

# Health Matters



from the Kane County Health Department

— April 18, 2018 —

## Trending Matters:

April 21-28



National Infant  
Immunization Week

IMMUNIZATION.  
POWER TO PROTECT.

Promoting the positive impact of vaccination on the lives of infants and children. According to the CDC, immunizations can protect infants and children from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two.

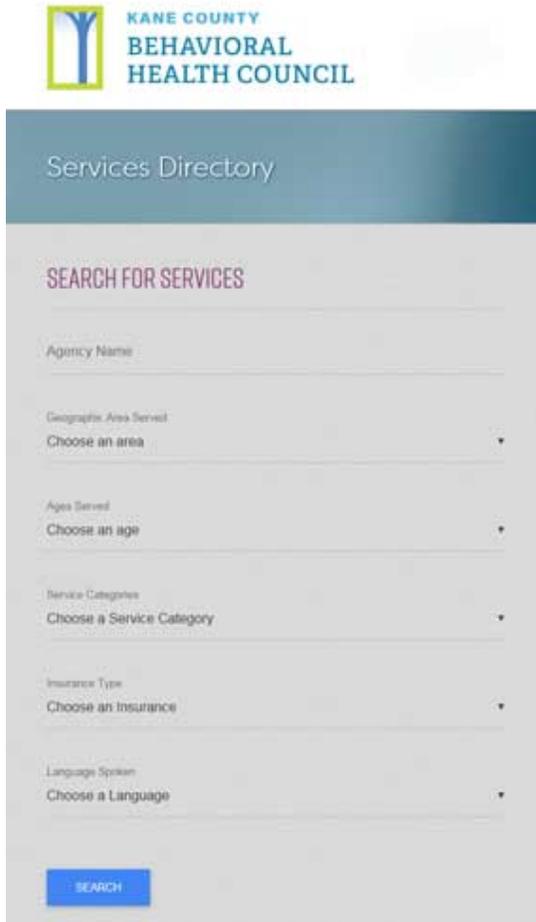
Visit our [Immunization Page](#) for more info

## New web portal provides access to services in Kane County

When someone is seeking behavioral health services, they don't want to waste time surfing the internet, Googling this, searching for that, trying to find the right agency in the right location for the issue they are facing. While it may not be a "crisis," someone would not be trying to find services if it were not for something serious. In fact, an easy-to-use Kane County-based "guide" was identified as a crucial first step in providing access to behavioral health services specifically in Kane County.

To address this need, the Kane County Behavioral Health Council developed a new feature for its website [wesupportmentalhealth.org](http://wesupportmentalhealth.org). The site now has an interactive portal that is designed to connect residents with Kane County behavioral health agencies. Behavioral Health is a priority issue in [Kane County's Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#).

On the home page, the "Find Services" tab will open up the Services Directory, a searchable database of both private and public providers that is categorized by geography, target age group, services needed, even the type of insurance accepted and the preferred language spoken. These filters will narrow down the search to the agency or agencies that provide the needed service(s) at locations near the client's home.



**KANE COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COUNCIL**

Services Directory

SEARCH FOR SERVICES

Agency Name

Geographic Area Served  
Choose an area

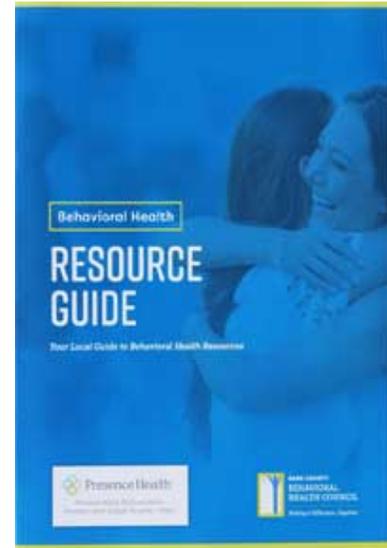
Ages Served  
Choose an age

Service Categories  
Choose a Service Category

Insurance Type  
Choose an Insurance

Language Spoken  
Choose a Language

SEARCH



The site itself was recently upgraded with both new graphics and content. The “Message of the Month” archives are still available, as is the “Layman’s Guide to Mental Health” PowerPoint and the Events Calendar. Other features include a jobs page that lists numerous open positions in county agencies. A training and resources page that lists the opportunities for education, such as Mental Health First Aid, is available. Also new to the site is a special “Youth” tab that has a host of topics of special interest to young people.

The site will continue to evolve as current features are updated and new ones added in trying to reach the goal of improving mental health services in Kane County. Funding partners for the CHA are Advocate Sherman Hospital, Presence Mercy Medical Center, Presence St. Joseph Hospital, Rush Copley Medical Center, Northwestern Medicine Delnor Hospital and the Inc. Board and the Kane County Health Department.

## City of Aurora adopts Tobacco 21 ordinance

TOBACCO  
~~eighteen~~ **twenty-one**

Thank you to [City of Aurora, IL](#) for prioritizing the health of our youth. On March 27, the Aurora City Council voted to raise the age to purchase tobacco and vaping products from age 18 to 21 by a unanimous vote of all twelve aldermen. Aurora has joined more than 18 other municipalities in Illinois on the Tobacco 21 movement! So far, five states (California, Hawaii, Maine, New Jersey and Oregon) and nearly 300 cities in 19 other states have done the same.

