



The Kentucky Folic Acid Partnership Meeting
September 27, 2007 Minutes
A Celebration 8 Years and Counting!
Buffalo Trace Distillery Frankfort, KY

Those present: Sally Brunner, Tammie Bertram, Jill Ford, Nicole Hale, Paula Watson, Lisa Lawson, Jean Smith, Karen Rundall, Jamie Benningfield, Michelle Mozea, Jeanie Neikirk, Teresa Cooper, Mary Sue Flora, Linda Litzinger, Linda Dunsmore, Roxanne True, Emma Walters, Susan Borders, Fran Hawkins, Joyce Robl, Trina Douglas, Linda Lancaster, Dee Sparks, Debra Israel, Sandy Cleveland, Kathy Rozier, Elvira Conley, Kelly McKown, Katrina Thompson, Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd, Diane Sprowl, Kathy Chase, Shari Stewart, Dr. Steve Davis, Ardith Davis, Kristin Theobald, Leigh Lindsey, Sarah Chaffin and her husband, and Susan Brown **Those unable to attend:** Dr. David Adamkin, Jaime Rafferty, Rita Hayes, Rich Nading, Becky Derifield, Sarojini Kanotra, Mary Alice Basham and Christie Penn.

- I. Welcome and Call to Order** Susan Brown called the meeting to order as each member took turns introducing themselves and where they were from.
- II. KFAP Highlights...8 Years and Counting** Susan Brown prepared a one page summary with the background of how the KFAP came to be listing the mission statement and goals with highlights that led up to the kick-off celebration on September 7, 1999. Members also received a 5-page (2-sided) handout highlighting key turning points in the eight-year history of the partnership, complete with highlights of some especially creative activities various members have executed over the years. She closed with an original short story illustrating how the success of the KFAP originated with the vision, dedication, hard work, and passion of those first few KFAP members whose efforts over an eight-month period brought the KFAP to fruition.
- III. Dr. Ruth Ann Shepherd** presented the group with the first "hot off the press" printed and bound Prematurity Toolkit: Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait! It's been a very long process but the finished product looks very good. The Barren River District HD received a grant from the local KY Chapter of the MODs to produce and print 200 copies of the toolkit. Due to the prematurity project involving 6 hospitals across the state (3 control and 3 intervention hospital sites) care must be taken to not saturate the control project areas with the toolkit information. Therefore, the toolkits will first be distributed to the three intervention hospital sites and also to the eight counties of the Barren River District Health Department since those counties are not in close proximity to the control hospital areas. Once the prematurity project has completed its survey timeframe, other areas across the state will also begin receiving copies of the toolkit.
- IV. Dr. Steve Davis**, Deputy Commissioner spoke to the group as past Chairman of the KFAP during its' first seven years. He reflected and shared his passion for all that the KFAP represents and paid homage to the many members past and present who have helped to mold and bind the inner workings of the partnership, welding it into the fine oiled machine that it has become. Chiseling and nailing away at the issues affecting mothers and babies across the commonwealth.

- V. **Awards ceremony:** Twenty-three members and three organizations were honored during our celebration. Linda Lancaster, Diane Sprowl, Katrina Thompson and Susan Brown shared the presentation duties.

The following is a list of honorees and what was said about each of them:

