

Primary Connection

Smiles Across America and Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas Partner To Expand Oral Health Services in Area Schools

Oral Health America's Smiles Across America program partnered with Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHCSEK) to expand preventative oral health services to underserved children and increase public awareness of the importance of healthy mouths for healthy lives.

CHCSEK, a leader in dental and primary care in southeast Kansas, employs seven dentists and eight hygienists at four dental clinics. The partnership brings national attention to CHCSEK's oral health efforts, as well as an award of \$25,000 and donated supplies for school based oral health programs. The programs will include screenings, cleanings, educational materials, fluoride, and dental sealants.

The dental outreach at CHCSEK began in 2007 in the Galena school system. Today, CHCSEK staff provide onsite services at 29 school districts throughout southeast Kansas as well as Head Start Centers, WIC, and other locations. With the assistance of Smiles Across America, CHCSEK expects to expand its screening efforts to at least 350 children in nine schools.



Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas CEO, Krista Postai, accepts \$25,000 check from Smiles Across America

The Smiles Across America program helps fight untreated oral disease. In addition, the program offers resources and technical assistance to help communities build an infrastructure for school oral health services, especially those that provide dental sealants. It supports services to over 90,000 children annually nationwide and helps communities respond to the critical need for oral disease prevention and oral health promotion. They currently have over 143 national partners in 34 states.

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Message from the Executive Director

Medicaid reform is on everyone's list of discussion topics these days. The subject has been discussed by legislative committees, health care organization Boards and staff, and state agencies. Even public forums have been held. About anyone remotely associated with health care in Kansas has an idea or opinion. Opinions are easy to find – solutions are not.

A theme that has sometimes emerged is that our health care system is too fragmented, that agencies and provider types work in "silos," and that our system is subsequently difficult to navigate. According to some public sentiment, duplication of efforts and services now exists, and we should be able to streamline our approach to providing care. It's likely that many Kansans who rely on Medicaid for their healthcare coverage would agree. By becoming more efficient, we all save the system money and patients can easier access the services they need.



Regardless of the future of the Affordable Care Act, it appears certain that the healthcare system will be changing, and we will all need to become more flexible and less entrenched in "the way we've always done it." Our clinics are at the forefront of change, with many efforts underway:

Patient Centered Medical Home. Fourteen of our member clinics are either in the process of working toward recognition as a Patient Centered Medical Home by the National Committee on Quality Assurance (NCQA) or have plans to begin in the near future. One clinic has already received NCQA recognition.

Integration of care. Ten of our clinics are partnering with their local Community Mental Health Centers to provide more coordinated, integrated care for patients both serve, with a goal of lower costs and better patient outcomes.

New provider models. KAMU is partnering with Kansas Action for Children and the Kansas Health Consumer Coalition in the Kansas Dental Project – an effort to have legislation passed to allow for a new "mid-level dental provider" called a Registered Dental Practitioner – to practice in Kansas. The expected outcome will be better access to dental care throughout the state as a result of an increased workforce.

Besides these recent initiatives, our clinics have always focused on case management to connect their patients with the services they need, and many have extended hours – in fact, our federally funded Community Health Centers are required to do so.

Through increased collaboration and partnerships, a more efficient Kansas health care system is possible. Not only will the Medicaid program reap financial benefits, but patients will experience a simpler, more comprehensive system to navigate. The first step is to break down the silos and roll up our shirtsleeves together.

KAMU Receives Champions Project Award

KAMU received an award of \$2,500 for the Champions Project, an online mini-grant contest presented by Delta Dental of Kansas and the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation in May. As a part of the contest, KAMU submitted a proposal that met one or more of the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation criteria, which included a focus on prevention, a significant or large impact, and sustainable solutions.

The organizations that applied were featured on the Delta Dental of Kansas Foundation's website throughout April where visitors voted for their favorite organization. The four organizations that received the most votes and received a \$2,500 mini-grant were Douglas County Dental Clinic, KAMU, Wichita Children's Home, and Wichita State University. KAMU used the awarded funds to pay for dentures for safety net clinic patients who are unable to afford the cost.

Governor Brownback Donates Inaugural Funds

Organizations Benefit From Leftover Inaugural Funds

During the planning of his inauguration festivities, Governor Sam Brownback decided he wanted to donate the leftover inaugural funds to several different charities. After checking with the Governmental Ethics Committee, he found state law required any leftover funds must go to upkeep of the governor's mansion. During the 2011 Legislative session, Senate Bill 67 was approved to allow Kansas governors to donate unspent inauguration funds to charitable organizations that qualify as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation.

