

**Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership Meeting  
State Laboratory Building, Frankfort  
May 22, 2003**

**MINUTES**

**Members unable to attend:** Sarah Walsh, March of Dimes-grant training conflict, Lisa Wells, Humana Hospital-staffing conflict, Dedra Deberry AHEC-Louisville-will send substitute (Mary Ann Penner and Sylvia Mena attended in her place). One of the 7 new counties stated they would send their representative starting with the September 25, 2003 meeting), and Kristie Mahl had an appointment conflict.

**Members in attendance:** Dr. Steve Davis, Sandy Cleveland, Linda Lancaster, Yvonne Rhodes, Michelle Dean, Teresa Bunch-replaces Tamara Johnson, Sandra Thompson, Jahnna Lane, Libby Hess replaces Delena Young, Delena Young, Diane Sprowl, Judy Jones, Mary Ann Penner, Sylvia Mena, Anna Katherine Mefford, Bonita Bobo, Joyce Robl, Katrina Adams Thompson, Donna Chapman, Paula Watson, Eugenia Smither, Annette Harston, Lisa Heck, Christi Vincent, Shari Stewart, Susan Borders and Susan Brown.

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Susan Brown called the meeting to order.

The minutes from February 19, 2003 were approved as written.

**Welcome and Chair Report-Dr. Steve Davis**

**Welcome:** Dr. Davis welcomed Susan back into the KFAP after her one-year absence with loving words, and heartfelt emotion. Susan is great, thrilled to be back, and extremely grateful for the many acts of kindness and countless prayers given during her absence. "You all are the BEST!" As Dr. Davis welcomed all the members, he allowed time for each of the 27 members present to share their names and the organizations they represented to the group. This was Delena Young's last KFAP meeting (we'll miss you Delena-good luck with your new supervisory position with the HANDS program) and the first meeting for her replacement, Libby Hess-welcome! Several other new members present included: Judy Jones with Louisville Metro HD, Women's Health Services Manager; Mary Ann Penner and Sylvia Mena, Louisville AHEC; Yvonne Rhodes and Michelle Dean, Breckinridge County HD; and Teresa Bunch from Whitley County who replaces Tamara Johnson. We welcome all of you!

**Report:** Dr. Davis highlighted the now 15 pieces of the KIDS NOW Initiative and shared good news that the programs are strong and getting desired results. In fact, immunization numbers have now placed Kentucky third in the nation. Child abuse and neglect numbers have dropped. The number of babies born with open-spine defect has dropped by 60% from 1996-2001. The KIDS NOW program attracts many groups anxious to know how they too can become a part of the Initiative. There were more than 100 requests that were looked at when the original 10 components were selected. It's time to take a look again and get the peoples input once more and evaluate if things are on track... or if are they off track? Do other things need to be added? And if that is the case, then this is the time to speak out.

“As the Chairman of the Folic Acid Partnership, I would encourage you that if you believe that the KIDS NOW Program is on target that:

1. You attend those meetings locally when you hear about them and rally as much local support as you can, and
2. Specifically, the folic acid component of the KIDS NOW Partnership, that if you feel we are on target and moving in the right direction speak favorably to that.”

Dr. Davis also encouraged, aside from the community meetings, (these are as yet unscheduled) we take the opportunity to speak to our local leaders at the county level and our state leaders at the state level about KIDS NOW as a whole. “Don’t discount your importance as a citizen and being able to help move the agenda out there, because it really does help.”

Recently Dr. Davis spoke in Louisville for the Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics’ Conference, to participants from about 15 different states. His topic was: “The 20 Year KIDS NOW Plan.” He found there was a tremendous response to Kentucky’s vision to look not only within the 8 x 12 exam room walls, but to also look more broadly than those walls.

