

# Primary Connection

## Chrysanne Grund Named 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader

Chrysanne Grund of Greeley County Health Services in Sharon Springs, a KAMU member, was named a 2011 Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leader. The award honors exceptional men and women who have overcome significant obstacles to tackle some of the most challenging health and health care problems facing their communities.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation in New Jersey initiated the award in 1991. The annual recognition is given to 10 unsung and unusually resourceful people working in communities across the country to improve health and access to care for underserved and often disenfranchised populations.

As the project director of Greeley County Health Services, Grund has dedicated her life to helping residents of her western Kansas community access quality health care. When she pursued bringing a dentist to her clinics, she found a state law required the dentist to own his or her office and work in that space at least half of the time. She was instrumental in securing a “frontier exception” to this legislation, which allows hospitals to hire a dentist in counties that have less than 50,000 residents.

Grund started the Greeley-Wallace County Healthcare Foundation to help increase access to medical care in the future. The Foundation



*Chrysanne Grund  
Greeley County Health Services*

raises funds for cancer patients and created a scholarship fund for local residents to pursue a career in health care.

On November 9th, Grund and nine other recipients received the award during a dinner and reception in Baltimore, Maryland. The award brings both local and national recognition of Grund and the work she does on behalf of Greeley County Health Services.

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## Message from the Executive Director

Nearly everyone is familiar with the saying, “another day, another dollar.” In the healthcare field, a more appropriate saying might be, “another year, another major change” — or more accurately, *many* changes.

As we enter 2012 and look ahead to this year, there is much to anticipate...and also reason to have a great deal of uncertainty. Following are major issues that will impact us all in 2012:



1. **The Supreme Court will rule on the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act (ACA).** Scheduled to be heard in March with a final decision expected in June, the outcome of this case will likely define the future of health care in the United States. At stake predominantly is the constitutionality of the “individual mandate” requiring all Americans to have some health insurance or coverage (such as Medicaid or Medicare). Also at question is if this section of the law can be removed, leaving the remainder in place.

In Kansas, much of the planning to implement some facets of the ACA — such as a Health Insurance Exchange — has been slowed or stopped while awaiting this court ruling. If the ACA is upheld by the Supreme Court, Kansas will have a tremendous volume of work to do in a very short timeframe. If it is declared unconstitutional, we are left with the health care system currently in place, with its escalating costs and pricey health insurance premiums that more and more people cannot afford. Either way, this ruling is one of the most important in decades.

2. **Managed Care will be expanded in Kansas to include all Medicaid beneficiaries.** Within a matter of months we’ll know what managed care organizations (MCOs) will receive contracts with the State of Kansas to manage the care of all people enrolled in Medicaid (rather than just the CHIP population as is currently the case), with the overarching goal of reducing costs and improving health outcomes. This is no small thing. As they say, if it was easy, we’d already be doing it.

The number and variety of MCOs eyeing this contract — which has the potential to become monumental if the Supreme Court ruling upholds the ACA and its requirement to expand Medicaid, and merely huge if not — is impressive. The State of Kansas should have a number of options to consider that will ensure quality services and optimum outcomes.

3. **More people will need safety net clinic services in 2012.** The news on the economy lately has been positive, yet many national experts have expressed caution in assuming that our economy is quickly recovering. The unemployment rate for December of 8.5% is encouraging, but some experts dispute that figure because it does not include “marginally attached workers” — those who have become discouraged. When these are included, some estimate the true unemployment rate at over 20%.

The good news for the Kansas Legislature is that revenues have exceeded projections for the past few months, so the budget debate may not be as difficult as it was last year. There will be an opportunity to strategically invest more dollars in some areas without necessarily having to cut in others. Our Community Health Centers and Primary Care Clinics, which have seen significant growth in the number of patients served the past three years without additional state funding, are certainly worthy of this investment.

## New Officers and Members Elected to KAMU Board of Directors

### KAMU Board of Directors Elects Officers

The KAMU Board of Directors elected new officers at the January meeting. Dave Sanford (GraceMed Health Clinic in Wichita) was elected president for a second term and Julie Branstrom (Douglas County Dental Clinic in Lawrence) was elected Secretary. Other officers are Stephanie Waggoner (United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries in Garden City) as Vice President and Amy Falk (Duchesne Clinic in Kansas City and St. Vincent Clinic in Leavenworth) as Treasurer. Each position serves a term of two years.

