31<sup>ST</sup>, 2010**

By Chris Tuck, KSNO President

KSNO's Mission: To promote the life long achievement of Kansas children and together celebrate and enhance the specialized practice of professional school nursing through assessment, prevention, health education, early intervention, case management and collaboration.

## **HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

Newly elected officers and board members

School Nurses in the News

H1N1 – Kansas School Nurses “rolled up their sleeves” and led the way to disease prevention

Operational Guidelines Revisions

Memorandum of Agreement collaboration with KDHE

KSNO invited to several state-wide councils and committees to represent school nursing and a voice for kids

KSNO Membership email listserv created

Kansas State Board of Nursing Practice Regulation Revisions for School Nurses Delegation Chart

NASN Conference – June 27<sup>th</sup> – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, Chicago, IL

*The following information is a brief summary of KSNOs activities over the past year. Highlights are noted in this report which do not truly reflect the hard work and dedication of the current KSNO Board members, and practicing Kansas school nurses. For specific Board member reports visit the KSNO website at: [www.ksno.org](http://www.ksno.org) and click on the “Members Only” section.*

**New KSNO Board Members** welcomed to the board as of July 2009, include, **Polly Witt (President Elect, from Garden City), Rachel Knee (Vice President, from Olathe), Cindy Tedder (Treasurer, from Olathe), Bonnie Condit (Nominating Chair, from Winfield), Tammy Schmidt (Member at Large, from Minneapolis), Sue Holmes (Legislative Chair, from Salina), Garrie Oppitz (Membership/Publicity Chair, Topeka).**

**H1N1 Planning** – Chris Tuck attended a meeting on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at KDHE. Those in attendance were Dr. Jason Eberhardt-Phillips (KDHE), Dr. Dick Morrissey (KDHE), Sue Bowden (KDHE), Mindee Reece (KDHE), Cindi Treaster (KDHE), Tom Krebs (KASB), and Chris. After discussing the H1N1 threat to public health it was determined that school nurses, school superintendents and school board members were targeted groups to assist with dissemination of information, hosting of vaccination sites for children and families and discussed how a pandemic could/would impact the academic process. An H1N1 PowerPoint presentation was created and disseminated across the state to provide information about H1N1, symptoms, treatment and prevention. Regional trainings were conducted by KDHE to various groups across the state and school nurses were invited to provide information at each of the regional workshops. Many school nurses conducted H1N1 vaccination clinics in their schools and volunteered in the community setting to assist with vaccinating community members as well. School nurses were leaders in the efforts of surveillance as well and did a great job of reducing the numbers of students and staff who became ill with the virus.

**KSNO Membership Email List** –A KSNO membership email list was created and piloted to provide an avenue to share information about KSNO board activities and school nursing information to members across the state.

**September – Emergency Preparedness Month** – Chris Tuck submitted an article to KDHE’s ZIPS newsletter discussing the role of the school nurse in emergency preparedness. Chris continues to be an active participant on the Governor’s Commission for Safe and Prepared schools and also works on a work force group for the newly created Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools. Chris attended a “Safe and Prepared Schools Week” proclamation signing at the Governor’s Office with other members of the Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools.

**Kansas State Board of Nursing School Nurse Regulations Review** – was conducted on September 15<sup>th</sup>, in Topeka, Kansas at the Kansas State Board of Nursing office. The recent changes in the school nursing regulations were discussed by the KSBN Practice Committee with KSNO providing testimony as needed. A DRAFT “School Nurse Regulation Grid” had been created through collaboration with KSBN, KSNO and KDHE. The DRAFT was approved at this meeting and KSNO (Cindy Galemore, KSNO Professional Standards chair), finalized the document and made it available on the KSNO website.

**Kansas Coordinated School Health Conference** – was held in Wichita on September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chris Tuck was asked to be part of a panel discussion to discuss the importance of collaboration between schools and health care providers in the fight against childhood obesity. Chris discussed the role of the school nurse in obesity prevention, screening for and intervention of. Three school nurses were also recognized for their accomplishments in Coordinated School Health: Bev Rogers, Washburn Rural, USD 437 Topeka, Paula Engelland, Buhler, USD 313, and D’ana Heinlein, Nickerson, South Hutch, USD 309.

**Kansas Association of School Boards** – on September 24<sup>th</sup> Chris Tuck, collaborated with Tom Krebs, from KASB in Topeka to provide a workshop on H1N1 and how to continue school operations with technology, with increased student and staff absences.