He gave thanks and recognition to the March of Dimes for their national prematurity campaign, and reminded us all that it is a common goal of ours as well. He recounted some of the history of the March of Dimes and the incredible way they were able to raise money in the days during the depression. He praised their ability as an organization to see things as an inch wide, but a mile deep, with focus on a particular area (narrow focus) but a mile deep in their resources (financial, research, and educational). The March of Dimes led the way in fighting polio and hyaline membrane disease. The development of surfactant has lowered the risk of RDS in premature babies. The national MOD folic acid campaign has been a true leader with research, education and financial resources. Kudos to the March of Dimes as they lead the way to finding the cause of premature birth!!!!!!

The Kentucky Perinatal Association will be hosting their annual conference at Lake Cumberland Resort, entitled “Summit On Prematurity,” from June 8-10. Both Dr. Davis and Dr. Adamkin will be presenting at the conference. The KPA has received a \$12,000 March of Dimes grant to fund professional development for healthcare practitioners across the state of KY. This conference will fall under part of that grant. **FYI:** Membership to the KPA is \$25.00, but for \$30.00 you can register for the conference and receive a one-year membership to the KPA. For more information contact Julianna Dick 502—867-1123.

Dr. Davis also thanked Diane Sprowl for the wonderful job she did covering for Susan while she was on medical leave.

He ended with saying thank you to the group because: partnerships only are as successful as the strength of its members. And partnerships are only as successful as the strength of the continuation. He praised the strength of the KFAP and the outcomes that have been

delivered. He feels the KFAP could be a fundamental group that could really tackle issues related to that perinatal period for years to come.

**Questions to Dr. Davis: From Paula Watson, Clark County:** Would it be possible for us to access to those statistics about how what we are doing really is making a difference? And, for example at those community meetings, because numbers talk, if we can say that we have gone from being number 30 in the nation to being number 3 in the nation as far as immunizations for children under the age of 2 goes- then that is a powerful message.

**His answer:** You are exactly right. As I pointed out earlier, you need to have very clear goals and be very concrete with the message you are delivering at these community meetings. Mention was made of the KIDS NOW report (long and short version) that lists these types of statistics and a contact person for each of the pieces. (I attached the KIDS NOW summary to this to this mailing-Susan)

**Question: Louisville AHEC-Sylvia Mena asked:** Is it possible we can access this information on-line? **Answer:** Yes, the website for the Governor's office KIDS NOW Initiative is: [www.KIDSNOW.KY.GOV](http://www.KIDSNOW.KY.GOV)

**More good news:** The state of Michigan plans to use the KFAP as their gold standard in developing a folic acid campaign. And, the national folic acid council through Donna Gentry has given us the opportunity to give input for their activity report forms and database. Other states have emailed Dr. Davis wondering why he isn't out promoting the KIDS NOW Program nationally for other states to use. His comment continues to be that he is far too busy at home trying to get the job done and the goals met. As long as there is still one child who needs help, we can't rest.

### **Committee Reports**

**Media-**Jaime Rafferty has resigned as Media Chair, but will continue as a member for the Green River District HD. She was unable to attend today, and Susan Brown reported in her place. Many media activities have occurred since the last meeting. Gil Lawson sent an article to the 8 public university campus papers announcing the free folic acid and counseling available to students receiving care at the student health services centers at seven of the eight public universities. Morehead is the only one not already onboard. KFAP member, Jahna Lane with Gateway District HD, is working with Morehead officials to resolve any issues. The BRDHD has provided multiple- live television and radio interviews and newspaper and newsletter coverage as well. The FIVCO District has placed cinema ads to run on 10 screens from April through September. Pike County continues to provide coverage through Inter-Mountain Cable TV. The media committee sought a chairperson and Shari Stewart from Central Baptist Hospital agreed to co-chair with Lisa Heck, from Northern KY Independent District HD, who was attending her second KFAP meeting. Thank you ladies very much! They will meet briefly after our meeting. New members are welcome to join the media committee.

