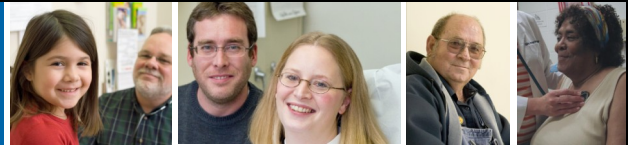


Dedicated to Increasing Access to
Primary Health Care for Underserved Kansans



Primary Connection

June 2010



The Benefits of Opening a New Health Care Center Site



Better Health, Better Choices in Your Community

A new health center or access point in a community is good news because more people will have access to quality, affordable health care through a health care home. Widened access to preventive care brings better public health through the whole health care approach of treating people before they become sick. A health center constantly tailors its approach to meet the public health needs of the community, whether that need is diabetes, pesticides or an antibiotic resistant staph infection. How this is accomplished is through a patient-majority governing board that determines how the health care services are delivered. The health center approach is as unique and diverse as the community it serves. A new health center in the neighborhood means fewer unmet medical needs in your community and more health care choices for consumers, whether they have an insurance card or not. The quality of health care services is the same for everyone once they walk in the door.

Lower Health Care Costs for Your Community

Lower health care costs are also an added benefit of having a health center in your community. Medical expenses for health center patients are 41% lower compared to patients seen elsewhere – \$1,810 per person annually. By keeping health care costs to a minimum, health centers are generating cost savings for the entire health care system. Nationwide, Community Health Centers save the health care system between \$9.9 and \$17.6 billion a year.

More Jobs

Health centers are good for the local economy, purchasing goods and services from local businesses, generating capital development projects and creating jobs. Community Health Centers have an overall economic impact of \$12.6 billion and produced 143,000 jobs across the nation.



Chief Resource Officer Cayla Wright Attends Coding Boot Camp

“A good objective of leadership is to help those who are doing poorly to do well and to help those who are doing well to do even better” – Jim Rohn

This month I had the opportunity to participate in the BKD National Health Care Group, Community Health Center Billing Manager Boot Camp. This three and a half day intense course reviewed the key objectives of a successful billing department. Curriculum covered a wide range of topics including revenue cycle, policy and procedure development and compliance.

Rebekah Wallace, CMPE, CPC, MCS-P, creator of this course, walked us through each topic allowing ample time for questions and problem solving conversations. She managed to keep the participants on task while having fun; the experience was enjoyable. KAMU is making plans to offer this course to member clinics in the near future.

In this Issue:

At the Association

Message from the Executive Director
KAMU Welcomes Chris English
Progress with KDHE Oral Health Workforce

Member News

Health Care Access Opens in New Location
Health Care Access Launches Emergency
Medical Records System
Marian Clinic receives \$50,000
Marian Clinics “Gifts That Save Lives” Campaign
Third Annual Open Wider Golf Tournament Benefits
Douglas County Dental Clinic
Wichita “Give Kids A Smile” Event
Hunter Health Receives \$300,000 from HHS Grant
UMMAM Expands Dental Services
Millie Hill, Board Member for Heart of Kansas Health Care
Flint Hills Health Open House and Ribbon Cutting
Salina Family Healthcare Center Dental Clinic
Salina Health Begins Group Education Sessions for
Pregnant Patients
Clinicians Corner
How Prepared Are You?
AmeriCorp Seattle Success
KAMU 2010 Recruitment and Retention Workshop
Tabletop Disaster Exercises for Health Care
Providers
American Academy of Pediatrics Offers
Free Prevention Resources

Message from the Executive Director

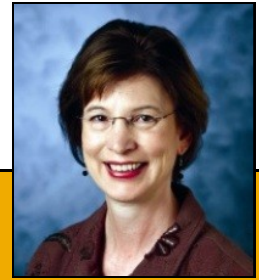
National health reform – also known as the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 – is now law. Although the debate will likely continue for some time on whether the law will have a positive or negative impact on the country overall, what we do know is that the health care environment we're familiar with is going to change.

Some people have asked if our safety net clinics will still be needed, since so many more people will have some form of health care coverage when reform is fully implemented. The simple answer: Absolutely! Although health reform will significantly decrease the number of uninsured in Kansas, estimates from the Kansas Health Policy Authority suggest that approximately 144,000 people will remain uninsured after reform is fully enacted. Although this is a major improvement over the 335,000 estimated uninsured now in the state, there will obviously still be many people without health care coverage and who are challenged to access affordable health care services.