**KSNO Fall Board Meeting** – was held on Saturday, Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> in Kansas City at the Kansas School for the Blind conference room. On Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 6 KSNO Board members were provided a tour of the school by Mae Claxton, school nurse and Health Services Director at the school. She provided information about the role of the school nurse in working with students who are blind or visually impaired and in providing health services 24 hours a day. The board meeting provided a venue for an afternoon of “Strategic Planning” led by Debbie Isaacson, Washburn Nursing Faculty, District 1 Rep for KSNO and a Senior Nursing Student, Danielle Harrison.

**Kansas School Nurse Summer Conference** – planning committee met on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> in Wichita. KSNO has assigned roles on the planning committee to include President (Chris Tuck), Treasurer (Cindi Tedder), and Planning Committee Member (Cindy Poteete). Another great conference will be provided to Kansas school nurses and it is a great opportunity to be a part of such a great professional group, who work very hard to provide a great educational conference every year.

**Cindy Galemore, Health Services Director, Olathe**, - was notified that the National Association of School Nurses Conference committee had selected her as a break-out presenter at the NASN Conference in Chicago, June 29 – July 3<sup>rd</sup>, and her session would provide education related to managing allergies in schools. (Nov. 09)

**Chris Tuck and Polly Witt – on Friday, Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>** - were invited to participate in KDHE’s Maternal Child Health Block Grant (MCH) meetings to assist with identifying three top health priorities for the Child and Adolescent population in Kansas. This was the first of two face to face meetings in Topeka where child and adolescent health experts were invited to review and discuss current local, state and national data of issues impacting child and adolescent health, including morbidity and mortality. The group will meet again to finalize specific priorities that the MCH program will support and increase efforts state-wide in meeting these priorities.

**Kansas State Nurses Association (KSNA) Summit** – January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010 in Salina, Chris Tuck, (KSNO) was invited to attend a state-wide nursing profession summit to assist with networking and developing future communicative tools around challenges faced by the nursing profession in meeting education and practice issues in light of budget constraints, nursing manpower shortages and a shortage of nursing leadership. This was the second annual summit whose venue provided an opportunity to share with other nursing colleagues the phenomenal work that Kansas school nurses are doing.

**Chris Tuck and Polly Witt – Friday, January 29<sup>th</sup>** – attended the second meeting for KDHE’s Maternal Child Health Block Grant meeting and provided input to the group of invited experts regarding issues impacting the health and wellness of children and adolescents. Beth Fisher, from Hays, was also a school nurse in this “expert” group. Chris Tuck (KSNO) wrote an article that is available on the KSNO website, regarding how “the school nurse fits in” to assist our state with successfully impacting all three priorities identified during this second state-wide meeting.

**Immunization Advisory Council – Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** – was held in Topeka, at the Curtis State Office Building. Chris Tuck (KSNO), Sue Holmes (Salina) and Mary Ann Shorman (Hays) were school nurses invited to attend this council meeting. Information was provided to the council regarding the Immunization Program’s budget, H1N1, legislative issues, the immunization registry, and school/daycare requirements for the 2010-2011 school year. Cindy Galemore, Olathe, and the Johnson County Health Agency updated a table that had created to assist school nurses with navigating the immunization requirements. This table was placed on the KSNO website.

**Letters of Advocacy and emails** – were sent to legislators across the state in support of school funding. Chris Tuck (KSNO) sent an email and sample letter to KSNO members and requested their support in contacting their local legislators to ensure school funding would be appropriated. (Feb, 2010)

**Chris Tuck, Cindy Galemore, Katrina Benyshek (KSNO)** – were contacted by Brenda Nickel, KDHE’s Child and School Health Consultant to assist with editing and revisions of the **“Guidelines for Medication Administration in Kansas Schools”**. The document will be completed by June of 2010 and will be available on the KDHE website. (Feb. 2010)

**KSNO Winter Board Meeting** – was held in Wichita, at 201 N. Water, hosted by Kathy Hubka, on February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The meeting was very productive and allowed board members to collaborate toward issues impacting school nurses in Kansas.