After a decade of consistent decreases in tobacco use by teenagers, The National Youth Tobacco Survey reports that in 2014 overall use of tobacco among youth rose, exposing dangerous new trends. Clever marketing by

the tobacco industry, pushing small cigars, hookahs, e-cigarettes, and flavored vaping products, has put millions of young people at risk of lifelong lethal nicotine addiction. Illinois has an above national average rate of high school smoking, and a near average rate of adult smoking. Given its high population, this means that 230,000 children now under the age of 18 will die prematurely from smoking, with 8,700 children becoming daily smokers each year.

There is no one magic bullet for preventing youth tobacco use. Increased taxes, counter-marketing and school programs all play a role. However, funding has shriveled and tax increases face mounting opposition causing fewer and fewer to be enacted. There is now growing interest in another tool: access restriction to age 21. In July of 2015 the CDC released a study (found [here](#) and [here](#)) concluding that an astounding 75% of adults favor raising the tobacco age to 21, including 70% of current smokers and 65% of those aged 18-24.

To learn more about Tobacco 21 visit [KaneQuits.com](http://KaneQuits.com) and [tobacco21.org](http://tobacco21.org).

## Community to gather for health assessment presentation



Over the past several months Professional Research Consultants (PRC) has been working to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) throughout Kane County. The presentation and prioritization session will take place on Thursday, May 10 at FONA International in Geneva. Community leaders representing various sectors of Kane County will attend. PRC will present the top areas of opportunity that have emerged from the health assessment. The final CHA report will then be used to define and guide the [Community Health Improvement Plan \(CHIP\)](#).

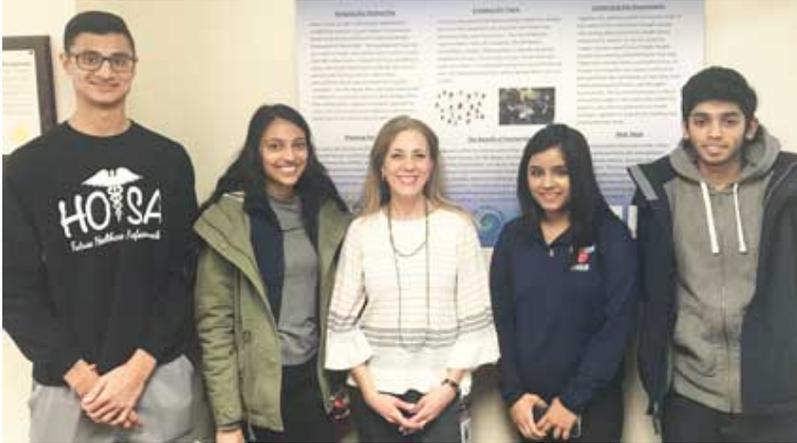
As a participant, you will join other community leaders representing various sectors of Kane County. During the process, PRC will present the top areas of opportunity that have emerged from the health assessment. Following a short Q&A session, PRC will subsequently facilitate and utilize audience response system technologies to provide instantaneous responses regarding group priorities of health issues. This qualitative information will be added to an extensive data review and summarized in the final CHA report, which will then be used to define and guide CHIP for a three-year period. Insights and perspectives from key leaders in the community will be very valuable as we strive to improve the health of Kane County residents.

## Area HOSA teams advance to the finals in MRC competition

Two area teams placed 1st and 2nd in the state finals of the **HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) Competition**, aimed at encouraging local chapters to initiate and maintain partnerships with their local Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) units. In partnership with the Kane County MRC, the Bartlett High School Team finished 1st, while the South Elgin High School team came in second. The next step is to participate in the national competition.

The event promotes partnerships between HOSA and the MRC that demonstrate an impact on their

communities. Competitors must be familiar with and adhere to the "General Rules and Regulations of the National HOSA Competitive Events Program (GRR)." The program aims to provide the students some experience with public health, as well as to enlighten them on what the needs, challenges and issues are in our community. It is a local effort, and builds up the opportunity to volunteer and serve their community.



Above: South Elgin High School team - Sharad Dholakia, Priya Patel, MRC Coordinator Claudia Reginato, Vrinda Patel, Manan Patel

Right: Bartlett High School team - Dillan Patel, Payal Patel, Meha Pandya, Zain Sattar, Harsh Chheda, Rushi Patel



HOSA started many years ago with the goal of forging the participation of young people in the health of their communities; therefore, just as MRCs, they constitute a local effort. It is expected that, by the early involvement with the public health issues and challenges through volunteerism, these future health professionals are better prepared to work with the system in producing a positive impact on the health of the communities in which they live.

The Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) is a national network of volunteers, organized locally to improve the health and safety of their communities. MRC volunteers include medical and public health professionals, as well as other community members without healthcare backgrounds. MRC units engage these volunteers to strengthen public health, improve emergency response capabilities and build community resiliency. They prepare for and respond to natural disasters, such as wildfires, hurricanes, tornados, blizzards, and floods, as well as other emergencies affecting public health, such as disease outbreaks. They frequently contribute to community health activities that promote healthy habits.

More information about the MRC is available by visiting [mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage](http://mrc.hhs.gov/HomePage) and our [MRC webpage](#). If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about the Medical Reserve Corps in your community, please contact Claudia Reginato at [reginatoclaudia@co.kane.il.us](mailto:reginatoclaudia@co.kane.il.us) and feel free to invite other members of the community who might be interested.



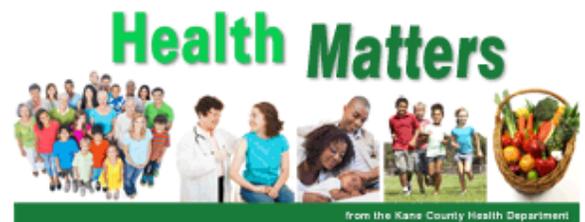
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**Serving  
Kane County,  
Illinois**



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