

## **KAMU Update - October 2007**

*From the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved*

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### **Association & Member News ...**

#### **Harding Named Executive Director**

KAMU's Board of Directors has appointed Cathy Harding as Executive Director of the association, effective November 13. She is currently Vice President of Development and OTC Consulting Services for Ozark Tri-County Health Care Consortium, Inc., in Neosho, Mo. She will be officially introduced to the KAMU membership at the annual conference, to be held Nov. 27-30 in Overland Park. (See "KAMU Conferences" below for details.)

Harding has extensive experience in health center management and administration, and many KAMU members know her already from her consulting work and workshop presentations. She previously served as President/CEO of Midwest Support Services Company in Emporia, and was Executive Director of Flint Hills Community Health Center, also in Emporia. She has also served as health educator, grant writer, and director of Administrative Services and Program Development at Flint Hills CHC. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master's in communications, both from Pittsburg State University in Pittsburg, Kans.

Tony Wellever will continue as Interim ED until Harding joins the staff. He will then resume his work as KAMU's Director of Governmental Affairs, responsible for legislative and regulatory issues at the state and national levels.

#### **Health Ministries Clinic Now a Look-Alike**

Congratulations to Health Ministries Clinic in Newton on receiving official status as a Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike entity.

An FQHC Look-Alike meets all of the eligibility requirements of an organization that receives a Public Health Service Section 330 grant. While it does not receive grant funding, it does qualify for cost-based reimbursement and other benefits.

#### **Congratulations, Penney!**

Penney Schwab has announced that she will retire as Executive Director of United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries in Garden City, a position she has held since 1986. She comments: "I love my job and in many ways wish I could continue doing it forever. But I feel a real need for more time with my husband, Don, and with our children and six grandchildren."

Depending on how quickly a successor is named and trained, the transition at UMMAM will probably be complete in early 2008. An ad for the position is included below in "Employment."

#### **Free HPV Vaccine Now Available**

Eligible girls and women in the Kansas City metro area can now receive a free vaccine to prevent cervical cancer at some of KAMU's member clinics. Thanks to grants from the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City and the REACH Healthcare Foundation, the human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine will be provided voluntarily for approximately 5,000 qualified females in Kansas and Missouri. The vaccine known as Gardasil is available to girls and women ages 9-26 who are uninsured, who do not qualify for

the federally funded Vaccines for Children program, or who have insurance that does not cover the HPV vaccine.

KAMU has agreed to be the fiscal agent for the Kansas portion of this project in partnership with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Trudy Shane, LPN, is Project Coordinator. She has worked with immunizations for 26 years at the county level for the Lyon County Health Dept. and was an Immunization Consultant for the Kansas State Department of Health for three years.

Distribution sites are located in the service area of the two foundations, which includes the Kansas counties of Johnson, Wyandotte and Allen. Several KAMU members (noted in bold) are included.

These sites will provide vaccines for *their patients*.

**Duchesne Clinic**, Kansas City  
**Swope Health Wyandotte** (Bethany location), Kansas City  
**Silver City Health Center**, Kansas City  
**Southwest Blvd. Family Health Care**, Kansas City  
**Turner House for Children**, Kansas City  
**Health Partnership of Johnson County**, Overland Park

These Kansas sites will provide the vaccine on a *walk-in* basis:

Johnson County Health Department, Olathe and Mission  
**Mercy and Truth Medical Missions**, Kansas City  
Southeast Kansas Multi-County Health Department, Iola  
Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, KS Health Department, Kansas City

For the full list of sites, including those in Missouri, see [www.healthcare4kc.org](http://www.healthcare4kc.org). For more information about the Gardisil vaccine, visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines).

### Member Survey Coming

KAMU members will be receiving our annual survey in October. This year the questions focus on training and technical assistance so we can provide you with the assistance you need in the coming year. Contact Val Renault at [vrenault@kspca.org](mailto:vrenault@kspca.org) if you have questions.

### Dental Hubs and Spokes on the Air

A radio feature on the Kansas dental hub program aired on Sept. 17 on Kansas Public Radio stations. You can listen to Bryan Thompson's piece by linking to KPR's Kansas Health Series archives at [kansaspublicradio.org](http://kansaspublicradio.org).

