



## A Publication Promoting Accessibility in Health Care

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KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED  
STATE PRIMARY CARE ASSOCIATION

# Primary Connection

SUMMER 2005

## Primary Care Safety Net Clinics Are Ramping Up Programs to Expand Access to Free or Low Cost Prescriptions

By Karla Finnell, JD, MPH, Executive Director

It is with great humility and gratefulness that the primary care safety net clinics express thanks on behalf of the many patients served for the recent appropriation from the State of Kansas to expand access to low cost or free pharmaceuticals at primary care safety net clinics. Senator Jim Barnett of Emporia, Kansas, a physician and steadfast supporter of the primary care safety net clinics, including community health centers, initiated the legislation. The plan was supported by the Senate Republican

Leadership but received broad support from across the aisle passing in the Senate 39 to 0 and later became a part of the larger appropriation bill, passing through the House and signed by Governor Sebelius.

This legislation may very well prove to become a best practice nationally. In the meantime, it's just what many underserved Kansans need, who receive primary health care services at safety net

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Governor Sebelius Addresses Primary Care Safety Net Clinics

By Karla Finnell, JD, MPH, Executive Director

Governor Kathleen Sebelius addressed primary care safety net clinics as the keynote speaker at the 2005 Annual Primary Care Conference and Meeting held in Wichita, Kansas June 6-8. Governor Sebelius, a fervent supporter of streamlining health care purchasing and insuring more Kansans, recognize the primary care safety net clinics for the contributions they make on the "front line" every day. Sebelius talked to the primary care safety net clinics about the recent study released by Families USA, "Paying a Premium: The Added Cost of Care for the Uninsured", explaining that the problem of lack of health insurance is an issue that affects all of us, and is not just an altruistic concern for those without health insurance coverage. Economists have always agreed that a certain amount of subsidizing occurs, because the insured pick up some cost of the care given to the uninsured who lack the ability to pay. It has now been established that providing health care for the uninsured increases the annual cost of



insurance premiums for the average worker by \$341 and for the average family by \$922. The study, prepared by Ken Thorpe, professor at Emory University, concluded that about \$1 out of every \$12 spent on health insurance premiums indirectly pays for health care provided to the uninsured. Governor Sebelius said the study demonstrated the need for states to work with the federal government to expand the number of people receiving health care coverage.

# KAMU Board of Directors

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**Riley County Community Health Clinic**

## At the Association

### Welcome Laurie



In June, Laurie Dale Marshall began as Director of Kansas Health Consumer Coalition. Laurie will be leading this new organization as it strives to increase access to affordable and quality health care for everyone in Kansas. Laurie will work with consumers and organizations throughout the state, building memberships and mobilizing groups to raise their voices around health care issues. Laurie is a social worker with a background in service to individuals with developmental disabilities and most recently worked in community development with youth-serving organizations.

### Recruitment and Retention Coordinator, Susan Hoffman Leaving KAMU

It with regret that Susan Hoffman has resigned her position at KAMU to pursue other opportunities more closely aligned with her professional training and interests. KAMU appreciates the professionalism and work that she has brought to the organization. Susan has left us with an invaluable tool, the health professional survey which will now be administered by Envisage and Connie Satzler. Her support of the clinics was without resolve. Susan will be missed.



**Welcome & Congratulations  
To The Sites That Have Been Accepted  
To Host AmeriCorps Members Beginning  
September 1, 2005.**

Turner House Clinic for Children	Kansas City
Heartland Clinic	Lawrence
Shawnee County Health Agency	Topeka
Douglas County Dental Clinic	Lawrence
Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department	Lawrence
Flint Hills Community Health Center	Emporia
We Care Project	Great Bend
Grace Med	Wichita
Marian Clinic	Topeka
Red Cross	Topeka
Health Options for Planeview	Wichita
Prairie Star Community Health Center	Hutchinson
Kansas State Farmworker Program	Topeka
Health Partnership of Johnson County	Overland Park
Konza Prairie Community Health Center	Junction City

Several sites are in the process of applying and will be announced in the next newsletter. If you would like more information about the Kansas Community Health Corps, please contact April Davies 785-233-8483 or [adavies@ksPCA.org](mailto:adavies@ksPCA.org).