### KAMU Announces New Members to Board of Directors

KAMU members elected the following individuals to the KAMU Board of Directors in January:

- **Ann Feil**, Salina Family HealthCare Center (Salina)
- **Douglas Stuckey**, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (Pittsburg)
- **Schaunta James-Boyd**, E.C. Tyree Health and Dental Clinic (Wichita)
- **Lee Wolf**, Konza Prairie Community Health Center (Junction City)

## 2012 Legislative Platform

The KAMU Legislative Committee and Board of Directors has adopted the following Legislative platform for 2012:

### 1. Funding

*It is imperative that the Kansas Legislature increase the funding for Kansas primary care safety net clinics in FY 2013.*

- Access to primary and preventive health care for all uninsured and vulnerable populations in Kansas is the top priority for KAMU.
- Enhanced funding to safety net clinics helps vulnerable populations receive person centered care.
- Continued support of safety net clinics in Kansas will increase capacity and provide a 10:1 return on the state investment.

### 2. Medicaid

*KAMU and its members support, at a minimum, the current Medicaid provider rates and support funding all current services in FY 2013.*

- As the Medicaid population continues to grow, Kansas safety net clinics will see an increase in the number of patients seeking healthcare services.
- Safety net clinics are positioned to be an integral part of the healthcare delivery structure as Medicaid transitions to patient outcomes and quality of care.
- Clinics are the solution to providing quality and affordable healthcare to the Medicaid population.

KAMU's annual Legislative Day is scheduled for February 1, which will include personal visits with legislators by KAMU members from across the state.

## Hunter Health Clinic Celebrates 35th Anniversary

Hunter Health Clinic in Wichita celebrated 35 years of service with a dinner that included entertainment and a silent auction in October. The event, held at the Mid-America All-Indian Center in Wichita, had a theme of “Celebrating Diversity.” Native American, Mexican, South American, and Asian cultures presented a Parade of Cultures featuring music and dance, and local businesses and individuals donated items for the silent auction. The money raised from the event will be used for the new building planned for the main clinic at Central and Grove in Wichita.



Hunter Health Clinic, the oldest and largest Federally Qualified Health Center in the state, opened their doors in 1976. They are the only Urban Indian Health Program in Kansas and are a federally funded Health Care for the Homeless Center in Wichita. In 2010, Hunter Health Clinic delivered over 80,000 patient visits to 28,500 individuals.

## KAMU Welcomes New Clinic Executive Directors

### Marian Clinic (Topeka)

The Marian Clinic Board of Directors has announced the selection of Karily Taylor as Executive Director beginning December 28, 2011. Before joining the Marian Clinic, Taylor served as Regional Director for National Healing Corporation where she achieved outstanding results in performance improvement, financial growth, and physician recruitment. Marian Clinic provides services to uninsured residents in Shawnee County and provided care to nearly 5,000 patients in 2010.

### Health Partnership Clinic (Overland Park)

Jason Wesco was selected as the Executive Director of Health Partnership Clinic beginning January 25, 2012. Wesco has worked at KAMU since June 2011 as the Deputy Director, and was the Chief Operations Officer of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg for five years prior to joining the KAMU staff. Health Partnership Clinic serves uninsured residents of Johnson County and provided care to nearly 4,000 patients in 2010.

## Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas Participates in Research

The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas (CHC/SEK) was selected by the Forsyth Institute to participate in conducting research of assessing and improving clinical and cost effectiveness of existing rural school based tooth decay prevention programs. Four separate entities are conducting the research in Colorado, Kansas, Maine, and New Hampshire, which includes 10 rural counties in 67 elementary schools with approximately 10,000 children (half of which participate in the free/reduced lunch program and do not have water fluoridation).

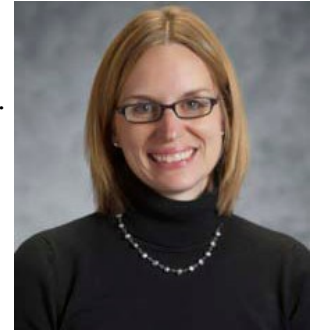
The Forsyth Institute, located in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was founded in 1910 as a dental infirmary for disadvantaged children. They have a history of not just meeting the oral health needs of children, but exceeding the traditional limits of oral medicine.

For participating, CHC/SEK will receive training and equipment to help them with their research. The study will track outcomes for five years, and could potentially affect health policy on a national level.

## Dr. Bean Selected for Sunflower Advocacy Fellow Class of 2012

Dr. Linda Bean, Chief Medical Officer and Medical Director of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg, is one of 15 Fellows in the Sunflower Foundation 2012 Advocacy Fellowship class that began in November 2011.