**Memorandum of Understanding with KDHE/KSNO** – to support Kansas School Nurse Summer Conference was written and signed into effect, led by the leadership of Ileen Meyer, Children and Families Section Director, at KDHE and Chris Tuck, (KSNO). (March, 2010)

**Vending Bill Support** – Chris Tuck, (KSNO) provided testimony to the Senate Education Committee in support of SB 499 “School Vending and School Stores” on March 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Advocacy for Kansas Center for Safe and Prepared Schools (KCSPS)** – Chris Tuck, (KSNO) accompanied Adjutant General Tod Bunting and Dr. Bob Hull, on March 16<sup>th</sup>, to testify to the Senate Education Committee. KCSPS officially opened its office in Feb. 2009, and the committee was anxious to hear about the accomplishments of this center thus far. After providing testimony the three were invited down to the Senate Floor where a “resolution” was read aloud to members of the Senate and information about KCSPS was provided to the entire group.

**Oral Health Kansas** – On March 30<sup>th</sup>, Chris Tuck, (KSNO) attended a meeting with Oral Health Kansas to discuss ways that KSNO can partner with them to provide Kansas school nurses with information and education on oral health prevention and screenings.

**Polly Witt, KSNO President Elect, Garden City** – was selected as a Regional Champion for NASN’s Voices for Meningitis Campaign. She will represent the states of Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming, Nebraska and Kansas. (April, 2010)

**Governor’s Commission for Safe and Prepared Schools** – Chris Tuck (KSNO) attended a commission meeting on April 28<sup>th</sup> and continues to collaborate with the Commission as well as a Work Force Group that has been created to assist with KCSPS mission.

**Jane Stueve, KDHE’s Adolescent and School Health Consultant** – accepts President-Elect role for National Association of State School Nurse Consultants to begin her term in Oct. 2010. (April, 2010)

**KSNOs Operating Guidelines** – revision completed. (April, 2010).

**School Nurse Day Proclamation** – a School Nurse Day Proclamation was written and accepted by Governor Mark Parkinson, but an “official signing ceremony” did not occur due to late legislative budget issues and time constraints. (April, 2010)

**Collaboration with Oral Health Kansas** – Chris Tuck (KSNO) submitted an article “Children’s Oral Health: The Role of the School Nurse” that was featured along with several “success stories” from Kansas school nurses in oral health screening and prevention efforts, to celebrate “School Nurse” day, via Oral Health Kansas weekly e-newsletter. School nurses featured include, Kathy Bailey, Dodge City; Marlene Kohlmeier, Seaman Topeka; Melissa Ma, Wichita; Laurie Hermon, Burlington; and Joan Streck, Norton. (May 12, 2010)

**NASN Conference** Chicago, Illinois, June 29<sup>th</sup> through July 3<sup>rd</sup> – 6 nurses from Kansas attended the conference. (Chris Tuck, Polly Witt, Garrie Oppitz, Cindy Galemore, Joann Wheeler, Darla Denny (KSNO’s School Nurse of the

Year 2009), and Mary Wiseman. Kathy Hubka, Wichita, attended the NASN Board meeting, and Jane Stueve and Brenda Nickel (KDHE) attended the National Association of State School Nurse Consultants meeting, and Brenda stayed for the NASN conference. Cindy Galemore, provided a break out session – “Managing Severe Allergies in School” at this year’s conference!

**DARE State Conference, July 9<sup>th</sup>** – Chris Tuck, presented with Dr. Bob Hull and Jerry Tenbrink from the KCSPS. Chris provided information about the history of school nurses in KCSPS, and the role of the school nurse in emergency preparedness.

**Kansas Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Council** – July 14<sup>th</sup>, Chris Tuck (KSNO) attended the Kansas Maternal Child and Adolescent Health Council meeting in Topeka.

**Kansas School Nurse Summer Conference** – Several KSNO Board members, (Chris Tuck, Sue Holmes, Cindi Tedder, Mae Claxton) are providing break out sessions to New School Nurse or General conference attendees, and/or providing post-conference sessions at the 2010 conference. KSNO is also responsible for an Awards ceremony during the opening luncheon, a General Membership meeting and a “Meet and Greet” social function. KSNO has three board members that sit on the conference planning committee and collaborate to assist with planning for this phenomenal conference.

For questions about this report or more information about Kansas School Nurse Organization, please contact Chris Tuck, KSNO President at: [ctuck@usd345.com](mailto:ctuck@usd345.com), or [chris.tuck06@yahoo.com](mailto:chris.tuck06@yahoo.com)