Another challenge for the health care system will be the growth in the number of Medicaid beneficiaries by approximately 131,000 people. In some parts of the state the number of private physician practices with the capacity to increase the patient base is very limited, and in other areas there are not enough practices that are accepting additional Medicaid patients. Although health care coverage is directly correlated to access to care, it does not guarantee it in areas where there are simply not enough physicians. The entire health care system – including the safety net clinics – will need to expand its capacity in order to adjust from a population that only seeks urgent care to one that will receive ongoing care at a medical home.

Finally, although health care coverage provided through the planned 'health information exchanges' will certainly expand the number of people with some type of health care coverage, the five different levels of coverage available will most certainly mean that underinsurance will still be present for some people. For them, the out-of-pocket costs may still present a barrier to accessing care. By receiving health care services at a safety net clinic that uses a sliding fee scale based upon income, health care will remain affordable.

If the health reform enacted in Massachusetts several years ago is a predictor of what the safety net clinics can expect, they will be hard pressed to keep up with the demand for care for all the newly covered individuals. The new challenge in health care at that time may well shift toward ensuring an adequate workforce to meet the needs of the thousands of Kansans who have been uninsured, and who will be entering the health care market for the first time.



Primary Connection

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY
Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved
1129 South Kansas Ave., Suite B
Topeka, Kansas 66612
Office: 785.233.8483
Fax: 785.233.8403

KAMU BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Krista Postai, President
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
Dave Sanford, Vice President
GraceMed Health Clinic
Amanda Lowe, Secretary
Health Partnership of Johnson County
Amy Falk, Treasurer
Caritas Clinics (Duchesne and St. Vincent)

CLINICAL REPRESENTATIVE

Mary Miles
Heart of Kansas Family Health Care, Inc.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mary Virden
KU Health Partners/Silver City Health Center
Stephanie Waggoner
United Methodist Mexican-American Ministry
Lee Wolf
Konza Prairie Community Health Center
Liz Conrade
Flint Hills Community Health Center
Julie Branstrom
Douglas County Dental Clinic

KAMU STAFF

Cathy Harding, Executive Director
Kendra Poole, Chief Financial Officer/Chief Operations Officer
Chris English, Chief Quality Officer
Cayla Wright, Chief Resource Officer
Dan Elliott, Chief Information Officer
Connie Hubbell, Director of Governmental Affairs
Erin Scaper, Program Manager, Clinic Services & Workforce Development
Heather Dirk, Member Resource Coordinator
Barbara Hersh, Communications Coordinator
Kari Mwathi, Administrative Assistant

Founded in 1989 and incorporated as a 501(c)3 in 1990, the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) became recognized nationally as the State Primary Care Association (PCA) in 1991. As the PCA, KAMU represents 42 members, including 40 safety net clinics. In this capacity, KAMU represents a diverse group of organizations. Membership includes public and private non-profit primary care clinics; federally qualified health centers; local health departments; and the Statewide Farmworker Health Program.

Publication funding provided in whole from HRSA,
The Bureau of Primary Health Care.

At the Association

KAMU Welcomes Chief Quality Officer Chris English

Chris English joined the staff at KAMU on April 26 and will be working with clinics in the areas of Quality Improvement and Emergency Preparedness. He came to KAMU with approximately 15 years of Medicaid experience, working for both fiscal agents Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas as well as SRS and KHPA. During that time English held a number of positions from a Medicaid Liaison, in which he worked directly with the beneficiaries, to the Senior Manager for Managed Care with oversight of the Medicaid and CHIP managed care companies. He has experience in developing and reviewing quality initiatives of the MCOs, and worked directly with the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care as the External Quality Review Organization for Medicaid.



Chief Quality Officer Chris English

“I will be visiting each clinic within the next few months to get a feel for internal operations, to discuss quality initiatives, and ascertain how I can best help the organizations”, said English. “KDHE stated the need for involvement of safety net clinics in the Emergency Preparedness Plan of each county, which has been greatly underestimated and became apparent during the H1N1 outbreak.” English has been asked to help improve the plans currently in place and help develop the plans with the clinics.

“I look forward to helping ensure that Kansas remains a safe place to work, raise our children, and receive high quality health care,” said English.



KAMU Workforce Development Specialist Erin Scrapper

KAMU Progress with KDHE Oral Health Workforce

Through collaboration with the University of Missouri Kansas City, School of Dentistry (UMKC), the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) helps place UMKC dental students in rotations at Kansas safety net dental clinics. The Kansas safety net dental clinics are located in underserved, health professional shortage areas in Kansas. It has been shown that early entry of primary care dental providers into the delivery of care helps form a framework for future career choices. Appropriate practice opportunities for students in rural and underserved areas can serve as powerful tools for communities to increase the potential for recruitment and retention.

