

KPAP NEWSLETTER

Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program - Part of the Kentucky Department for Public Health

A LIFE OF SERVITUDE: IN MEMORY OF DEANNA JESSIE

By Jennifer Toribio Naas

Deanna Jessie passed away on May 24th, 2022 at St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, KY. It has been difficult for everyone who loved Deanna to process her death. KPAP Staff had just spoken with Deanna in a Microsoft Teams meeting the Friday prior so it was a huge shock when we found out just a few days later that she had passed away.

Deanna was KPAP's Community Consultant for the eastern Kentucky region; she managed 40 counties and worked hard to spread the word about KPAP. She worked tirelessly to help those in need.

"Deanna epitomized the heart of the KPAP program. She went above and beyond to support partners and clients – not just in accessing necessary medication but also searching high and low to get any resources needed to improve the life of every Kentuckian that needed it" said PQI Division Director Elizabeth Goode.

Community Consultant Carol Baldwin worked with Deanna for over a decade in KPAP. "I remember being in a meeting with Deanna when severe flooding had occurred in Kentucky", she said. (CONT.)



KPAP Community Consultant Deanna Jessie

WHAT'S INSIDE?

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TRAININGS**

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A LIFE OF SERVITUDE (CONT.)

"Deanna went onsite everyday providing food, taking applications for food stamps, helping with getting meds replaced and anything she could do. I met her at several Veteran meetings and she really had a heart for them and their needs. She had a kind heart and a giving spirit."

Deanna had many accomplishments during her lifelong career in the healthcare field. She was appointed to the Kentucky Native American Heritage Commission by Governor Bevin, recognized as a Kentucky Colonel, served on the Kentucky Indigenous People Committee, and on the board of the Legal Aid of the Bluegrass.

KPAP staff, advocates, and Deanna's family and friends will greatly miss her. Deanna is survived by her daughter, Tessa Jessie of Olive Hill, KY; one brother, Randall Dean Jessie of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one sister, Delena Wilson of South Shore, Kentucky; one niece, Kaitlyn Jacquiel Jones; one nephew, Christopher Justin (CJ) Wilson; and her great nephew, Brier Kent Jones.



DISASTER RECOVERY CENTERS FOR FLOOD VICTIMS

Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) are locations that provide both state and federal resources at one stop to best serve flood victims. More centers are in the process of being added so please check the web page for updates.

Unless otherwise noted, DRCs are open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday–Saturday and 1 to 7 p.m. on Sundays.

Breathitt County

Breathitt County Library, 1024 College Avenue, Jackson KY 41339

Opening at noon on Aug. 9

Clay County

Oneida Elementary School, 435

Newfound Road, Oneida KY 40972

Permanently closes at 4 p.m. on Aug. 15
Clay County Community Center, 311 Hwy 638, Manchester KY 40962

Opening at noon on Aug. 16

Knott County

Knott County Sportsplex, 450 Kenny

Champion Loop #8765, Leburn KY 41831

Letcher County

Letcher County Recreation Center, 1505

Jenkins Road, Whitesburg KY 41858

Opening at noon on Aug. 9

Perry County

Hazard Community College, First Federal Center, 1 Community Drive, Hazard KY 41701

For more information, please go to:

<https://governor.ky.gov/flood-resources>

KPAP "OFFICE HOUR" SCHEDULE & LINKS

You do not need to register in advance for Office Hours. These are informal meetings where you can join in at any time. Office Hours offer an opportunity for advocates to socialize and network! Please feel free to ask any questions about KPAP, the Drug Assistant software or a KPAP case that you have during our Office Hours. We are here to help!

8/24/22 - KPAP Office Hour

Time: 10am-11am Eastern Time

Host: Community Consultant Bryant Hileman

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84218571016>

9/7/22 - KPAP Office Hour

Time: 10am-11am Eastern Time

Host: Community Consultant Carol Baldwin

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86445907997>

9/14/22 - KPAP Office Hour

Time: 10am-11am Eastern Time

Host: Community Consultant Bryant Hileman

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89031008802>

10/5/22 - KPAP Office Hour

Time: 10am-11am Eastern Time

Host: Community Consultant Carol Baldwin

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81344873451>

10/12/22 - KPAP Office Hour

Time: 10am-11am Eastern Time

Host: Community Consultant Bryant Hileman

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87258841198>

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR A DRUG ASSISTANT TRAINING?