## 2005 KAMU Annual Primary Care Conference

By Erin Scrapper, Marketing and Member Services

KAMU was honored to host a record-breaking 85 attendees at this year's Annual Primary Care Conference, June 6-8 in Wichita. The conference, spanned three days, and was filled with an array of educational and networking opportunities, giving attendees the most up-to-date information on health care for the underserved and uninsured. KAMU was also honored to host plenary panels on key topics at the forefront of health care, including a Health Policy Panel with Secretary of KDHE, Rod Bremby; Karen Braman, Deputy Director, Office of Health Planning & Finance and other distinguished panelists. Panelists discussed policy developments, impacting health care for underserved Kansans.



Many attendees frequented the many Exhibits and KAMU Café during the conference.



From the left: Andy Alison, KHI; Lisa Cox, NACHC; Laura Tobler, National Conference of State Legislatures and Marci Nielsen, University of Kansas Medical Center during the Medicaid Panel Presentation

Additionally, a panel discussion was held on Medicaid Reform with Andy Alison, Director of Health Care Finance and Organization, KHI; Lisa Cox, Assistant Director, Public Health Policy, NACHC; and Laura Tobler, Program Director, National Conference of State Legislatures. Panelists assessed the ever-changing landscape of Medicaid, the latest legislative activity, a range of state Medicaid reform proposals and potential consequences for Kansas. KAMU was privileged to have Marci Nielsen, Assistant Vice Chancellor, University of Kansas Medical Center, facilitate both panels. Marci brought intrigue and urgency to the discussions with questions about the nation's health care crisis. Both panels allowed attendees to gain invaluable knowledge of current health care happenings in Kansas and across the United States.

New this year was a board track. KAMU provided a variety of sessions for board members including, who are the underserved: the safety net system in Kansas; succession planning; foundation updates; and strategically planning for growth – insight into successful strategies for implementing expanded services. As in past years, KAMU presented an administrative and clinical track. The administrative track presented a variety of topics to promote capacity building, personnel management and improving operations at primary care safety net clinics. Areas addressed included: FTCA coverage for primary care clinics and community health centers; kickoff: KAMU salary, benefits, and turnover survey; defining the need and gathering the data to state your case; electronic health records; and minorities and health disparities in Kansas. The focus of the clinical track was on the integration of mental health into primary care through the psychosocial aspects of patient care; the prevalence of diabetes in Kansas, diagnosis, treatment, and complication; hormone replacement therapy the known risk and benefits; and responding to domestic violence: screening and clinical management in the health care setting. A few comments from attendees were: "This is my first KAMU conference, but I have attended many professional meetings and found this one very well organized and the information provided right on target with what we are currently grappling with in our clinic" and "Break out sessions had a wide variety of topics, especially liked the clinical sessions".

Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2005 Annual Primary Care Conference. We can safely say it was a huge success and we look forward to what next year will bring.

## At the Association

## KAMU and KDHE Partner to Support, Strengthen and Grow the Primary Care Safety Net

By Judy Eyerly, Deputy Director

Thanks to a grant from the Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans, KAMU worked with Envisage Consulting to develop an on-line reporting system to capture demographic and financial data from primary care safety net clinics. The data elements were mutually agreed to by both the Kansas Department of Health and Environment's (KDHE) Primary Care Office (PCO) and KAMU. This database will be used for both the reporting requirements of KDHE's Community Based Primary Care funds and to increase awareness of the role of primary care safety net clinics by KAMU. Combining reporting requirements will allow KAMU and KDHE to have consistent data as they work together to support, strengthen and expand the primary care safety net.

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The new database should greatly improve the quality of available data by using consistent categories of data across all clinic types. A manual has also been developed with definitions that assist clinics in

reporting each data element, allowing for easier analysis. Together primary care safety net clinics serve more than 25% of the State's uninsured. As the number and impact of primary care safety net clinics has grown – the need to quantify the benefit to communities and the state has grown as well. Scarcity of resources to support existing services, as well as the need to create new access points for primary care, demands that data be available and measurable for primary care safety net clinics across Kansas.