In the Fall of 2009 and Spring of 2010, 26 third- and fourth-year UMKC dental students participated in one-week dental rotations at Kansas safety net dental clinics, including rotations at Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Pittsburg; Hunter Health Clinic, Wichita; Flint Hills Community Health Center, Emporia and Marian Dental Clinic, Topeka. With funds from the Bureau of Oral Health, Oral Health Workforce contract, KAMU has been able to reimburse Kansas safety net dental clinics for costs incurred to house the dental students.

Kansas Safety Net Dental Meeting:

In September 2010, KAMU will be hosting the Kansas Safety Net Dental Meeting in Wichita for safety net dentists and support staff. The focus of this meeting will be to establish peer to peer learning among the safety net dental professionals and to gain invaluable information on practicing at a safety net clinic. Dental continuing education credit will be provided.

Dr. Bob Russell, DDS, MPH, Iowa Department of Public Health, Oral Health Bureau, will present “Productivity: How dental clinics can improve their productivity and be financially sound. The ‘recipe’ for a successful practice.” The presentation will specifically discuss productivity levels, payor mix, levels of care: primary, preventative, corrective, etc, no show rates, cost, ratio of filling vs. extraction and discussion on how to collect data.

Dr. Paul Kittle, DDS, will present “The Establishment of a Dental Home for Pediatric Dental Patients.” He will discuss caries risk assessment, anticipatory guidance and behavior management techniques, as well as the importance of working with medical home providers to refer patients.

Keynote Speaker – KAMU Annual Primary Care Conference:

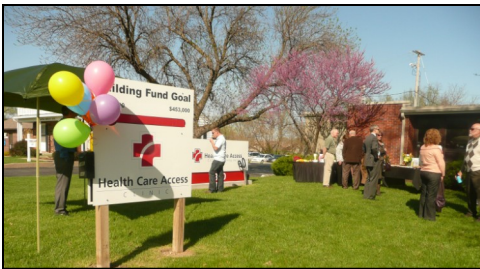
On September 22-24, KAMU will be hosting its Annual Primary Care Conference in Wichita for safety net directors and management staff. Dr. Bob Russell, DDS, MPH, Iowa Department of Public Health, Oral Health Bureau will be a keynote speaker. Dr. Russell will give a shortened version of “Productivity: How dental clinics can improve their productivity and be financially sound. The ‘recipe’ for a successful practice.” Specifically discussing productivity levels, payor mix, levels of care: primary, preventative, corrective, etc, no show rates, cost, ratio of filling vs. extraction and discussion on how to collect data. This is the same presentation the dental clinic staff will hear; this was done intentionally so that upper management and dental clinic staff all hear the same message regarding productivity and how to run a successful practice.

Member News



Left: CEO/Executive Director Nikki King cuts ribbon at Health Care Access clinic open house. Middle: Congresswoman Lynn Jenkins, representing the 2nd District in Kansas and CEO/Executive Director Nikki King open the celebration on April 8. Right and below left: Patients, board members, residents and friends attended the Open House for Health Care Access.

Health Care Access Opens in New Location



[Health Care Access](#), which provides health care services for Douglas County residents, had their open house April 8 at 330 Maine St., Lawrence. The open house celebrated the end of a yearlong process to locate the clinic in a more convenient, bigger space than its former location housed at 1920 Moodie Road. The process involved not only locating a building, but raising \$453,000 renovation work and moving.

The new location provides easier access for patients being referred for labs, x-rays and other health screenings and services, with the hospital across the street. The Douglas County Dental Clinic, another resource for the clinic's patients, is right next door. The new building now provides eight patient exam rooms, a nurse's pool, a reception and records area, a lobby, two restrooms and two administrative office spaces. Additionally, the new space offers a full basement that can be renovated into a staff meeting/lounge area, and currently offers valuable storage space. The clinic opened in its new home on February 16, 2010.

Health Care Access Launches Emergency Medical Records System

Health Care Access launched their premier Electronic Medical Records (EMR) system on May 19. This joint venture with Lawrence Memorial Hospital is bringing about a dozen hospital-affiliated practices online with the Cerner Millennium ambulatory EMR product. CEO Nikki King said, "We are thrilled to provide even better continuity of care and increased quality and efficiency to our local health care system through this partnership".



Sara Engelhardt, 23, of Topeka, smiles as James Johnson, president of the Emma Balsiger Foundation in Abilene, center, hands a check for \$50,000 to Robert Trepinski, executive director of Marian Clinic.