At the May 16th ceremony signing the bill into law, Governor Brownback made an announcement that KAMU was one of eight organizations who would receive a portion of the leftover funds. Other organizations receiving funds were:

- Friends of Cedar Crest Association
- Jayhawk Area Council Boy Scouts of America
- Rescue Missions in Emporia, Salina, Topeka, and Wichita
- Kansas Dental Charitable Foundation
- Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland
- Power Community Development Corporation (Dunbar Theatre)
- Kansas Arts Foundation



KAMU members watch as Governor Sam Brownback signs Senate Bill 67

KAMU Board President Accepts Check for Kansas Safety Net Clinics



KAMU Board President Dave Sanford (GraceMed Health Clinic) accepts a check from Governor Sam Brownback

KAMU members and staff were honored to attend a reception at Cedar Crest, the Governor's mansion the evening of June 9th. After a welcome speech, Governor Brownback announced his donation of \$50,000 from the money leftover from his inaugural fund. Dave Sanford of GraceMed Health Clinic in Wichita and KAMU Board President accepted the donation.

KAMU members each had the opportunity to introduce themselves and visit with the governor about the work being done in their clinics.

Following the reception, KAMU Board members decided to combine the money with the funds appropriated by the Legislature for the State Capital Improvement Grant (CIG) program. CIG is an annual grant program managed by KAMU that allows clinics to participate in a competitive application process to receive funding for capital improvement projects. Clinics do not have to be a member of KAMU to receive this funding, but must receive state primary care funding through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

KAMU Welcomes New Staff



Jason Wesco

Jason Wesco joined KAMU in June as the new Deputy Director. Jason came to KAMU from the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas where he served as Chief Operations Officer for five years. He has also served as the Executive Director of the Douglas County Dental Clinic and as KAMU's Director of Operations and Community Development. Jason brings tremendous knowledge of many facets of Community Health Center and safety net clinic operations and challenges. He supervises staff and works with member clinics in all program specific areas, including workforce development, training/technical assistance, dental operations, and clinical quality initiatives.

Melanie Lira

Melanie Lira joined KAMU in September as the new Workforce Specialist. She has over eight years in marketing, advertising and public relations experience and has worked in radio, newspaper, and state government. Melanie holds a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications degree from Kansas State University. She works with recruitment and the Student/Resident Experiences and Rotations in Community Health (SEARCH) program at KAMU. Melanie currently lives in Topeka with her husband and two children.



Sheldon Weisgrau

Sheldon Weisgrau joined KAMU in May as the Director of the Health Reform Resource Project. The project is funded through a grant to KAMU by Kansas Grant makers in Health (KGIH), comprised of the Sunflower Foundation, REACH Healthcare Foundation, Kansas Health Foundation, United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, and Healthcare Foundation of Greater Kansas City. The Health Reform Resource Project supports the implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Kansas and ensures that consumers are adequately represented, and will provide enhanced access, quality, and value of health services for Kansans.



Sheldon has more than 25 years of experience in health policy and research in the public, private, and not-for-profit sectors. During that time, he has worked with a variety of stakeholders to build systems that ensure access to care, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

Oral Health Kansas and KAMU 2011 Conference: Working Together for Overall Health

Over 150 KAMU members, dentists, dental hygienists, dental students, and others interested in oral health attended the Oral Health Kansas and KAMU 2011 Joint Conference **Working Together for Overall Health**. The conference was held September 14 - 16 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park. The keynote speaker W. Mitchell challenged the attendees to think beyond their job description and face the realities of the ever changing health care delivery system. Other general sessions included a discussion with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Innovations in Understanding the Dental Workforce, Inside Look at Public Policy, Dental Community Collaborative Practical Model, Cultural Competency, and many more. Attendees had the option to participate in multiple breakout sessions and an exhibitor reception as well. The conference provided a time for individuals to get together for discussion, learning, and networking. To view handouts from our sessions, visit www.kamuonline.org/conference.php.

