

MSSC NEWS



FEBRUARY
2021

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our community,
and our profession.*

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MEDICAL SOCIETY of
SEDGWICK COUNTY

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Under fire for keeping communities safe

Public health officers in Kansas and across the U.S. faced a range of reactions to their pandemic orders – some of them threatening



Just a short time ago public health officers lived a fairly low-key life monitoring, tracking and mitigating measles outbreaks, sexually transmitted diseases and other now mildly nostalgic public health threats.

Those days of quietly strong-arming disease outbreaks that were mostly containable and that usually petered out before reaching epidemic status – think H1N1, SARS, etc. – are sidelined now, usurped by the volatile, unpredictable and highly contagious coronavirus, now a worldwide pandemic of the kind that hadn't been seen by most people alive today.

Public health officers, once behind the scenes, have been thrust into the limelight, the direction of their counties and states placed squarely on their shoulders in a no-win situation that was made worse by people's varied reactions to their orders.



DR. PEZZINO

More than 180 health officials across the U.S. have resigned, retired or been fired during the pandemic, the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) said, citing data collected by Kaiser Health News and the Associated Press.

In Kansas alone, more than 30 health officials have left their posts since the pandemic's start, a Kansas Department of Health and Environment spokeswoman told CNN.

That includes Gianfranco Pezzino, MD, who served as the Shawnee County health officer for nearly 14 years. Pezzino resigned in December, after county commissioners decided to relax the rules on one of his public health emergency orders -- which, he told CNN, came at a time the county was seeing its "worst" coronavirus numbers since the pandemic's start.

PLEASE SEE **COVID**, PAGE 2

Three generations of Dr. Browns have served city

In recognition of Black History Month, MSSC is spotlighting the Brown family, which has had a three-generation-long history of providing care to our community.



DR. G.G. BROWN

Dr. G.G. Brown was one of the earliest Black physicians in Wichita. He began his medical career at the turn of the 20th century in his hometown of Atchison. He moved to Wichita in 1908 and joined MSSC soon after.

Brown, who earned his medical degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C., was very active in politics, the

YMCA and his church. He also served several years as assistant county physician.

Brown died suddenly of a heart attack on March 24, 1925, while playing volleyball in a recreational league. More than 1,500 people attended his funeral, where the pastor lamented "we have no one to take his place." Another speaker noted how Brown cared for the sick and needy, many times without pay. He was 51 years old.

**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

PLEASE SEE **GENERATIONS**, PAGE 3

Physicians need to support public health workers



Stephen J. Grindel, DO
February President's Message

While growing up in the '60s, I would hear every night on television about the Vietnam War.

These war stories ran daily from my childhood through adolescence. It was not news to me; it was the same story every day. I became numb

to the reality of war.

Fast-forward 50 years, and we face a similar white-noise situation with the lead story on the nightly news: the coronavirus pandemic. "COVID, COVID, COVID" is all we seem to hear in the news, which causes some people to stop paying attention. Some are tired of the isolation and the mandates and are growing frustrated. Others have bought into conspiracy theories and hoaxes about the virus, masks and vaccines. Far too many people are taking out their fears and frustrations on public health workers.

During this crucial time, we need to support and laud our public health officers for the exceptional work they are doing under extremely stressful conditions. I wish to thank those at the state and local level – especially Sedgwick County Health Officer Garold Minns, MD – for all their efforts to save lives in Kansas. Many of them have been publicly criticized and personally threatened for doing their job. It is sad but not a surprise that 15% of all public

health officers in Kansas have resigned.

We in the Medical Society can support our public health officials and help cut through the white noise. We need to take their message into our own practices and into our daily living by our actions and words. Each of us has considerable influence on the public regarding health issues. We need to emphasize the need for mask wearing, social distancing, handwashing and limiting social gatherings. The public will be watching how we handle the coronavirus pandemic.

According to a recent JAMA article, the federal government undermined science and sent conflicting messages to the public, in addition to politicizing public health, which is causing social distrust. As leaders in the medical community, we must emphasize science and facts regarding COVID-19. We may wish to help educate with posters or informational handouts. The Medical Society produced public service TV commercials with some of our members talking about the importance of following public health guidance. Another method of informing the public is through social media.

A JAMA article last month said that "misinformation is a public health crisis." We must all dispel the myths regarding the coronavirus and support the work of the public health officers in our area. This is the most rapid method of controlling the coronavirus and stabilizing our society.

COVID CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"You value the pressure from people with special economic interests more than science and good public health practice," he wrote in his resignation letter to the commissioners (available on Kaiser Health News at khn.org). "In full conscience I cannot continue to serve as the health officer for a board that puts being able to patronize bars and sports venues in front of the health, lives and well-being of a majority of its constituents."