Marian Clinic Receives \$50,000

Reprint from Capital Journal, by Ann Marie Bush

A 23-year-old Washburn University student's diagnosis and treatment of advanced Hodgkin's lymphoma at the Marian Clinic has led to a \$50,000 donation from a stranger. Sara Engelhardt, of Topeka, was working at PT's Coffee Roasting Co. in August 2009 when she noticed a large lump on the right side of her neck. The English major found herself in a difficult situation because she was no longer eligible for health insurance under her parent's policy and she couldn't afford insurance. Engelhardt visited Iris Gonzalez, director of student

health services at Washburn, to discuss her options. Gonzalez referred her to the [Marian clinic](#), which provides a medical and dental service for those living in poverty who lack health insurance.

James Johnson, president of the Emma Balsiger Foundation Inc. in Abilene, heard about Engelhardt's diagnosis and treatment from her grandparents. After some discussion, the foundation decided to give the Marian clinic \$50,000 to assist in its work of helping others like Engelhardt. [Full Story](#)

Member News

Marian Clinics “Gifts that Save Lives” Campaign

The Board of Directors of Marian Clinic announced the start of Marian Clinic “Gifts That Change Lives” Campaign. The campaign hopes to raise \$220,000 to support the Marian Clinic’s mission of providing medical and dental care to those who have no health insurance and live below the federal poverty level. Other community volunteers and local business representatives will assist with the five-month campaign which began in May.



The Marian Clinic was founded over 22 years ago by the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth Health System. Over 200 doctors, dentists, nurses, and others generously support the Clinic by volunteering their direct patient care. In addition, hospitals and social service agencies provide medical equipment and supplies, laboratory, x-ray, and hospital services for Marian Clinic patients. Funding comes from government grants, philanthropic organizations, and patient revenues based on ability to pay, however, a large portion of the Clinic’s budget depends on the generosity of friends in the public for support. During 2009 the Clinic treated over 5,200 patients with more than 17,000 visits and provided, at no charge, medications valued at over \$520,000. The need continues to grow, with the number of patients in 2010 already running well above last year.



L-R: KAMU Workforce Development Specialist Erin Scrapper, Executive Director Julie Branstrom, Board Member Starr Tait, and KU Head Football Coach Turner Gill.

Third Annual Open Wider Golf Tournament Benefits Douglas County Dental Clinic

Reprint Lawrence Journal World, Matt Tait.

The idea was for Kansas University football coach Turner Gill to get a group of more than 70 golfers fired up about his participating in the Open Wider Gold Tournament. But, as it turned out, Gill was the one most excited about his appearance at the third annual golf tournament, a four-person scramble at Alvarado public golf course to benefit the Douglas County Dental Clinic on April 30.

“To me the best part is just getting to meet people and building relationships out in the community,” Gill said. “Obviously, it’s a great cause with helping more unfortunate families with dental work because we all need it.”

Executive Director Julie Branstrom said the non-profit community clinic made about \$7,000 per tournament during the first two years of the event. The 2010 tournament raised almost \$8,000 for the dental clinic and will help further their mission of providing dental care to the underserved in Douglas County.

Wichita “Give Kids A Smile” Event

On March 6, the Third Annual Wichita Give Kids a Smile event was hosted at [GraceMed](#) Dental Clinic. Three hundred families made appointments for the event and roughly 250 families kept their appointments – a 77% success rate. More than 218 children received treatment, totaling \$90,000 in free dental work. Children had to be younger than 11 years old from families who have no resources to pay for dental care – families who have been out of work for months or who recently lost jobs and dental insurance. Many have filed for Medicaid coverage for their children and are waiting for a response.



Hunter Health Clinic in Wichita Receives \$300,000 from HHS Grant



The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announced grants to **41 health care programs** operated by the Indian Health Service, tribes and tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations. [Hunter Health Clinic](#) received \$300,000 from the HHS grant.

The grants awarded are part of a broader effort to find and enroll uninsured children who are eligible for Medicaid or CHIP but not enrolled. Hunter Health Clinic has provided primary health care services for over 30 years to all populations, with an emphasis on those who are medically underserved, unemployed, uninsured and those who have fixed incomes.



United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries, Inc., Expands Dental Services

Chief Executive Officer of [United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries, Inc. \(UMMAM\)](#) Stephanie Waggoner, announced on May 10, 2010, that her organization plans to expand UMMAM dental services to the Dodge City area by opening a safety net dental clinic this summer.

The dental clinic will provide preventative, emergency and restorative services to include fillings, extractions, root canals, dentures and crowns. Initially, the clinic will be staffed with volunteer dentists, a part-time UMMAM dentist and hygienist. UMMAM hopes to recruit a full-time dentist within the first year of operation.

The focus of the clinic is to provide dental services to the underserved and uninsured in the community and services will be provided on a sliding fee scale based upon the patient's income level.