The next step in the development of this new data collection system will be to establish benchmarks that assist clinics in measuring and improving cost, cost-effectiveness, and cost-benefit for different services, which can then be compared among peer clinics as well as state data. This type of comparison data has not been

available for primary care safety net clinics up to now and should be useful for quality improvement planning as well as for grant writing in the future.

## Successful 2005 SEARCH Interdisciplinary Rotation

By Susan Hoffman, Recruitment and Retention Coordinator

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) was created to fill a need for primary care clinicians in rural communities and inner-city neighborhoods. In partnership with communities, the NHSC combines government and community resources to meet the health care needs of the underserved. To stimulate student interest in careers in primary care for the underserved, the NHSC SEARCH (Student/Residents Experiences and Rotations in Community Health) program was developed. The SEARCH program has shown over time that the early introduction of students to underserved populations and underserved areas increases the likelihood that students will choose to work in underserved communities after graduation.

KAMU views SEARCH as one of the first steps in a dynamic Recruitment and Retention strategy for Kansas' primary care safety net clinics. Students are afforded opportunities unique to their academic career, while providers at clinics have the satisfaction of teaching by demonstrating quality, culturally sensitive care to individuals and families who would otherwise lack access.

KAMU has been a successful SEARCH grantee for nine years. Over the last couple of years SEARCH has partnered with KUMC Rural Eastern Kansas AHEC and the Rural Interdisciplinary Training Program at the University of Kansas Medical Center, to provide summer interdisciplinary student rotations. The objective of this interdisciplinary rotation is to provide students from various healthcare professions an opportunity to learn and train together in community health centers and primary care clinics across the state. This year's rotations focused on the interrelationship of diabetes management and the overall health status of the individual. Eleven healthcare students (5 dental and 6 nurse practitioner) participated.

In addition, sixteen other health care students have completed rotations throughout the 2004-2005 academic year. Those students have included: one Master of Social Work, three Dental Hygienists, seven Dental, three Nurse Practitioner, and two Physician Assistants.

## Kansas Health Consumer Coalition: Working To Expand Access to Health Care For All Kansans

By Laurie Dale Marshall, KHCC director

The Kansas Health Consumer Coalition (KHCC) is a statewide coalition working to expand access to affordable and quality health care for all Kansans. Along with the task of developing strategies as a new organization, KHCC has responded to a dire need within the health care arena in Kansas. KHCC will be providing educational outreach to Medicare beneficiaries in Kansas who have barriers in accessing adequate knowledge and resources concerning this complex program. A team of outreach workers will work in eight counties throughout the state that have high concentrations of Medicare beneficiaries living below 200% of the federal poverty level or who are members of minority groups. KHCC learned that these groups of beneficiaries are less likely to be reached by existing efforts.

As well as reaching out with valuable information about the Medicare Prescription Drug plan, KHCC will have the opportunity to begin learning the health priorities of Kansans. Because KHCC is a consumer-driven organization, these real life experiences of Kansans are what fuel our efforts.

KHCC will also be participating in research conducted by *The Access Project*, which focuses on the issue of medical debt. Additionally, KHCC is developing plans for membership building, communication structure, and website development so we can begin active relationships with consumers throughout Kansas.

If you are interested in learning more about KHCC, becoming a member of the coalition, or have a health care experience to share, please contact Laurie Dale Marshall, KHCC Director, at [ldmarshall@kspca.org](mailto:ldmarshall@kspca.org) or 785-233-8483.

### National Community Health Center Week August 7-13, 2005

KAMU and Kansas Community Health Centers are gearing up for National Community Health Center Week 2005. This year celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Community Health Centers across the nation. Several events are planned this year. Look for an article on the week-long events in the fall issue of the *Primary Connection*.