### Community Health Ministry Radiothon

CHM in Wamego is having a radiothon on Oct. 6 in conjunction with the local OZ fest. Angel 95.3 F.M. will air from the event and on the internet. CHM will be identified as a dental spoke of Marion Clinic. The clinic is now remodeling to install its second dental operator.

## KAMU Conferences & Programs ...

### CHC Fellowship Program Begins

The 2007-08 Community Health Center Executive Fellowship class kicks off Oct. 10-12 in Overland Park with a class of 18 students from regions five and seven of the Greater Midwest Association of Primary Health Care. Kansas participants are **Tina Payne** of Community Health Ministry in Newton and **Robert Poole** of Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg.

Congratulations are due to the Kansas graduates of the 06-07 class. **Bev White**, Center for Health and Wellness, Wichita; **Sonja Bachus**, Swope Health, Kansas City; and **Jane Faubion**, KAMU, all received a certificate for completing the course.

### Clinicians' Network Conference Calls

#### **Kansas Physicians' Network**

Tues., Oct. 9, 1 pm

#### **Kansas Dental Network**

Wednesday, Oct. 17, 12:30 pm

Call-in number for both groups: 1-866-257-1749, Passcode: 4316945

For information contact Val Renault, [vrenault@kspca.org](mailto:vrenault@kspca.org)

### KAMU Annual Conference

#### **Annual Primary Care Conference:**

*"A Medical Home for Every Kansan"*

November 27-30, 2007

*and*

#### **2007 UDS Training**

November 27-28, 2007

Both will be held at the Sheraton-Overland Park Convention Center

The preliminary agenda is available at [www.kspca.org](http://www.kspca.org). Scholarships for travel support are available to KAMU members who travel more than 180 miles one way. For info, contact: Erin Scaper, [escaper@kspca.org](mailto:escaper@kspca.org) or Nikki Harrison, [nharrison@kspca.org](mailto:nharrison@kspca.org), 785-233-8483.

### Greater Midwest Association of Primary Health Care Conference

The GMAPHC conference will feature plenary sessions for CEOs, clinicians and information technology staff; networking meetings; and continuing professional education opportunities. Save the date, and view the brochure at [www.kspca.org](http://www.kspca.org).

"Quality & Technology Super Summit"

December 9-11, 2007

Kansas City, Kan.

## Other Conferences & Trainings ...

### EHR Implementation Web Seminar

"A Practical Discussion on the Effect of the  
EHR Implementation on Your Practice"

Thursday, October 4, 2007 1

1:30 pm – 1:00 pm CST

Electronic health record (EHR) implementation can have a high rate of failure if not done correctly. In this web seminar, Susan Ordway, Senior Director of Health Information Technology Services at Masspro (Massachusetts quality improvement organization) will discuss the steps necessary to prepare a practice for implementation. From the physician perspective, Dr. Paul Helmuth will present his experience in

implementing. To register, visit [www.masspro.org/events.php](http://www.masspro.org/events.php). For additional information contact Donna Garwood at 1-800-432-0770.

### **“When Bad Things Happen: Helping Put the Pieces Back Together”**

This is a professional continuing education event for physicians, nurses, EMS and nursing home administrators. It is limited to 75 participants.

Tuesday, October 9, 2007  
Coffeyville Regional Medical Center  
Coffeyville, KS  
12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Application has been made for KAAP credit. All other participants will receive a certificate of attendance. For more info, visit: [krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us)

### **Oral Health Kansas Annual Conference**

Oral Health Conference  
Nov 1-3, 2007  
Marriott Courtyard at Old Town, Wichita, Kan.

The conference will include three tracks: Optimum Oral Health for Children, Oral Health Services for Elders and Adults with Special Needs, and Advocacy Designed to Improve Oral Health Services for Kansas Residents. For details, visit [www.oralhealthkansas.org](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org).

OHK is also accepting nominations for this year's Excellence in Oral Health Awards. Nominations are due by Oct. 19: [www.oralhealthkansas.org](http://www.oralhealthkansas.org).