Waggoner's announcement about the UMMAM dental clinic is the culmination of a project initiated by Bill Hammond, USD 443 Director of Business and Finance and Dr. Richard Stein, a practicing dentist in Dodge City. Hammond and Stein, currently President and President-elect respectively of the Dodge City Rotary Club, had discussed the need for oral health education and access to dental care for those unable to currently afford it. With those goals in mind the two began to develop the Ford County Oral Health Coalition.

Local dentists and hygienists volunteered to donate several hours each month in the clinic. A local oral surgeon offered his services. Two major obstacles were overcome when Kansas Farmers Service Organization, (KFSA) a Hutchinson based insurance and auditing company with Dodge City offices, donated free space in their building where a dental office had once existed and United Methodist Health Ministry Fund approved a grant to help fund the clinic for the first two years.

To help develop the business plan Chief Operations Officer, Jason Wesco, Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, provided advice and information. Help was also available from Project Director for Kansas Cavity Free Kids Kathy Hunt, RDH, and Executive Director Cathy Harding, Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved.

As the business plan developed, the coalition grew. Current membership on the coalition includes, Oral Health Kansas, USD 443 public school nurses and counselors, Center for Independent Living, Ford County Health Department, the Western Plains Medical Complex, the Dodge City Ministerial Alliance, Ford County Council on Aging, Ombudsman for Long Term Care, Arrowhead West, Methodist Youthville, The City of Dodge City, Ford County, Bright Beginnings of Head Start, SRS—Dodge City office, Community Foundation of Southwest Kansas, Ford County Health Department, and United Way of Dodge City.

The idea for the clinic became reality when UMMAM's Waggoner and her Chief Financial Officer, Marcie Strine, agreed to expand their service area and to apply their management skills and the experience gained in other communities to the Dodge City location.

Millie Hill, Board Member for Heart of Kansas Health Care, Great Bend

*Reprint from Across the Board: A bulletin to assist, educate, encourage and communicate with volunteer board members
Spring Issue Volume 14, Marnie Williams, CEO of Marnie Williams and Associates*

Millie Hill says her job as a school nurse is a perfect fit for her work on the board of directors of [Heart of Kansas Family Health Care](#) in Great Bend, Kansas. "A lot of people here are uninsured and aren't sure how to get help," says Hill. "So there is a real need for the type of health care services our center brings to this community. "My work on the board has given me a good understanding of health care issues and insight into other services available in the area. It's very satisfying to be able to help direct people to the help they need."

Some 15 percent of the residents of Great Bend and surrounding counties have incomes below the poverty line. Many are underinsured, and many others are without health insurance. Great Bend, which is near the middle of Kansas, has a population of about 15,500. Up until around 1960, the oil industry had flourished in the area. But today the economy is fueled by agriculture, and even those jobs are scarce. Last year, a local packing plant closed, idling 275. Heart of Kansas Family Health Care, formerly known as We Care Project, has its roots in a communitywide task force formed in 1989 to look at the needs of the area's medically underserved. A decade later the center opened. Today, it serves residents in Great Bend and the surrounding counties. Last year, Heart of Kansas helped nearly 3,600 patients and had nearly 9,800 patient encounters.

A mother of four and grandmother of one, Hill has been Heart of Kansas' board president for the past 3 years. She says she stepped down because "it was somebody else's turn to be president. We have a qualified board with nine talented people and it was time to turn it over to another person." [Full article](#)

Flint Hills Health Open House and Ribbon Cutting

On Friday, May 14 Flint Hills Community Health Center/Lyon County Health Department (FHCHC) in Emporia had an open house and ribbon cutting ceremony. FHCHC received funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which allowed the center to make capital improvements.

Guests enjoyed a guided tour with their own treasure map. After they completed their treasure hunt they enjoyed Subway sandwiches, cookies and veggies.



L-R: Amy Harris, Executive Director Liz Conrade, Betty Murrell, Ingeborg May, behind with the white sleeves Nicole Mortenson, Debbie Ash, the lady in the peach shirt is Janine Messersmith, the man next to her is Ken Hanson.



L-R: Betty Murrell, Executive Director Liz Conrade and Ann Mayo.

Executive Director Liz Conrade was thrilled with how many local businesses were a part of the renovations. “The ARRA funding was designated specifically for these improvements. In order to receive the grant we had to follow their guidelines on what the funding could be used for,” Conrade said. “Not only were we able to have our building look beautiful, but we also helped with the local economy at the same time by employing numerous individuals and companies.” The ARRA funding helped the county’s economy and local businesses, reducing the need for county funding to refurbish this building and saving local tax dollars.