## Risk Management Training

### Patient Safety and Risk Reduction: A Call for Action

Presented by the National Association for Community Health Centers,  
in conjunction with Missouri PCA, Iowa/Nebraska PCA & KAMU

Date: August 30, 2005  
Time: 8:30 am – 3:30 pm  
Location: Westin Crown Center  
One Pershing Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64108

**SIGN UP TODAY!**

To register go to NACHC's website at [www.nachc.org](http://www.nachc.org).  
Questions contact Erin Scrapper at 785-233-8483 or [escrapper@kspca.org](mailto:escrapper@kspca.org)

## Feature

## Primary Care Safety Net Clinics Are Ramping Up Programs to Expand Access to Free or Low Cost Prescriptions

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clinics. According to the *Statewide Survey Health Policy Concerns of Kansans*, Kansas Health Institute, 2003, "44% of all Kansans are very or somewhat concerned about the ability to afford prescriptions." Uninsured patients that are poor or nearly poor experience even greater difficulty accessing affordable medications. Local surveys targeting Kansans without health insurance have found that 78% of the target population (uninsured and below 200% of Federal Poverty Level) reported frequently or occasionally worrying about not being able to afford a prescription drug for themselves or a member of their household. A similar survey in another area found that 41.2% of the targeted population were not able to get a prescription filled within the last year. With this legislation, that is about to change.

Statewide this initiative is expected to leverage free and reduced prescriptions valued at \$20 million for over 88,000 people receiving health care services at primary care safety net clinics. The initiative will be administered by Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and will assist federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) also known as Community Health Centers (CHCs) and FQHC Look-Alikes with the purchase or expansion of pharmaceutical inventory under the federal Section 340B Drug Pricing Program. This federal project limits the cost of drugs purchased by these health centers and

other federal programs such as the Veterans Administration. The new grants will allow implementation of 340B programs in at least eight of the ten FQHCs in Kansas. The grants also authorize a subsidy for a portion of the cost of prescription drugs purchased through the 340B program for patients receiving sliding fee discounts. The estimated average subsidy is \$4.00 per prescription. The grants will also allow existing community-based public or not-for-profit primary care safety net clinics to hire staff to work with public and private patient assistance programs, including more than 150 programs offered by pharmaceutical companies. With dedicated staff, patients will have assistance with the application procedures and eligibility requirements in order to obtain supplies of free or low-cost pharmaceuticals through manufacturers' indigent drug programs.

The first round of awards has been announced by KDHE. Twelve safety-net clinics and health centers have been awarded \$390,000. A second round of awards are to be awarded to additional primary care safety net clinics, where no one is turned away regardless of ability to pay. In all awards will total \$750,000. This program joins the ranks of public and private initiatives to make prescription drugs more affordable to working families and seniors, including a web-based resource guide for Kansas residents to obtain local assistance and information from clinics such as these recognized today and other community service partners: <http://www.healthykansas.org/>.

### Want to Learn How to Help Your Patients Access Medicare Part D?

To ensure that all low-income individuals get the extra help they need with their prescription drug costs, NACHC has partnered with the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to provide comprehensive training materials and informational resources for beneficiaries in English and Spanish and a link to the on-line application for the low-income subsidy (LIS). Please visit the following websites for the training materials and informational resources.

<http://www.ssa.gov/organizations/medicareoutreach2/MedicareOrganizationManual.pdf>

<https://s044a90.ssa.gov/apps6a/i1020/main.html>

<http://www.ssa.gov/organizations/medicareoutreach2/>

### The Health Disparities Collaborative (HDC)

The Electronic Application for the  
HDC 2006 Phase I Teams  
will be Available

October 3 - November 18, 2005

Visit the Health Disparities website:

[www.healthdisparities.net](http://www.healthdisparities.net)

## KAMU and KDA Look Forward to New Collaborations

By Karla Finnell, JD, MPH, Executive Director

Feature



KAMU and Kansas Dental Association (KDA) have successfully partnered in the past to place dental students in rural, underserved communities to introduce the students to the benefits of a rural practice and living in a small community. KAMU is now developing new ways of extending the partnership. As the primary care safety net clinics become more involved in providing dental care for underserved populations, such as Medicaid beneficiaries and the uninsured, KDA is collaborating

with KAMU to provide used dental equipment to clinics as private dentists retire or remodel their practices. This strategy will be a win/win for dentists, clinics, the underserved and the State of Kansas. Currently, clinics invest cash reserves in providing more services, thus rarely having the funds to build new facilities, remodel or equip dental operatories. With this donation by the dentists of Kansas, primary care safety net clinics are one step closer to improving the capacity to provide dental care for the underserved. Thank you Kansas Dental Association and the dentists of Kansas!!!