The Sunflower Foundation Advocacy Fellowship helps leaders in health-related nonprofit organizations develop the understanding, experience, and expertise they need to become powerful voices for the Kansans they serve. The 12 month course has six sessions throughout the year where they learn effective advocacy strategies and how to engage in public policy at the local, state, and national levels.



## Two KAMU Members Accepted into the KU Medical Center Community Health Center Executive Fellowship Program



Heidi Lowry, Executive Director of Rawlins County Dental Clinic in Atwood, and Deb Kiker, Executive Director of Community Health Ministry Clinic in Wamego, were both accepted into the current University of Kansas (KU) Medical Center Community Health Center Executive Fellowship Program, which started in January.

The program was developed by KAMU and the KU Medical Center to address the need for succession planning at Community Health Centers. It is an 11 month course that provides education and skill development in key areas of management competency and executive leadership. In addition to assisting existing health centers with succession planning, the fellowship provides management development for new centers.

## Douglas County Dental Clinic Hosts Free Dental Day

The Douglas County Dental Clinic in Lawrence held its fourth annual day of free dental care on September 30, 2011. Seventy-five patients received exams and x-rays, 46 were treated that day with the remaining patients being scheduled to receive care in the following weeks. Nine area dentists volunteered to provide these services.

People began arriving at 9:00 the evening before and all available appointments were filled by 6:00 the morning of the event. The clinic offers the free dental day to help the many people who cannot afford even the reduced fees of their clinic. The average value of care provided per patient at the event was \$210 with a total estimated value of \$21,175.

Two other Lawrence KAMU members, Health Care Access and Heartland Community Health Center, also participated in the event and provided 31 wellness exams. Other services offered that day were flu shots through the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department, HIV tests through the Douglas County AIDS Project, and breast exams through Early Detection Works, a cancer prevention and control program through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

## Community Health Centers Receive Federal Quality Improvement and Patient Centered Medical Home Funding

Nine Community health Centers throughout the state each received \$35,000 through a grant application process from the Health Resources and Services Administration in September. The funding will be used to enhance Quality Improvement systems and become a Patient Centered Medical Home by 2014.

Patient Centered Medical Home is a care delivery model designed to improve quality of care through enhanced access, planning, management, and monitoring of care. 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 following KAMU members received funding through these initiatives:

- **Center for Health and Wellness**, Wichita
- **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas**, Pittsburg
- **First Care Clinic**, Hays
- **GraceMed Health Clinic**, Wichita
- **Konza Prairie Community Health Center**, Junction City
- **PrairieStar Health Center**, Hutchinson
- **Salina Family HealthCare Center**, Salina
- **Shawnee County Health Agency/Community Health Center**, Topeka
- **United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries**, Garden City

## KAMU Members Receive Affordable Care Act Opportunity Fund Grants

Seven KAMU members recently received a grant through the Affordable Care Act Opportunity Fund to help Kansas organizations prepare for health reform. Nine total grants were awarded for a total of \$244,800. The grant program, established by the Kansas Grantmakers in Health (KGIH), helps Kansas organizations secure resources and funding available through the Affordable Care Act. The KGIH was created by the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City, the Kansas Health Foundation, the REACH Healthcare Foundation, the Sunflower Foundation, and the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund. KAMU members that received funding are:

- **Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas**, Pittsburg (\$29,500)
- **First Care Clinic**, Hays (\$21,800)
- **Flint Hills Community Health Center**, Emporia (\$28,500)
- **GraceMed Health Clinic**, Wichita (\$30,000)
- **Konza Prairie Community Health Center**, Junction City (\$30,000)
- **PrairieStar Health Center**, Hutchinson (\$30,000)
- **Salina Family HealthCare Center**, Salina (\$15,000)

## Marian Clinic Receives Award

The Marian Clinic of Topeka, a KAMU member, was presented with the prestigious Bal Jeffrey Award by the Stormont-Vail Foundation Board of Trustees in October at a special award banquet. The award is named for Balfour S. Jeffrey, Stormont-Vail's longest tenured board member, and recognizes individuals or groups who have made significant contributions to health care in northeast Kansas.

Marian Clinic provides primary medical, laboratory, translation, pharmaceutical, mental health, dental, and nutrition/health education services to uninsured residents in Shawnee County. They partner with nearly 300 volunteer physicians, dentists, nurses, medical and dental practices, and other clerical volunteers.

# *Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved*

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*Primary Connection is published by KAMU with funding in whole from HRSA, The Bureau of Primary Health Care.*