Conrade was impressed with the open house turnout. “I am very proud of the support we have in the community. Our building now showcases the quality of care people can receive from our



Dr. Charles Abbick, Salina Family Healthcare Center Dental Clinic

Salina Family Healthcare Center Dental Clinic

For over four years, Salina Family Healthcare Center’s (SFHC) dental clinic has been located at 625 E. North Street. This summer the dental clinic will be moving into newly renovated space at the 651 E. Prescott location where the medical clinic is currently housed. The newly updated clinic will have 10 exam rooms and new state-of-the-art equipment. SFHC provides diagnostic, restorative and preventative care. During National Health Center week (August 8-14, 2010) they will host an open house.

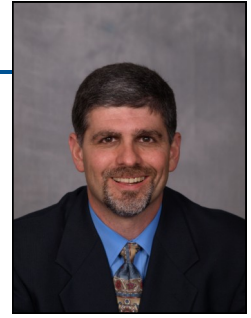
Salina Family Healthcare Center announces its newest dentist, Dr. Charles Abbick. He moved to Salina from Kansas City and joined the organization in October 2009. His father, Dr. M. G. Abbick, practices general dentistry in Junction City, KS. Dr. Charles Abbick was born and raised in Junction City, KS and received his Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from the University of Kansas. He attended dental school at the University of Missouri-Kansas City, graduated summa cum-laude, and participated in the honors oral surgery program.

Salina Health Begins Group Education Sessions for Pregnant Patients



Salina Health Education Foundation’s FQHC – The Salina Family Healthcare Center - is collaborating with the Saline County Health Department to begin group education sessions for pregnant patients receiving pre-natal care at the clinic. This effort will be funded by a grant from the March of Dimes. The project will begin in July, 2010. Monthly education sessions will be led by a health department nurse at the Salina Family Healthcare Center. Classes will be given in English and Spanish. Topics will range from nutrition and exercise for the pregnant mother to domestic violence and breastfeeding the newborn. The topics will be repeated every six months.

Incentives are planned to facilitate attendance, including a point system to purchase diapers and free ultrasounds at the clinic prior to classes. Free child care will be provided at the center while classes are occurring. It is assumed that improved education in a group setting will improve pregnancy outcomes for all of health care patients, including numerous high risk pregnancy patients. Data will be collected regarding outcomes to measure the program’s impact.



Chief Quality Officer Chris English

In today's world of tightening budgets and staff shortages, it is becoming a challenge to deal with the present and seemingly impossible to look to the future; however, it is important that we do. Over the last year, 8 clinics made an investment in Emergency Preparedness: Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, Flint Hills Community Health Center, Hunter Health Clinic, Mother Mary Anne Clinic, Salina Family Health Care Center, Shawnee County Health Agency, Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care, and United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries. Both KAMU and KDHE salute the efforts of these clinics to formalize their Emergency Preparedness Plans, work more closely with their Local Emergency Preparedness Committees, and develop relationships with local partners that strengthen their communities.

As I visited with KDHE staff from the Bureau of Public Health Preparedness, they all stressed the importance of clinic involvement in the response to H1N1 and that clinics should be an integral part of a community's emergency preparedness plan. Your clinic may have been well prepared for the number of patients accessing care; some were not. This is where KAMU can help. KAMU and KDHE are again entering into a contract that allows us to provide technical assistance in developing a clinic's Emergency Preparedness Plan, with potential for a stipend to offset some of the investment. If your clinic already has a well developed plan, great; we can help you "exercise" your plan in hope of improving it. If your clinic is interested in being prepared for the future, we can help develop your Emergency Preparedness Plan.

If you are interested in being well prepared, contact Chris English at cenglish@kspca.org or 785-233-8483.



Top of the Space Needle: AmeriCorp Members Tracy Wineinger, Hilda Rodriguez, Member Resource Coordinator Heather Dirk, Evan Toren, Rumpa Yeasin, Teresa Kerbawy, Sonya Navarro, Teresa Mendenhall and Shena Jiwa.

AmeriCorp Seattle Success by Teresa Kerbawy



After months of planning, fourteen Kansas AmeriCorp members boarded a plane to Seattle, Washington. We had been promised a mid-season trip to a cutting-edge community center called Sea Mar. None of us had visited Seattle before, so we headed west with high expectations and curiosity about Sea Mar's name and a purported market where fishermen throw freshly caught salmon at customers.

