Further Together:
ESSENCE (Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community based Epidemics) is a web-based system created to alert Health Authorities of a public health event and allows for quick analysis. ESSENCE is funded and provided by the CDC, administered by KDHE, and requires no data entry by Local Health Departments because the information is coming from local hospitals The data from Emergency Departments can be used by Local Health Departments to monitor infectious disease outbreaks (influenza), mass gatherings (county fairs), injuries (drug overdoses), chronic conditions (asthma), healthcare (medication refills), natural and man-made disasters (fires) and more.

New data systems take time to learn. This free learning collaborative will help springboard local public health staff forward on how to use the system and how to use the data. This user group should include individuals who will actually be using the system but can also include those wanting to think about the bigger picture of utilizing Emergency Department data in monitoring and assessing the health of their community. Users are also welcome to listen in and learn more about what others are doing in the system.

Learning Collaborative members will be asked to dedicate time to:
   a) An in-person kick-off meeting in Wichita, KS on November 13, 2018 in conjunction with the KAHLD Annual Meeting (travel stipends available).
   b) Participation in up to 3 one-hour webinars on ESSENCE and related topics.
   c) Participation in up to 3-4 one-hour online Community of Practice sessions for ESSENCE users.
   d) Participation in system and process evaluations.

The Focus of the Sub-committee will include but not be limited to:
   a) Increase LHD capability and capacity around ESSENCE use.
   b) Sharing of how other LHDs are utilizing the system across the state.
   c) Collaborative approach to understanding and utilizing a new data system.
   d) Troubleshooting assistance from KDHE, CPHI, and fellow colleagues.
   e) Assistance with data analysis, data visualization, and communication strategies.

Tentative Timeline:
In-Person Kick-off event: In conjunction with the KALHD Annual Meeting, 2-4 pm on Tuesday, November 13th, 2018 in Wichita
Tentative Webinars: December, February, April, June
Tentative Community of Practices: January, March, May, July

Online Registration: ESSENCE Learning Collaborative
Deadline to join is October 29th

Questions: aaron.davis@wichita.edu and kdhe.syndromic@ks.gov