1. **Shari Stewart** is being honored as the chair of the media committee and for her work on the toolkit committee. She has devoted much time and energy as a KFAP representative while working only as a part-time employee of Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington. We really appreciate your dedication!
2. **Sandy Cleveland** For her work on the prematurity toolkit, participation in the KPA and her efforts within the prematurity steering committee. Sandy is a class act and manages to always voice her concerns and comments in a professional manner.
3. **Jeanie Neikirk** For her work and dedication while serving on the prematurity toolkit committee.
4. **Mary Sue Hindman** Her efforts while representing the KY March of Dimes helped to trailblaze the KFAP
5. **Rita Hayes** Her efforts while representing the KY Spina Bifida Association helped trailblaze the KFAP and her MULTIPLE folic acid activities during that first year were surpassed by none!
6. **Joyce Robl** Served as the first Professional Chair and as Director of the KY Birth Surveillance Registry. Her strong leadership and knowledge of genetics was a huge asset and one we will always remember. Vital to the "Spread the Word..." Train the Trainer sessions held across the state.
7. **Emma Walters** Another educator whose expertise was vital in planning and executing the "Spread the Word..." Train the trainer sessions held across the state. When a registered dietitian tells you that you need to take the synthetic form of folic acid (and not rely on diet alone) to ensure that you get the needed 400 mcg of FA daily, people listen and believe.
8. **Donna Chapman, and 9. Eugenia Smither** for their efforts while representing the Bluegrass Family Health Insurance Company. They brought energy and creativity to the table each and every meeting. We miss them both greatly.
10. **Sara Dunlap Boyd** from FIVCO District. Sara, Heather Dietrich and Kay Runyon were the three Charlie's Angels from Ashland, Kentucky, that promoted and ran the "B" Healthy FIVCO folic acid campaign developing a plastic capsule to house all the important medical data on each resident in their county. It would contain the person's name, address and phone number complete with a list of their allergies, current medications, physicians' name and phone number, and insurance information. These plastic capsules with blank information forms were distributed with multivitamins promoting folic acid use for the prevention of birth defects, heart disease and stroke.
11. **Lorie Chesnut** Lorie's gifted communication skills and style, helped shape the format of what the KFAP would come to stand for. She was instrumental in developing the original KFAP work plan and was a dedicated volunteer to the March of Dimes.
12. **Sarah Chaffin** Sarah proudly represented the Pike County Health Department as a KFAP representative working tirelessly to promote folic acid usage throughout her community, with a style and creativity unsurpassed to date! She is probably best known for her work in the school system. Organizing a student peer board (in every school) to help get each student body behind the folic acid message. She designed multiple incentives to help get the folic acid message into the minds and hearts of the entire community. Football games where items like Frisbees and clappers were imprinted with the FA message were a standard. Beauty shops offered emery boards and lotions with the FA message. But, probably most noteworthy would be her classroom skills where she drove the FA message home with her rendition of "I've got a new attitude!" Where students learned about homocysteine and Sarah used sticky chewing gum to represent what happens to our arteries when they get clogged up with sticky fat globules. I guarantee those students still remember that "I've got a new attitude," means that "B" Attitude... folic acid!
13. **Jaime Rafferty** Jaime proudly represented the Green River District HD, assisted Joyce Robl part-time with the KY Birth Surveillance Registry and also served as the Media Chair for two years before leaving the GRDHD. Jaime created an enthusiastic and teen friendly FA PowerPoint presentation that she showed in the school system. She also wrote a FA article for a media campaign that was part of a GRDHD Newspaper insert including a full page dedicated to Folic Acid Awareness. This outreached tens of thousands of people in the 7 counties of the GRDHD. Jaime reported these and all of her other creative activities faithfully and consistently throughout her years as a KFAP representative.
14. **Gil Lawson** The success of the KFAP has much to do with the efforts of this man. His expertise in generating publicity during those kick-off and early days was HUGE! Gil didn't just "write about it," he

was right there with us, in the trenches...attending the meetings and offering input. What a fantastic job you did for us! Thank you so much!

15. Dr. David Adamkin Onboard from the beginning and always a fan, Dr. Adamkin comes in and out as needed over the years. His leadership and guidance throughout the prematurity steering committee and during the planning of the prematurity summits has been outstanding. We are fortunate to have him as our friend and partner.

16. Susan Borders Susan is a long-time committed member of the KFAP representing the Louisville Metro Health Department. Her dedication and continued support is honored here today. Over the years she has been a consistent "present and accounted for" member. This type of continuity and commitment is what we strive for. We appreciate your time, your travel, your input and your agencies' commitment to sending you here, year after year. Congratulations!

17. Paula Watson-Paula is another long-time KFAP member who represents the Clark County HD, has been an avid supporter and committed participant. She has implemented billboards across Clark County and recruited members from her community to attend meetings driving to Frankfort once, even when the meeting had unfortunately been rescheduled. We appreciate all that you do!

18. Roxanne True has been a dedicated KFAP member representing the Lincoln Trail District HD, who has faithfully served and attended the Community Sub-committee meetings over the last 4 years. She is very busy and works very hard to spread the word, and after today's meeting she promises to begin filling out her activity reports faithfully!

19. Mary Sue Flora came on board as Joyce Robl's replacement representing the KY Birth Surveillance Registry. She has only missed one meeting since then, and it was due to a business commitment. Since joining the KFAP she has personally recruited the addition of three new members that appear to be as committed and dedicated as she is! The recruiter award goes to Mary Sue Flora!

20. Jill Ford representing Monroe County HD is a dedicated participant of the KFAP who attends meetings regularly. She is being honored not only for her continuous commitment to initiating and performing FA and prematurity activities within her community, but also for taking the time and effort to consistently report those activities.

21. Leigh Ann Lindsey and 22. Deanna Hanson representing Western KY University. It was through the creativity and excitement present in the room last September (2006) that your enthusiasm and spirit enchanted us all with the wonderful creation of our slogan and tagline: "Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait! We will always treasure and remember that special day: Creativity galore!"

23. Dee Sparks was nominated by Linda Lancaster for all that she has done over the years to assist her with many of the details behind the scenes in helping to keep the KFAP running smoothly: scheduling conference calls and booking our room three times per year at the State Lab Building. Thank you from all of us!