On Friday we met with Sea Mar Community Health Center members and got a quick tour. As we learned, the name "Sea Mar" salutes its Seattle location while hinting at its founding ideals. Started by Hispanic activists wanting to provide health and human services to underserved populations, especially Latinos, Sea Mar is now a bilingual multi-building operation of medical and dental clinics, a community garden, and a multi-generational center. This

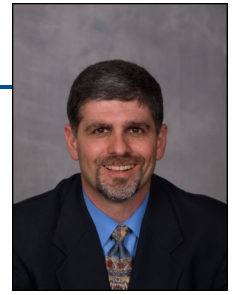
center unites a children's daycare and an elderly residence center allowing these groups to mix, offering their unique gifts to each other in both Spanish and English. The organization's name speaks to this spirit of combination, using the Spanish word for sea, "mar" in its name with equal importance. We listened to Sea Mar's history, and mingled with its AmeriCorps members, participating in icebreakers, discussing our various projects and touring various Sea Mar facilities. Afterwards we headed to the infamous "taco truck" for lunch—Mexican, of course—and headed back to volunteer at a carnival for children at the multi-generational center and visit with its elderly residents.

Sea Mar provided us with a reminder of our usefulness and the importance of providing medical and social services to those in need. Thanks to our trip leader, Heather Dirk, KAMU, and the good spirits of our members, this trip was not only a success, but also way more fun than trying to catch a salmon.

The trip also provided us with sight-seeing amid stops on various modes of public transportation. We managed to take a ferry to the elite Bainbridge Island for dinner; sample coffee at the original Starbucks; wander through Pike's Place Market, an outdoor extravaganza of ocean-side vendors; visit a small artsy neighborhood called Fremont; eat cod, oysters on the half shell, salmon, and clam chowder; and get a great view of Seattle at the Space Needle.

KAMU Welcomes Chief Quality Officer Chris English

Chris English joined the staff at KAMU on April 26 and will be working with clinics in the areas of Quality Improvement and Emergency Preparedness. He came to KAMU with approximately 15 years of Medicaid experience, working for both fiscal agents Electronic Data Systems (EDS) and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas as well as both SRS and KHPA. During that time English held a number of positions from a Medicaid Liaison, in which he worked directly with the beneficiaries, to the Senior Manager for Managed Care with oversight of the Medicaid and CHIP managed care companies. He has experience in developing and reviewing quality initiatives of the MCOs, and worked directly with the Kansas Foundation for Medical Care as the External Quality Review Organization for Medicaid.



Chief Quality Officer
Chris English

“I look forward to visiting each clinic within the next few months to get a feel for internal operations, to discuss quality initiatives, and ascertain how I can best help your organizations”, said English. “KDHE stated the need for involvement of safety net clinics in the Emergency Preparedness of each county which has been greatly underestimated and became apparent during the H1N1 outbreak.” English has been asked to help improve the plans currently in place and help develop the plans with the clinics.

Register Now - KAMU 2010 Recruitment and Retention Workshop

When: Tuesday, June 22, 2010 - 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (please note time has changed)

Where: Ramada Convention Center, Downtown Topeka, 420 South East 6th Street, Topeka

Reservation phone number is 785.234.5400; identify yourself as being with the KAMU Workshop. The conference rate is \$69/night.

Deadline to make reservations is June 10, 2010.

In partnership with the Kansas Recruitment Center (KRC) a hands-on workshop will be presented including sessions on recruitment of non-physicians (i.e. front desk staff), retention (will include mentoring programs), planning for provider growth/building a provider model and assessing your work culture. During the last hour of the workshop KRC and Rural Health Staff will be available to review promotional materials on an individual basis and provide feedback.

The KAMU Recruitment and Retention Workshop is intended for: chief executive officers, executive directors, recruitment managers, medical and clinical directors and human resource professionals. **To register** go to <http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu/krc/kamu.html>.

*KAMU will be offering one complimentary registration for each member organization (valued at \$175). For each additional attendee, a registration fee of \$175.00 will be billed to the member organization. The registration fee includes attendance at the workshop, materials, breakfast, snacks, and lunch. For questions contact Erin Scrapper at escrapper@kspsca.org or 785.250.8968.

Tabletop Disaster Exercises for Health Care Providers

The Disaster Resistant Communication Group in coordination with Florida’s Department of Health invites health care providers to participate in one of the scheduled tabletop exercises being facilitated via the internet during the month of June. These exercises have been designed specifically for health care providers to evaluate and enhance existing Business Continuity and / or Emergency Operation Plans. In addition providers who do not currently have such plans will have an opportunity to gain a thorough understanding of what should be in their plan. There is **NO CHARGE** for participation in any of the exercises.

Two distinctive types of exercises are available. One of the exercises will feature a hurricane scenario while the other involves a commercial fire which heavily damages the provider’s facility. For additional information and registration please access the following web site: www.drc-group.com/healthcare Access, download and print the Health Care Provider Tabletop Exercise [flyer](#).