### **New Research Available:**

#### **Health Affairs - Access and Quality: Does Rural America Lag Behind?**

This study compares access to and quality of medical care in urban and rural areas from the perspective of physicians and patients, using a broad set of indicators taken from the 2000–2001 Community Tracking Study (CTS) Physician and Household Surveys. To view the complete survey go to [www.healthaffairs.org](http://www.healthaffairs.org)

**Families USA Study, Paying a Premium: The Added Cost of Care for the Uninsured.** To view the complete survey go to [www.familiesusa.com](http://www.familiesusa.com)

**Kansas Health Institute - Smiles Across Kansas: 2004 Oral Health Report of Kansas Youth.** To view the complete report go to [www.khi.org](http://www.khi.org)

**Kansas Health Institute - Declining Dental Services and Minority Health Disparities in Kansas.** To view the complete survey go to [www.khi.org](http://www.khi.org)

### **It is With Great Sadness and Pride That We Say Goodbye To: Arneatha Martin & Mary Miles**

During this year's KAMU Annual Primary Care Conference, members gathered to recognize these two important leaders for their contributions over the years to KAMU and the underserved in Kansas!

**Arneatha Martin**, Center for Health and Wellness, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for her years of service in which she gave substantially of herself for the improvement of communities in Kansas, particularly in the area of increasing access to quality health care for the uninsured and medically underserved. Arneatha retired from her Executive Director position at the Center for Health and Wellness in May 2005, but is staying on as a volunteer at the clinic.

**Mary Miles**, We Care Clinic, was awarded the 2005 Distinguished Service Award for her years of dedication and support to the growth of KAMU and to increasing access to quality health care for uninsured and medically underserved. Mary resigned from her Executive Director position at the We Care Clinic at the end of July to venture onto new opportunities in our neighboring state of Missouri.

We thank them both again for all their contributions to KAMU and wish them well in their future endeavors.



Arneatha Martin, Center for Health and Wellness



From the left: Karla Finnell, KAMU Executive Director and Mary Miles, We Care Project



Kansas Association for the  
Medically Underserved  
State Primary Care Association

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Topeka, KS, 66603

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# CALENDAR

MARK YOUR

Kresge Informational Workshop  
August 3, 2005  
Location: St. Louis, MO  
Contact: MAP at 314-621-6220

National Community Health Center Week  
August 7-13, 2005

AmeriCorps Graduation  
August 20, 2005  
Location: Kansas History Museum, Topeka  
Contact: April Davies at 785-233-8483

Risk Management Training  
August 30, 2005  
Location: Westin Crown Center - Kansas City, MO  
Register online: [www.nachc.com](http://www.nachc.com)

KAMU Board Meeting  
August 11, 2005; 10:00 am - 1:00 pm  
Location: Salina Family Health Care Center  
Contact: Alison Pulcher at 785-233-8483

Kansas Diabetes Quality of Care Conference  
September 1, 2005  
Location: Wichita, KS

AmeriCorps Pre-Service Orientation #1  
September 1, 2005  
Location: Topeka Public Library  
Contact: April Davies at 785-233-8483

Bridging the Gap - Interpreter Training  
September 26-30, 2005  
Location: Dodge City  
Register: [www.jvskc.org](http://www.jvskc.org)

AmeriCorps Pre-Service Orientation #2  
September 29-30, 2005  
Location: TBD  
Contact: April Davies at 785-233-8483

Community Health Institute  
September 16-21, 2005  
Location: Miami Beach, FL  
Register online: [www.nachc.com](http://www.nachc.com)

Bridging the Gap - Interpreter Training  
October 17-21, 2005  
Location: Pittsburgh  
Register: [www.jvskc.org](http://www.jvskc.org)