### **Public Health Webinars**

The Kansas Association for Local Health Departments, Kansas Department of Health and Environment and KU Medical Center's Department of Preventive Medicine and Area Health Education Centers are collaborating on a series of educational programs focusing on current issues in public health. The series will occur live every Wednesday from noon–1:00 pm through December via the internet. Continuing education credits are offered. Courses are posted to KS-TRAIN at [ks.train.org](http://ks.train.org). This month:

Oct. 10, “Ozone” - Speaker: James Joerke, Mid-America Regional Council

Oct. 17, “The Medium & the Message: Compelling Food Safety Information from Farm-to-Fork” - Speaker: Doug Powell, Kansas State University

## **Funding & Other Opportunities ...**

### **New Access Point Guidance Released**

HRSA 08-077 has been posted with a submission date of **December 18, 2007**. It is open to all (no high poverty county restrictions). Guidances for Expanded Medical Capacity and Service Expansion are forthcoming. Go to [grants.hrsa.gov](http://grants.hrsa.gov) for information.

If you are interested in submitting an application, please contact Jane Faubion at KAMU, [jfaubion@kspca.org](mailto:jfaubion@kspca.org) or 785-233-8483.

### **Fellowship in Minority Health Policy**

This Commonwealth Fund/Harvard University Fellowship (CFHUF) is designed to prepare physicians, particularly minority physicians, for leadership roles in formulating and implementing public health

policy and practice on a national, state or community level. Five one-year, degree-granting fellowships are awarded per year. Application deadline is **Jan. 2, 2008**.

Participants in this innovative fellowship complete academic work leading to a Master of Public Health degree at the Harvard School of Public Health. For info, contact the CFHUF Program Coordinator: phone 617-432-2922; fax 617-432-3834; or e-mail [mfdp\\_cfhuf@hms.harvard.edu](mailto:mfdp_cfhuf@hms.harvard.edu).

## Advocacy ...

### SCHIP Update

As of Sept. 28, the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives both approved the State Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization (SCHIP) Act, which extends coverage to more children. Three out of the four Kansas representatives voted for the Act: Reps. Boyda, Moore and Moran. In the Senate, Pat Roberts also supported it and Sen. Roberts has said he will vote to override Pres. Bush's promised veto.

Stay tuned for developments.

### Health Policy Authority Still Seeks Input

KHPA is seeking suggestions relating to various health reform topics. The online suggestion box is open until December 31, 2007. Log onto: [www.khpa.ks.gov](http://www.khpa.ks.gov) to send your comments, suggestions and personal stories about the health care system in Kansas. The Authority wants to devise health reform options that accurately reflect the opinions of all Kansans.

## Medicare and Medicaid ...

### Bi-National Health Week

On Oct. 13, KAMU member **United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries** in Garden City will offer diabetes, vision, dental, cancer, HIV and blood exams as part of Bi-National Health Week (BHW). This annual week-long series of health-promotion and health-education activities is geared toward underserved Hispanic/Latino residents. It is sponsored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to increase public awareness, understanding, and knowledge of services available at the local level regardless of health care coverage or immigration status.

Other events are taking place in Wichita, Kansas City and numerous Missouri sites. For more information, Nancy Rios at 816-426-6460 or visit [www.alianzas.us/bhw](http://www.alianzas.us/bhw).

### Changes for Medicare Beneficiaries

Medicare is notifying beneficiaries of the following changes.

**Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) Redeterminations:** Social Security Administration is mailing "SSA Review of Your Eligibility for Extra Help" redetermination notices to some beneficiaries who are currently receiving the low-income subsidy. Beneficiaries must complete the enclosed form within 30 days and submit in the enclosed pre-paid envelope for processing. Beneficiaries who need assistance should contact SSA at 1-800-SSA-1213 (1-800-772-1213) or their local SSA field office. If a beneficiary does not return the form, eligibility for Extra Help may be terminated effective January 1, 2008.

**Loss of Deemed Status Letter:** This letter is being sent to people who no longer automatically qualify for extra help as of January 1, 2008. The mailing includes an application for extra help with a postage paid envelope to return to SSA.

If you have questions about these or other CMS issues, call Nancy Schmidt at the Kansas City regional office: 816-426-6519.

