
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



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**Kent County Health Department Hires New
Marketing and Communications Manager Steve Kelso**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) is pleased to announce the hiring of Steve Kelso as Marketing and Communications Manager. He has been a part of the WOOD-TV 8 News Team for 15 years. Steve is a talented storyteller, who has covered everything from stories of local interest to high-profile events, including the 2006 Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, the funeral for Former President Gerald Ford, and has interviewed political leaders, foreign dignitaries and celebrities including Paul Newman and Willie Nelson. He also created quite a niche as WOOD-TV’s star reporter for ArtPrize. Prior to his reporting days, Steve also worked as assignment editor and chief photographer.

“Steve has an impressive resume, including two decades of experience covering the news in our region,” said Adam London, Kent County Administrative Health Officer. “I am confident that he will help take our communications and public information to an even higher level. He is a great storyteller and will be a great asset to public health.”

“The Kent County Health Department does so much to serve, protect and promote a healthy community for all; I look forward to being a part of such a dedicated team,” said Kelso. “I’ve truly enjoyed working in West Michigan media in many different capacities. As KCHD’s Marketing and Communications Manager, I will continue to work with local media, as well as share messages promoting public health and health equity, and build strong partnerships in the community. I look forward to the challenges and achievements that will result from working with this exciting team.”

KCHD’s previous Marketing and Communications Manager, Lisa LaPlante, also came from West Michigan television news in September 2011. She was promoted to Community Liaison and Communications Director for Kent County in January 2015. She will continue to oversee portions of the communications and marketing for KCHD, as well as assist numerous county departments in the same capacity. “Lisa’s done an amazing job advancing our mission through better communications. Her leadership and commitment is appreciated by leaders throughout Kent County,” said London.

Steve is scheduled to start with KCHD on April 6, 2015. (Photos of Steve and Lisa attached.)

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KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and three satellite clinics located in Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit www.accesskent.com/health.