**Community-**Diane Sprowl highlighted the 2003 goals for community and encouraged the partners to remember to report their activities. The plan calls for an increase in numbers of locations for folic acid by 100 locations. She offered several suggestions of where to outreach including: fitness centers, bridal fairs, florists, county clerk offices, tanning bed salons, department/retail stores, chiropractors, pharmacies, daycare centers,

churches, homemaker groups, girl scout troops, health fairs, schools, banks, real estate agencies, laundry mats, groceries and restaurants. The 2003 plan also calls for planning towards implementation of a statewide folic acid “green ribbon” campaign for January 2004 during Birth Defects Prevention Month. Community Committee will meet after the KFAP meeting for a working lunch at O’Charley’s Restaurant.

**Professional Education-**Joyce Robl reported that Professional Education is looking to diversify the KFAP a little bit more, after successfully recruiting Dr. Robert Kuhn-pharmacist, last year. Some areas suggested to target were: clergy, judicial, and education. Joyce quoted the statistics from the Kentucky Birth Surveillance Registry showing a decrease in open-spine defects by 60% from 1996-2001. Forty-four fewer babies have been born with this devastating defect. Much credit is given to the work of the campaign, however there is still an area we need to address. A message needs to be sent to the hospitals that education is still very much needed concerning the enhanced dosage necessary for those women who have already experienced a NTD-affected pregnancy. Dr. Davis suggested that perhaps the KPA could be proactive with this issue. He thought it would be fairly easy for people like Dr. Adamkin, Dr. Shepherd and himself to compose a letter highlighting the positive things their efforts have helped while weaving in perhaps a couple of bullets about the need for education on the enhanced dosage for those women who have had a NTD-affected pregnancy and the national figures about too few healthcare providers doing the folic acid education in their practices. Sandy Cleveland also suggested getting the education built into the discharge summaries at hospitals in a variety of specialties not just OB. It was also mentioned that in doctor’s offices, many times it is the office managers that are key to getting the job done. **FYI:** Joyce also brought travel mugs with the folic acid message to all members from the KBSR. She mentioned that she probably has at least two more boxes available if anyone needs them for a health fair or other event. Professional committee will not be meeting today, but a conference call will be planned.

**Featured speaker: Christi Vincent-Evaluation of the Florida Toolkit**

Christi reviewed the Florida Toolkit from the University of Florida, available in either English or Spanish. The kit consists of a carrying pouch containing a wide variety of materials. Some of the topics for the educational materials are: Education for Professionals, Diversification, Teens, and Ethnic and Cultural Diversity. Multiple handouts and eight different lesson plans. There is also a 21-minute training video for staff, a 10-minute video for clients, and a power point presentation complete with pictures showing what neural tube defects look like. We believe the kit costs \$60. Dr. Davis mentioned possibly trying to fund enough kits for the 63 current KFAP members, and possibly the 120 health departments. He had to leave our meeting to attend another and asked that we make a recommendation. Further discussion took place after he left, including questions about whether the kit is copyrighted, or whether those rights are no longer in effect if you pay the \$60. We decided to wait on the recommendation until Christi can contact Florida for further details. A member commented that perhaps the KFAP could design a pamphlet describing the campaign and the KFAP’s role. It was thought this would be a good recruiting tool and was seen as a much needed, resource. Professional education could look into this.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Pharmacy Activities-Dr. Robert Kuhn**-No report – Dr. Kuhn had to miss the meeting.

**2002 Evaluated Program Plan**-all activities met or exceeded; except for one objective under Professional Education-Great job KFAP!

**Two new folic acid forms and instructions for use**-in use with good reviews

**Materials from the March of Dimes**-Any remaining folic acid promotion materials will be sent to Susan Brown at the BRDHD. Members can contact Susan for materials.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**2003 Folic Acid KFAP Plan**-The plan is the responsibility of the entire partnership, regardless of which sub-committee you may serve on. It takes us *all* to be a partnership!

**Letters to all 120 local health departments**-We recruited 7 more members due to those letters: Allen, Monroe, Oldham, Knox, Lincoln, Breckinridge and Muhlenberg Counties.

**Next meeting date:** September 25, 2003

**Adjournment**

Prepared May 27, 2003  
Susan Brown Kentucky's Statewide Folic Acid Campaign Coordinator