The 2-hour Drug Assistant training is held once a month. This training is an excellent introduction to the Drug Assistant software. In this training, Account Manager Ileana Batista of Drug Assistant will give a basic overview of the software and explain how to use it. She will also be available to answer any questions that you may have. All new KPAP advocates must attend this training at least once within 90 days of sign-up. Please follow these steps to register for the training:

Step 1: You will need to sign in to your TRAIN account. If you do not already have a TRAIN account, you can create a free account at www.train.org/ky.

Step 2: Once you are logged in to the TRAIN site (www.train.org/ky), click on the "Course Catalog" tab up at the top.

Step 3: In the Search Box, type in the Course Title "Drug Assistant GoTo Training 1071427 Webinar" and then click on the "search" icon.

Step 4: Click on the first search result that shows up, which is the "Drug Assistant GoTo Training 1071427 Webinar".

Step 5: You will be able to see all of the session dates available. Register for the session you wish to sign up for.

Additional Information:

This training is **ONLY** for KPAP advocates. Unauthorized individuals who sign up for the training will not be allowed to participate. Registration for training closes two days before each scheduled class.

You will receive a link via email the evening prior to the training. If you have not received your login information by the morning of the training then please contact Ileana Batista at Drug Assistant at 713-299-6736.



MEDICARE & OPEN ENROLLMENT

By Carol Baldwin

Medicare open enrollment begins October 15 and ends December 7. Everyone who is enrolled in a Medicare Part D plan or a Medicare Advantage plan should have their plan reviewed. Plans change every year and the only way to know if you are in the best plan is to enter your medications at Medicare.gov. The Medicare site will sort thru the plans based on your meds and the pharmacy you choose. The premiums may change, the medications covered may change and the cost of the medications may change.

If you do not change your plan during open enrollment, you will stay in the same Part D plan next year unless you qualify for low income subsidy or the Medicare Savings Plan. You can change your Medicare Advantage plan until March 31st. Be sure your clients understand the costs associated with Medicare Advantage Plans and that they understand that if they have a Supplemental Plan and they drop it to join a Medicare Advantage Plan they may not be able to get the supplemental plan back. The local SHIP (State Health Insurance Office) can assist with checking your plan or you can call 877-293-7447. You can also call Medicare at 800-633-4227 and they will assist you. Contact your local Medicaid Office to apply for the Medicare Savings Plan and the Social Security Office to apply for the low income subsidy.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at Carol.Baldwin@ky.gov.



FREE CEU FOR CERTIFIED COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

By Jennifer Toribio Naas

KPAP has been approved by the Kentucky Office of Community Health Workers to provide one CEU to all Certified Community Health Workers for the "KPAP Training". This CEU is free to all CCHWs.

In order to receive your free CEU you must attend a minimum of 75% of the 2-hour training. Attendance and participation is monitored during the training. After the training, email Jennifer.ToribioNaas@ky.gov and request a training evaluation. Once the evaluation has been received, you will receive a CEU certificate in the mail.

HEART USA ANNOUNCES CONTINUED PARTNERSHIP WITH MERCY HEALTH LOURDES HOSPITAL

By Bryant Hileman

HEART USA is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Paducah Kentucky. They are one of KPAP's advocate agencies. HEART USA will soon move into a larger, updated space thanks to a generous donation from Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital. The increased office space will allow additional KPAP advocates to meet patients in person as well as provide space for durable medical equipment storage.

This partnership also enhances the previous support provided by Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital to volunteers and CHWs assisting patients with home health visits, enrolling patients in prescription assistance programs and providing vulnerable members of the community with durable medical equipment.

"This expanded office space will allow our core volunteers and CHWs the opportunity to serve more of our friends and neighbors. Currently we have increased our home health visits to more than 50 each month and last month we found patients more than \$2 million in free and reduced-cost prescription medications. We are so incredibly grateful to Mercy Health Lourdes and the providers and staff who make sure each patient has the life saving medications they need to stay happy and healthy" said Cheryl Boyd, whom is the Executive Director



of HEART USA. This continues a long tradition of Kentucky Hospitals closely collaborating with KPAP partners across the Commonwealth.

With the updated space and support systems in place, HEART USA hopes to exponentially increase its impact in the Purchase Region of Western Kentucky by assisting patients in need.

Are you a KPAP partner that works closely with a hospital in your region? If so, we would like to hear from you and feature your good works in our KPAP quarterly newsletter!



MEET THE DRUG ASSISTANT TEAM!