## Resources...

### Diabetes Fact Sheet

A new fact sheet on diabetes and environmental hazards summarizes how environmental factors can affect the health of older adults who are living with diabetes. It also suggests measures to minimize exposure to air pollution and extreme heat that can worsen the health of people living with diabetes. This fact sheet is the sixth in a series of fact sheets for older adults and their caregivers that address environmental health issues important to older adults. To order, go to [www.epa.gov](http://www.epa.gov).

### Free Publications for Health Care Providers and Consumers

The Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization focused on improving health care quality. Its "Quality Improvement Journal" newsletter for providers contains information and ideas for improving the quality of care. For example, an article titled "Culture, Communications and Compliance" discusses cultural differences regarding eye contact, hand gestures and the physician's role as an authority figure, as well as predictable problems related to language.

The newsletter for consumers is called "To Your Health!" Both are available as PDFs at [www.kfmc.org](http://www.kfmc.org).

### Health Materials for Refugees

The Clay County, Missouri, health department has developed brochures in a variety of languages that are available for download free of charge. Topics covered are: HIV/AIDS Prevention and Stigma; STDs; Cold & Flu; TB; Stop Smoking; Diabetes; Heart Disease; Obesity; Child Obesity; Pap Test and Mammograms; Menstrual Cycle; Patient' Rights; and Emergency Room.

The brochures are available in Arabic, Burmese, Vietnamese and English. Kirundi, Somali and Russian translations will be made available in coming days. Visit the following site: [www.refugees.org](http://www.refugees.org). If you have any questions, contact: Jonathan Spangler, 202- 347-3507 Ext. 3111, [jspangler@uscrdc.org](mailto:jspangler@uscrdc.org).

### Kansas Information for Communities FastStats

This package of county profiles ([kic.kdhe.state.ks.us](http://kic.kdhe.state.ks.us)) has been expanded to include data on two additional topics: 1) childhood lead poisoning, and 2) Kansas residents without health insurance.

Lead data are provided by the The Kansas Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program, which receives reports on all laboratory tests for blood lead involving Kansas resident children, including tests done in out-of-state labs.

Estimates of the number of uninsured come from the U.S. Census Bureau publication Small Area Health Insurance Estimates by County. Two items were selected for inclusion in KIC: 1) estimated percentage of uninsured for all age groups; and 2) estimated percentage of uninsured under age 18.

### Income, Poverty and Health Insurance in the U.S.

The United States Census Bureau has released "[Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2006](#)." While the nation's official poverty rate declined for the first time this decade, from 12.6 percent in 2005 to 12.3 percent in 2006, the number of people without health insurance coverage rose from 44.8 million (15.3 percent) in 2005 to 47 million (15.8 percent) in 2006.

This is the second year in a row that the number of uninsured has increased. The rate increase was most notable in the African American and Hispanic American populations. There was also an increase in the number of uninsured children under 18 years of age.

### More NACHC Fact Sheets

NACHC has released two new fact sheets. Visit <http://www.nachc.com/research/>.

**The Struggle to Build a Strong Workforce at Health Centers** describes the current and projected workforce shortages, the various federal and state workforce programs, and ways to address workforce shortages at health centers.

**Safety Net on the Edge: What Legislators Can do to Support Their Local Health Centers** details rising patient needs and fiscal constraints, what can be done to support health centers on a state level, and health centers' track record of providing an excellent return on investment.

### **AMA's Ethical Framework for Health System Reform**

The American Medical Association (AMA) has released a report from top health care leaders that provides an ethical framework to guide health system reform. In the report, the group outlines four fundamental ethical obligations that are mandatory for successful access to health care in a just society. For information, see [www.ama-assn.org](http://www.ama-assn.org).

### **Improving Pediatric Care**

A Commonwealth Fund-supported study was featured in the September issue of the journal *Pediatrics*: In "Improving the Management of Family Psychosocial Problems at Low-Income Children's Well-Child Care Visits," researchers at Johns Hopkins University tested the use of a simple screening tool that allows clinicians to raise sensitive psychosocial issues, like housing insecurity, inadequate parental education, and parental substance abuse, during pediatric visits.