DR. MINNS

Sedgwick County Health Officer Garold Minns, MD, said he's fielded the gamut of disagreeable responses to his county health orders, ranging from resignation to angry criticism, but he has operated under the overall support and encouragement of both county officials and residents. Not everyone has been happy with him, he

said, but most everyone has been civil.

"Fortunately, I've sensed a level of respect in this county that maybe hasn't existed in all counties around the state," Minns said.

"I've gotten some very angry letters – some very strongly worded letters that disagree with me – but I guess we all have different thresholds. People may not agree with me, but they understand I have a job to do and respect the fact that I'm trying to do it."

In Wilson County, Jennifer Bacani McKenney, a KUSM-W graduate who did her residency at Ascension Via Christi, has served as the health officer for nearly a decade. She said that while a majority of people in her community have been supportive, she and her co-workers became the targets of "loud, outspoken dozens" who heavily opposed masks "because of their rights and liberties," she told CNN.

Even as the state lifted some restrictions, McKenney held out on her stance to continue safety measures. It did not sit well with

some. She said she was called names. Her mask mandate was compared to the Holocaust. Some people drove by her home and filmed her. She was escorted after meetings by sheriff's deputies for safety concerns. Although she has said she has no plans to quit, the harassment takes its toll.

"I think there's a lot of fear. And there's so much unknown," she told NBC News in December. "People want to blame something, and they can't blame a virus that is too small to be seen. So they blame people like me."

Others said enough is enough. Vicki Collie-Akers, professor of population health at KUSM-Kansas City, told Kansas News Service that many of the health officials in Kansas who are leaving are doing so "because they can't manage both the pandemic crisis and the harassment and denigration that's come with it."

Reno County Health Department director Nick Baldetti resigned in July, citing a hostile political environment and threats to his family.

"Whatever decision I made, 50% of people were going to be upset because it was too 'restrictive' and the other 50% were going to be upset because it wasn't restrictive enough," he told the Kansas News Service.

In the end, the pandemic backlash against public health orders lands at the front door of reason. Public health officials must understand the science and make decisions based on the best information available at whatever stage the pandemic resides, Minns said.

Sometimes folks will have to just agree to disagree.

"I acknowledge there are opinions out there and you will find people who disagree about everything and anything," Minns said. "You can't just sit and ruminate about it. We've got a job to do and it's our job to stick with it until it's over with."



COLLIE-AKERS

Fortunately, I've sensed a level of respect in this county that maybe hasn't existed in all counties around the state.

~GAROLD MINNS, MD

Pandemic spurs increased interest in public health careers

Public health officials have been placed in the spotlight over the past year, spurring a growing interest in public health careers in the U.S.

The University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita reported a 32% increase overall in applicants to its public health program as of this month. That followed a huge spike in the fall when officials saw a 67% increase in applicants by December.

"We saw a lot of applicants in the fall, which we don't normally see," MPH director Melissa Armstrong said. "In most years, we get the bulk of our applicants in January and February due to a March 1 deadline. But due to the pandemic, we had a lot of applicants show interest in the summer and send in early applications."

Kaiser Health News reported that among the more than 100 schools and public health programs that use the common application – a single admissions application form that students can send to multiple schools – there was a 20% increase in applications to master's in public health programs for the current academic year, to nearly 40,000, according to the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health.

Student interest in medical and public health fields across the nation is surging this year as part of what some health school officials are calling the "Fauci effect" after National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases director Anthony Fauci, who has taken the leading role in the country's response to COVID-19.

Medical school applications are up about 18% this year, a significant increase considering that application numbers – while steadily increasing over the past decade – have averaged less than 3% growth in prior years, according to a report from the Association of American Medical Colleges.

"Students in medical school now have more interest in public health and the concept of it than ever before," said Garold Minns, MD, KUSM-Wichita dean, and associate dean for Academic & Student Affairs.

That doesn't surprise Julie Lovato, who is working on her Master of Public Health degree at KUSM-Wichita and aiming for a ca-



reer in environmental health. She said the pandemic underscored the disproportionate effect that disease has on underserved populations in society – and she wants to help change that.

"I think the reason why the coronavirus has piqued my interest in continuing in the MPH program is because it's a perfect example of how public health work encompasses the essential service of environmental health to manage a public health crisis," she said. "COVID has opened so many people's eyes to these kinds of problems that have existed for many, many decades."

Kaiser reported that some programs are seeing huge jumps. Applications to Brown University's small master's in public health program, for example, rose 75%, according to Annie Gjelsvik, a professor and director of the program. "People interested in public health are interested in solving complex problems," she said. "The COVID pandemic is a complex issue that's in the forefront every day."