Dental Hub Funders Recognized

During the KAMU and Oral Health Kansas 2011 Conference **Working Together for Overall Health**, KAMU recognized funders of the Dental Hub project during an award luncheon on September 16th. The Dental Hub was a concept developed by KAMU in 2006 with the goal of building clinic capacity to provide services to more patients across the state. Clinics applied to receive the funding for the program, which occurred from 2007 until 2010. Eight Dental Hubs were located in Lyon, Crawford, Geary, Sedgwick, Reno, Ellis, and Finney counties, along with nine spokes located in Allen, Crawford, Cherokee, Riley, Sedgwick, Ford, and Seward Counties. During this time, the Dental Hubs saw a 244% increase in the number of oral examinations. KAMU again thanks the following funders:

- **Reach Healthcare Foundation**
- **Sunflower Foundation**
- **United Methodist Health Ministry Fund**
- **Kansas Department of Health and Environment**
- **Delta Dental Foundation of Kansas**
- **Kansas Health Foundation**

KAMU Receives Oral Health Kansas Award

KAMU received the Oral Health Kansas Excellence in Oral Health Award for Outstanding Organization, which was presented during the award luncheon on September 16th at the KAMU and Oral Health Kansas 2011 Conference **Working Together for Overall Health**. The award was given to KAMU for the Kansas Urgent Dental Care Program, which KAMU administered in 2010 in partnership with SRS. This program was created to provide free comprehensive dental care to adults over 18 with one or more dependents, no private dental insurance, and a household income less than \$56,857 per year.

Executive Director Cathy Harding and Chief Quality Officer Chris English accepted the award. The three month long program allowed over 1,600 patients to receive over \$1,017,000 in care.

KAMU Awarded DentaQuest Grant

KAMU received a \$100,000 grant in September from DentaQuest Foundation, an organization located in Boston, Massachusetts that supports and promotes optimal oral health. The funding is specifically for primary care associations with only five grants awarded nationally. The goal of the funding is to strengthen the capacity of dental clinic operations in Kansas Community Health Centers.

As a part of the funding, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (Pittsburg), Flint Hills Community Health Center (Emporia), GraceMed Health Clinic (Wichita), Salina Family HealthCare Center (Salina), and United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries (Garden City) will work with consultants from Safety Net Solutions to evaluate and make recommendations on the needs of each clinic. Safety Net Solutions provides individualized technical assistance to help oral health safety net programs balance mission and business to better serve patients. The members will also work on integrating oral health into their clinics.

In addition, a Kansas Dental Executive Network will be formed in November and will be open to any KAMU member clinic with a dental program. The network will discuss best practices, growth strategies, and how to make oral health programs in our clinics stronger.

The grant, which started October 1, 2011 will last for one year, with a potential for another year of funding.

Staff Present at Association of Community Mental Health Centers Annual Conference

Two KAMU staff presented at the Association of Community Mental Health Centers Annual Conference in September. The conference, **World of Possibilities**, was attended by individuals from Community Mental Health Centers and other mental health providers.

Chris English, Chief Quality Officer, collaborated with Gina Maree, co-founder of the Trauma Healing and Recovery Institute, to speak at the breakout session **Patient Centered Medical Home and Trauma Informed Care**. Patient Centered Medical Home is a health care setting that focuses on facilitating the partnerships between patients and their physicians, assuring patients get the indicated care when and where they need it. "The conference was a wonderful opportunity to discuss integration and potentially expand primary care into a mental health model," stated Chris.

Connie Hubbell, Director of Governmental Affairs, spoke at the breakout session **Filling the Gap - A Statewide Plan To Address Dental Access in Kansas**. She provided an overview of the Registered Dental Practitioner (RDP), which is a mid level dentist, much like a Physician Assistant or Advance Registered Nurse Practitioner in the medical field. An RDP must be a licensed dental hygienist who is also a graduate of a registered dental practitioner program and will be supervised by a licensed dentist to provide a defined scope of practice. Connie's presentation included a summary of the project, the need for RDP in Kansas, the educational qualifications, recommended scope of practice, practice locations, program requirements, and an update on the RDP legislation. As Connie stated during her presentation, "This proposal will increase access to safe and quality dental care and improve the lives of our most vulnerable Kansans."

Primary Care Safety Net Clinic Week Events

Every August, KAMU and our members celebrate Primary Care Safety Net Clinic Week. This year, the week kicked off with Governor Sam Brownback signing a proclamation, stating Primary Care Safety Net Clinic Week was to be observed August 7 - 13, 2011. Many KAMU members took the opportunity throughout the week to meet and speak with state legislators, as well as hold events for their communities. Some of these events included:

Duchesne Clinic (Kansas City)

- Legislative Lunch and Learn

First Care Clinic (Hays)

- Ribbon Cutting Event

Flint Hills Community Health Center (Emporia)

- Open House

Health Care Access (Lawrence)

- Volunteer Appreciation Reception
- Open House

Health Ministries Clinic (Newton)

- Appreciation Breakfast
- Open House
- Patient Picnic
- Hopefest Back to School Fair