American Academy of Pediatrics Offers Free Prevention Resources

2010 health reform legislation mandates coverage of preventive services for infants, young children, and adolescents, including evidence-based preventive care and screenings. The [Bright Futures guidelines](#), designed to help office staff improve developmental screening and preventive services for children under 5 years of age, were developed for the Health & Human Resources Administration (HRSA) by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). The materials offered include: Improving Preventive Care In Your Office - Tools for Office Improvement; Working with Practices to Improve Preventive Care - A Leader's Guide; and Training Materials to Improve Preventive Care in Office Practice - Bright Futures Workshop Materials. These training and implementation materials for the Bright Futures Program, funded by the Commonwealth Fund with support from the US Department of Health & Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, Maternal & Child Health Bureau are **free** for all to download.

Save The Date - Clinical Tract Friday, September 24 Hotel Old Town, Wichita, Kansas



Save the date for the 2010 Clinical Tract in conjunction with the KAMU 2010 Annual conference “A Changing Climate . . . An Emerging Opportunity”. The clinical tract will be on Friday, September 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

CEU’s for medical and dental have been applied for. The tentative schedule is as follows:

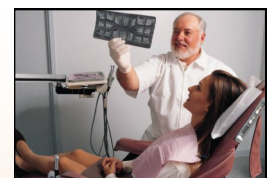
8 to 8:30 a.m. - Continental breakfast served in the Conference Center
8:30 to 9:45 a.m. - First Session
9:45 to 10 a.m. - Break
10 to 11:15 a.m. - Second Session
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - Lunch served in the Conference Center
12:30 to 1:45 p.m. - Third Session
1:45 to 2 p.m. - Break
2 to 3:15 p.m. - Fourth Session

Four topics to be covered during the clinical tract.

- **Mental Health – Depression:** Major Depression and other Unipolar Depressions
- **Contraception Update**
- **Obesity – childhood & adult:** latest clinical documentation / techniques as it relates to chronic illness
- **A Physician's Practical Guide to Culturally Competent Care.** With the increasing diversity of the United States' population, physicians are more and more likely to encounter situations that require the delivery of culturally competent care, access to a vast array of language services, and supportive health care organizations.

If you are interested in attending the clinical tract, contact Erin Scrapper at escrapper@kspca.org or 785.233.8483.

Kansas Safety Net Dental Meeting Friday, September 24 Hotel at Old Town, Wichita, Kansas



- Peer to Peer Learning
- Building Relationships with Colleagues
- Dr. Bob Russell presents “Productivity”
- Dr. Paul Kieele presents “The Establishment of a Dental Home for Pediatric Dental Patients”

Morning will begin with continental breakfast at 8 a.m. Meeting starting at 8:30 a.m., with lunch served at 11:30 a.m. Second session will start at 12:30 and end at 3:30 p.m. KAMU would like at least one dentist from every safety net dental clinic to attend this event.

If you have an interest in this meeting, please contact Erin Scrapper at escrapper@kspca.org or 785.233.8483.

Member Events/Fundraisers

Date and Time	Event Name	Clinic or Location	Contact Information
June 11, 2010 9:30 am to 4pm	Kansas Oral Health Planning Summit	Kansas Museum of History, Topeka, Kansas	RSVP to Oral Health Kansas: jparnell@oralhealthkansas.org or 785.235.6039
July 25, 2010	2010 Community Day Run/Walk Cost: Adults \$19, Youth \$13	E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic, Wichita	http://tyreeclinic.com
August 13, 2010	Dinner Theatre Fundraiser at the Columbian Theatre Dinner \$25 - Theatre \$25	Community Health Ministry Clinic, Wamego	http://wamegocommunityhealthministry.org
September 22-24, 2010	2010 KAMU Annual Conference	Hotel at Old Town Wichita, Kansas	Kari Mwathi 785.233.8483 or email at kmwathi@kspca.org
September 26	The Ultimate Concert, White Concert Hall, Washburn University, Topeka	Marian Clinic, Topeka	http://marianclinic.org

Membership in the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved

Membership in the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) consists of organizations that are part of or support Kansas primary care safety net clinics. These include federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) and FQHC look-alikes, state-funded primary care clinics, faith-based clinics, indigent clinics, local health departments providing primary care and other non profit primary care clinics.

A new option, Individual Membership, is available to persons that support the mission of KAMU and do not meet the eligibility requirements for an Organizational or Associate Membership. To apply for membership contact Heather Dirk at hdirk@kspca.org.

Next publication of the *Primary Connection* will be in September 2010. Please send or e-mail your stories, photos, newsletters and new staff announcements to Barbara Hersh, KAMU, 1129 S. Kansas Ave., Suite B, Topeka, Kansas 66612 or bhersh@kspca.org.

**Publication funding provided in whole from HRSA,
The Bureau of Primary Health Care.**

For information on advertising in the KAMU newsletter call 785.233.8483 or email Barbara Hersh at bhersh@kspca.org for a rate sheet.