Providers who used the tool – which added only a few extra minutes to the overall visit – had more discussions with parents about such topics and made more referrals to community resources like graduate equivalency diploma programs, job training, and food pantries. Twenty percent of the parents who completed the screen reported contacting a referred community resource, compared with only two percent of parents who did not, the study found. For more, visit [www.commonwealthfund.org](http://www.commonwealthfund.org)

### **Report: "Health Care 20 Years from Now"**

This report focuses on taking steps today to meet tomorrow's challenges. It contains highlights of a health care policy leadership forum convened by the U.S. Comptroller General and published by the U.S. Government Accountability Office. The full report is on the web at [www.gao.gov](http://www.gao.gov).

Participants examined health care cost, access, and quality challenges for the coming years. With regard to the U.S. health care system, the report advocates that the public be educated about the differences between wants, needs, affordability, and sustainability at both the individual and aggregate level. The report suggests that comprehensive health care reform will probably need to occur in installments over a number of years.

## **Employment ...**

### **UMMAM Seeks Executive Director**

United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries, a faith-based service and Community Health Center established in 1974, seeks an Executive Director with effective leadership skills to succeed Penney Schwab. The CHC is located in Garden City with satellite locations in Dodge City, Liberal and Ulysses.

- Bachelor's degree from an accredited University or college is required; advanced degree preferred
- Minimum 5 years of successful administrative experience in community/public health desired; equivalent experience considered
- Demonstrated ability to work with diverse populations required
- Successful grant writing and management experience desired

- A complete application packet will include:
  - Letter of Application indicating interest in and qualifications for the position
  - Curriculum Vita or Resume
  - Minimum four professional references

Mail complete packet to: Search Committee, P.O. Box 766 Garden City, KS 67846. Position will remain open until filled.

### **KAMU Seeks Clinical Data Information Analyst**

KAMU seeks an outgoing professional with leadership skills and understanding of critical health issues and their determinants to support clinical programs in primary care safety net clinics. Responsibilities include: analysis and interpretation of clinical and non-clinical data to assess for trends in the safety net clinics' environment; marketing and enhancement of the Kansas Clinicians' network; coordination of clinical trainings; and developing partnerships with community and state resources.

Minimum qualifications: Master's degree in Public Health, Health Services Administration, or Nursing. Data analysis and interpretation skills required. Bachelor's degree plus three to five years experience in data analysis and interpretation will be accepted in place of a master's degree. Knowledge of safety net clinics and primary care is desired. Familiarity with SPSS (or other statistical package) and ArcView (or other mapping software) desired.

Some travel required. Open until filled. Send resume and cover letter to: KAMU – Clinical Data Information Analyst, 1129 S. Kansas Ave, Suite B, Topeka, KS 66604.

### **Two Positions Open at E.C. Tyree in Wichita**

The E. C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic seeks a dental hygienist. A provider with an extended care permit is preferred, and ability to speak other languages is a plus.

The clinic also has an opening for a medical receptionist to answer phones, greet patients, maintain patient demographics, scheduling and referrals, and more. One-two years experience preferred and the ability to speak other languages is a plus.

For information, contact Schaunta James-Boyd, Executive Director, at 316-681-2545.

### **Dentist Recruitment Fair**

A.T. Still University (ATSU) in Arizona and NACHC invite clinics to attend the second annual Dentist Recruitment Fair for the Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health. For information contact: Beth Poppre at 480-219-6026.

October 11, 2007, 3-7 pm  
ATSU Dental School Campus, 5850 E. Still Circle  
Mesa, AZ 85206

This dental school was established to train dentists who are committed to working in health centers. The recruitment fair gives you an opportunity to meet this year's graduating class, promote your health center, and recruit dentists who want to work with the underserved.

## Idea Exchange ...

### Old Cell Phones Needn't Die

You can recycle your old cell phones at Douglas County Dental Clinic, which collects the phones both as a fundraiser and a “green” service. Phones can be dropped off or mailed to the clinic: 316 Maine St., Lawrence, KS 66044.

The clinic also collects empty ink jet print cartridges. For information, contact Raymond Munoz, Access to Baby and Child Dentistry Coordinator, who is in charge of both programs:

[abcd@sunflower.com](mailto:abcd@sunflower.com).



Delicious autumn! My very soul is wedded to it, and if I were a bird I would fly about the earth seeking the successive autumns.

– George Eliot