Health Partnership Clinic (Olathe)

- Twist and Shout Party for Partnership Fundraiser

Hunter Health Clinic (Wichita)

- Grand Opening at Inter-Faith Ministries

Salina Family HealthCare Center (Salina)

- Jerry Ivey Memorial Park Cook Out and Activities

St. Vincent Clinic (Leavenworth)

- Clinic Anniversary Reception and Awards Ceremony

Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center (Topeka)

- Featured Guest at Midweek Farmer's Market

United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries (Garden City)

- Health Screenings, Tours, and Coloring Contest



Proclamation signing with Governor Brownback

In addition to attending many member events, KAMU hosted a Congressional Delegation luncheon, where representatives from four of the six congressional offices attended. The luncheon, held at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka, provided a chance for KAMU and several members to visit with and educate the attendees about the work our clinics do and the communities they serve.



KAMU Congressional Delegation Luncheon

Dave Sanford (GraceMed Health Clinic), Riley Scott (Senator Moran's office), Gilda Lintz (Senator Roberts's office), Ashley Myer (Congressman Huelskamp's office), Heidi Cashman (Congressman Yoder's office), Amanda Lowe (Health Partnership Clinic), and Cathy Harding (KAMU)

Safety Net Clinics Receive Capital Improvement Grants

Eight primary care safety net clinics in Kansas were awarded funds through a state-funded Capital Improvement Grant Program (CIG), developed and managed by KAMU. Through the 2011 Kansas Legislature, \$200,000 was appropriated for the CIG Program. On July 8, 2011 the KAMU Board of Directors appropriated an additional \$50,000 to the CIG Grant Program from Governor Brownback's donation to KAMU from his inaugural funds. A grand total of \$250,000 was awarded this year. These funds will be used to increase the capacity of the safety net clinics so that more underserved Kansans receive care.

The clinics, which are located throughout the state, submitted proposals to purchase equipment, renovate or expand their facilities, construct a new building or purchase major health information technology, such as electronic medical records. The grants augment funds the clinics will provide from their own resources and fundraising efforts. This year's CIG funding will leverage over \$2.1 million in additional capital project costs.

The following awards were made:

<u>Clinics</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Project</u>
Center for Health and Wellness (Wichita)	\$17,770	Phone System Equipment
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (Pittsburg)	\$50,000	Building Expansion/Renovation
GraceMed Health Clinic (Wichita)	\$50,000	New Building
Guadalupe Clinic (Wichita)	\$45,000	Building Expansion/Renovation
Health Partnership Clinic (Overland Park)	\$46,902	Building Expansion/Renovation
Heart of Kansas Family Health Care (Great Bend)	\$12,873	Clinic Equipment
Heartland Community Health Center (Lawrence)	\$24,250	IT Project
Hunter Health Clinic (Wichita)	\$3,205	Building Expansion/Renovation

In 2010, KAMU's member clinics provided care for over 223,000 Kansans who live in or near poverty.

KU Health Partners/Silver City Health Center Receives Patient Centered Medical Home Recognition

KAMU congratulates KU Health Partners/Silver City Health Center for being awarded the **National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home recognition.**

Patient Centered Medical Home is a health care setting that facilitates partnerships between individual patients and their personal physicians. The goal is to assure patients get the indicated care when and where they need and want it in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner.

The recognition, received in April, is valid for three years. The clinic has the distinction as the first medical practice of any kind in Kansas to earn this level of Patient Centered Medical Home recognition.



Mary Virden
 KU Health Partners/Silver City Health Center

Heart of Kansas Family Health Care Open House

Heart of Kansas Family Health Care in Great Bend celebrated the completion of their clinic expansion project with an open house in June. The building is now 12,000 square feet, which doubled its size, and added eight exam rooms for a total of 17. To complete the project, the clinic received U.S. Department of Health and Human Services stimulus funding and a USDA Rural Development Loan for a combined amount of approximately \$890,000.

“It is our responsibility to take good care of people,” said Mary Miles, Chief Executive Officer. “We like what we do. We’re happy to be here.”



*Mary Miles, CEO of
Heart of Kansas Family Health Care*

Health Partnership Clinic Open House

More than 100 guests attended Health Partnership Clinic’s open house at the newly relocated Olathe facility in May. Guests enjoyed a ribbon cutting, hosted by the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, along with tours of the new facility. Those who attended included staff, board members, donors, stakeholders, community representatives, and others involved with the relocation project. Success of the project is due in large part to the clinic's various partners, including the Kansas Legislature.