In addition to these individual awards three agency/organizations were honored:

1. The KY Chapter of the March of Dimes: A founding organization that lends itself to the task no matter how big or small the project, offering leadership and guidance, time, staffing, and funding whenever and wherever needed. Staff key to development of the prematurity toolkit.
2. The Kentucky Department for Public Health: A founding agency that has provided the governing leadership, stability, guidance, funding and links to other state agencies and personnel faithfully over the last eight years. Staff was key to the development of the prematurity toolkit.
3. The Barren River District Health Department: A founding agency that has provided leadership, technical ability and skills in maintaining the www.kfap.org website and database to provide monthly reports and bullets over the last eight years. Their staff has provided leadership roles to the KFAP including facilitating and coordinating the daily operations of the KFAP. Staff was key to the development of the prematurity toolkit.

The six leaders of the KFAP were honored with "gag gifts."

Dr. Davis **without you, we would not be here today!**

He received a bag with a jigsaw puzzle of "pumpkins in a pumpkin patch," one "perfect" plastic pumpkin, a chess set as the "mastermind of the partnership," and a hammer representing the way we must keep on chiseling and hammering away at the problems of birth defects and prematurity.

Dr. Shepherd **without you, there would be no Healthy Babies are Worth the Wait Initiative!** She received a pair of glasses (spectacles) to represent her "vision" for the prematurity campaign and project. She also received a light bulb to represent her many creative ideas. She received a wall plaque in pink and

blue of “Dumbo” representing big ears-for her many “listening skills.” A scientific calculator was given to represent the data on prematurity and her communication skills in dispersing that information to the professionals across the state. And finally a light stick to denote her ability to “light the way” for systems change.

Linda Lancaster **Our historian:** For your guidance, dedication and commitment, to keeping us all on track and politically correct. You remind us of where we’ve been, and motivate us to continue on. She received a toy cell phone to represent all the conference calls, a pack of toy fire hoses “for all the fires she’s helped put out” over the years and a tape dispenser to represent all the events she’s helped to hold together and especially the way she seems to effortlessly piece together the past to the present!

Katrina Adams Thompson **The little engine that could:** Overworked and underpaid, but always dependable! A HARD WORKER who keeps her sleeves rolled up, poised and ready to pitch in and do whatever needs to be done. Always has a smile on her face and sprinkles everything with a heavy dose of adorable Eastern KY expressive wit to keep us all in stitches! It appears there is no obstacle too BIG for her to tackle! She received a pack of toy cars representing all the miles she travels across the state, she also received a coloring book that tells us about time and money-because she always puts her money where her mouth is. Then to help repay her we gave her a toy vault and pile of play money to spend on anything her little heart desires! She also received a planner and an address book to help her keep track of all those places, names and time zones!

Diane Sprowl **without you, we would have never had a KFAP database to wow and woo all the other states with our efficiency! Without you, we would have never had a KFAP website to further communicate our message and mission to the multitudes. The GEEK AWARD!** We’re sorry that we don’t have a real Geek Squad car for you to humbly ride in, all across our great Commonwealth rescuing others from computer incompetence! We couldn’t do what we do, without your expertise! *By the way-when did geeks start looking like Princess Diana?* She received a bag full of goodies: a wand that she waves to solve everyone’s computer problems, a tiara as the GEEK Supreme who looks more like Princess Diana, a toy geek squad car, a picture of a GPS system because she navigates us all through the website, a pack of dice and flash cards for addition because: no matter how you toss the dice she always makes it all add up! She also received a pack of playing cards that look like the “dot” candies to represent www.kfap.org And last but not least, she received a door hanger pillow that reads: Once a princess always a princess.

Susan Holland Brown keeps the KFAP running smoothly these past eight years. She received a clock to represent the way she prepares and distributes the monthly KFAP reports and bullets “like clockwork!” She received a rubber ball to represent the way she “bounced back” after her critical car crash 5 years ago, and a manicure set to represent the way her fingernails get worked to the bone keying in data, typing the many reports, bullets and emails that it takes to facilitate the partnership.

Sarah Chaffin also received a small gag gift of: a pack of trident original gum to represent the “original” way she educated the students about homocysteine levels; a math set that represents the way she taught students to read cereal box labels learning the RDA requirements and getting the most bang for their buck in economics lessons geared to teach them the better value for their healthy eating dollars; and last—a pack of 8 different colors of play-dough to represent her creativity and flexibility during her years serving the KFAP. We miss you Sarah!

At this time we gathered for food, fun and fellowship for the remainder of the afternoon. And although the humidity and downpour of rain may have gotten us wet a time or two, no one’s spirits seemed to have been dampened at all!

The next meeting of the KFAP will be on the 4th Thursday in January 2008. It will be held in the State Lab Building in Frankfort from 11-1pm Eastern Time, with the sub-committees meeting immediately following for a working lunch at a local restaurant TBA later.

Thank you all for all that you do...it takes us all to be a Partnership!

Minutes recorded per Susan Brown, Kentucky’s Statewide Folic Acid Campaign Coordinator