By Troy Chisholm

Drug Assistant has been the software partner for the Kentucky Prescription Assistance Program (KPAP) since 2009. Drug Assistant's role in assisting organizations like KPAP has centered around three main functions: providing software (along with continuous quality improvements) that makes it easier for their partners to manage patients and their applications for free drugs or copay assistance, assisting their community outreach staff in training advocate partners to use the Drug Assistant system, and assisting stakeholders in generating reports that help them show the great work that all of their advocate partners are doing in their communities. Drug Assistant has been the go-to web-based program for countless hospital systems, clinics, pharmacies, and doctors in helping patients access patient assistance programs.



Drug Assistant's Ileana Batista



Drug Assistant's Richard Westlake

Drug Assistant was formed by CEO Mike Fisher in 2001. The company is based in Houston, Texas. Today, Drug Assistant services hundreds of organizations across the United States.

All KPAP Advocates attend the Drug Assistant training that is taught monthly by Ileana Batista, whom is the Account Director at Drug Assistant. Ileana is the "subject matter expert" that KPAP staff turns to when troubleshooting something within the Drug Assistant software. Ileana is assisted by her coworker Richard Westlake, who is Drug Assistant's VP of Information Systems. There's nothing that Ileana and Richard can't fix within the Drug Assistant software!

Another important member of Drug Assistant's team is Jesse Sims, who is the Director of Information Services. He leads the team that develops database design, methodology, and security. (CONT.)



From Left to Right: Jesse Sims, Brett Dennis, and Mike Fisher

Brett Dennis serves as the VP of Business Development at Drug Assistant. His responsibilities focus on customer acquisition, client satisfaction and recognizing opportunities for product and program delivery and improvement.

One of Drug Assistant's goals is to create a culture based on supporting the very basic medical need for patients who are most vulnerable and ensuring that culture is reflected in our effort to deliver timely service and support to our clients. Drug Assistant continues to add functionalities to our program based on customer request. Drug Assistant's team continues to evolve the Drug Assistant system by executing customer requested functionalities as well as deploying the latest in security enhancements.

KPAP is grateful for the positive partnership that it has with Drug Assistant. Drug Assistant continues to improve their software, which in turn helps advocates assist their patients with much-needed prescription assistance.

To learn more about Drug Assistant, please visit their website at

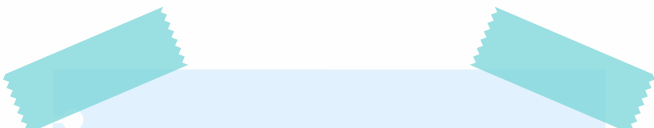
<https://www.drugassistant.com/>.



UPCOMING CONFERENCE OPPORTUNITIES

Here are some annual conferences that other organizations are hosting this year. If you would like your organization's upcoming training or event mentioned in an upcoming newsletter, please email

Jennifer.ToribioNaas@ky.gov



2022 KYACHW (Kentucky Association of Community Health Workers) Annual Conference

Dates: October 27-28, 2022

Location: Embassy Suites UK
Coldstream in Lexington, KY

For more info:

<http://kyachw.org/>



Save The Date: USASTHMA Summit

Date: November 11, 2022

Location:
Louisville Marriott Downtown
280 W. Jefferson St.
Louisville, KY 40202

For more info: Email

Rahel.Basse@ky.gov



Kentucky Rural Health Association Conference

Date: November 16-17, 2022

Location: Somerset, KY

For more info:

<https://kyrha.org/calendar2>

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

by Jennifer Toribio Naas

We recently heard about two grant opportunities that may be of interest to KPAP Advocates. These grants are being offered by the Kentucky Department for Public Health's Office of Health Equity. One of the grants is for "[Promoting Health Equity in Underserved Populations Across the Commonwealth of Kentucky](#)" and the second is for "[Promoting Immunizations in Underserved Populations Across the Commonwealth of Kentucky](#)". The deadline for both of these grants is March 31, 2023 or until funds are exhausted.

These grants could be a great opportunity for a KPAP advocate organization. You could even use the "Reports" function in Drug Assistant to provide data on your application. Please go to <https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/os/oas/Pages/grants.aspx> for more information about these grants.



Kentucky Public Health

Prevent. Promote. Protect.



KPAP STAFF CONTACT INFO

Please feel free to call our hotline staff with any questions you may have at **1-800-633-8100**. You can also email us at:

Troy.Chisholm@ky.gov

Jennifer.ToribioNaas@ky.gov

Our Community Consultants are also available if you need them. If you're not sure which Community Consultant is assigned to your county, please contact our hotline staff and we'll let you know!

Carol.Baldwin@ky.gov

Bryant.Hileman@comcast.net