Through the Capital Improvement grants administered by KAMU, the Kansas Legislature provided funds to purchase dental equipment. This support, along with the support of many others will allow the Clinic to provide care for 1,000 additional patients annually.



*Ribbon cutting at Health Partnership Clinic’s
Grand Opening Event*

Health Ministries Clinic Ribbon Cutting

Health Ministries Clinic in Newton celebrated the completion of a new sign, entry way, and waiting room through the work of donations and volunteer support. They celebrated with a ribbon cutting hosted by the Newton Area Chamber of Commerce in October.

Board President Jo Kasitz said in a news release, “We are very thankful for our donors, volunteers, and staff for working with us in making this happen. We are truly enjoying the success of 20 years of service to this community.”



*Ribbon cutting at Health Ministries Clinic’s
Grand Opening Event*

Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center Welcomes New Executive Director



Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center recently announced the appointment of Alice Weingartner as their new Executive Director. Ms. Weingartner began working for the Health Agency in October 2001 as the Community Relations Specialist and was promoted to Deputy Director in 2006. She holds a Masters of Education from Wichita State University. Much of her career prior to joining the Health Agency was spent in program planning in a variety of areas. KAMU would like to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Weingartner.

Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center Ribbon Cutting

The Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center held a ribbon cutting at their new clinic site in October. The \$2.3 million clinic located at 2025 SE California Avenue in Topeka offers better lighting, over 8,300 square feet, 12 exam rooms, and four physicians. It will replace the clinic located in the Hillcrest Community Center, which had only 2,220 square feet of clinic space.

In an interview with the Topeka Capital-Journal, Alice Weingartner, Executive Director of Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center said, "Health care needs continue to rise, and with our new clinic, we will be able to better serve those who need our services. We understand the relationship quality health care has on quality of life and look forward to continuing that service to our community."



Ribbon cutting at Shawnee County Health Agency - Community Health Center Ribbon Cutting

The clinic, which offers primary medical care services, opened Monday, October 24.

Flint Hills Community Health Center Welcomes New CEO

Flint Hills Community Health Center welcomed new Chief Executive Officer Phillip Davis in August. Prior to this position, Mr. Davis spent the last eight years as the Chief Financial Officer at Missouri Ozarks Community Health in Ava, Missouri. He also has served on the Douglas County Health Department Board in Ava since 2006 and as the chairman of the Board of Health since 2007. He is active in his church as a youth director as well. Mr. Davis holds a Bachelors of Science in Accounting and an MBA with a Health Administration concentration from Southwest Baptist University in Bolivar, Missouri. KAMU would like to extend a warm welcome to Mr. Davis.

Two KAMU Members Receive School Based Federal Grant

GraceMed Health Clinic in Wichita and Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg received funding through a school based federal grant from the Health Resources and Service Administration in July.

GraceMed Health Clinic was awarded \$500,000 and will work with USD 259 Wichita Public Schools and the Sedgwick County Health Department, who also received funding, toward construction of three school based health clinics. Their plan is to replace the existing Healthy Children's Clinic at Lincoln Elementary in south Wichita, build a new clinic at Cloud Elementary to replace the Evergreen Clinic in northwest Wichita, and build a new clinic at Dodge Elementary School in west Wichita. Each clinic will have room for three medical providers and will offer preventive dental services.

Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas was awarded \$370,000 to purchase and equip a mobile medical van and will partner with USD 250 Pittsburg Community Schools. The van will be dedicated to improving the overall health and wellness of children through health screenings, health promotion, and disease prevention activities, as well as to reduce absenteeism and help children with acute or chronic illnesses attend school.

Clinics Receive Grant to Expand Access to Health Care

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration announced in August that GraceMed Health Clinic of Wichita and Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas received funding to help establish new health center delivery sites to care for additional patients. There were a total of 67 Community Health Centers across the United States that received funding out of more than 800 applications, which was made available by the Affordable Care Act.

GraceMed Health Clinic was awarded \$525,000 with plans to open a new satellite clinic in Sedgwick County. Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas was awarded \$275,000 with plans to open a new satellite clinic in Montgomery County.

Communities Receive Community Health Center Planning Grant

In September, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration announced Health Ministries Clinic in Newton was one of three in Kansas to receive a Community Health Center Planning Grant. The funds, made available by the Affordable Care Act, support development of the organization as a future Community Health Center and will help them plan for a comprehensive primary care Community Health Center to provide care for underserved Kansans. Two other communities that received funding were Cowley County Health Department in Winfield and Labette County Medical Center in Parsons.

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