GENERATIONS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



DR. BROWN, SR.

Dr. Val Brown, Sr., was 1-year-old when his father died. Growing up, people called him "Little Dr. Brown."

"It was indelibly pressed on my mind that this – studying to become a doctor – was what I was going to do," he said in a 1994 Wichita Eagle article about his retirement.

Brown, who also earned his medical degree from Howard University, began practicing in Wichita in 1948, the same year he joined MSSC. He turned 97 years old

this month.

Hospitals were segregated when Brown began his practice, and he and his family were not welcome to eat in certain Wichita restaurants. But society slowly changed, and Brown became one of the first Black physicians to have privileges at Wesley Medical Center. His wife, Jo, also became the first woman of color elected to the Wichita School Board.

The Eagle article said that Brown's retirement marked "the end of an era when doctors made house calls, ran their own practices, and let their patients pay what they could afford."

Dr. Val Brown, Jr., told MSSC that he always wanted to be a doctor "except for a brief period of time when I thought I was go-

ing to be a fireman."

He graduated from the KUSM-Wichita in 1979, one of the first two African Americans to do so. He joined MSSC in 1982 and initially worked with his father before moving to a different practice.

A 2016 article in the Community Voice about his retirement from private practice said that Brown's patients could expect him "to listen attentively to what ails them, but they could also expect a firm talking to, especially if they hadn't been following the doctor's orders."

Brown, who still works emergency room shifts at Kansas Medical Center, said he was in private practice so long "because I had a passion about my practice, a passion about my patients and a passion about their health."

Brown takes pride in his family's three generations of service to the Wichita medical community, which included each of the Browns serving on the local board of health.

MSSC is proud of them, too.

Photo of G.G. Brown courtesy of the Brown family.



DR. BROWN, JR.

MSSC celebrates its many longtime members

The Medical Society of Sedgwick County is fortunate to have a large membership of physicians of a wide range of ages. This diversity helps keep MSSC strong and dynamic.

This month, MSSC is recognizing active physicians celebrating their 30-year and 40-year anniversaries as MSSC members in 2021. MSSC also is grateful for an additional 24 physicians who have been MSSC members for more than 40 years.

Celebrating 40 years with MSSC

Robert W. Bingaman, MD
Rizwan U. Hassan, MD
Badr Idbeis, MD
Garold O. Minns, MD
Prakash V. Raghavan, MD
Richard A. Steckley, MD
Travis W. Stembridge, MD



DR. IDBEIS

Celebrating 30 years with MSSC

Clifford S. Depew, MD
Francie H. Ekengren, MD
Ayham J. Farha, MD
Assem Z. Farhat, MD
Mark H. Fritze, MD
David A. Grainger, MD, MPH
Michael E. Grant, MD
Stephen J. Grindel, DO
Steven A. Hutchinson, MD
W. Ransom Kilgore, III, MD
Victoria W. Kindel, MD
Rex V. Lear, MD
Michael A. Mueller, MD
Darla K. Rivera, DO
Joseph M. Sack, MD
Natalie R. Sollo, MD
Mark J. Springer, MD
Betty Troutman, DO
Thanh N. Truong, DO
Robert C. Young, MD



DR. MINNS



DR. STEMBRIDGE

Kansas Healthcare Ethics Conference

The 8th annual Kansas Healthcare Ethics Conference will take place on March 10 in a new virtual format.

Topics range from COVID-19 issues to self-care. The conference cost is \$60 if registration is postmarked on or before March 8, and \$75 if after that date. Cost is \$100 for day-of registration. The general public can attend for \$5 and no CEUs.

The Medical Society of Sedgwick County is accredited by the Kansas Medical Society to provide continuing medical education for physicians. MSSC designated this live webinar activity for a maximum of 7.5 AMA PRA Category 1 credits.

Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity. The Wichita Medical Research & Education Foundation has a limited number of student scholarships available.

Please call (316) 686-7172 for scholarship information. More information and registration is available online at www.wichitamedicalresearch.org.

In Brief ►►► New and noteworthy

JayDoc Community Clinic to hold annual fundraiser

JayDoc's Community Clinic is holding its annual fundraiser on March 20 to help the JayDoc Community Clinic provide vaccinations and health services to the Wichita community.



Called "Cuisine for the Vaccine," the in-person event is subject to COVID-19 contingency plans, including cancellation and transfer of the silent auction to a virtual event.

"As we are still unsure of what the future holds, we decided to plan for an in-person event with an extensive cancellation policy as we want to maintain safety as our top priority," organizers said.

Cocktails, dinner and the program will be held at the Olive Tree Banquets and Catering, 2949 N. Rock Road, Suite 100.

Organizers said safety guidelines will be enforced, including the requirement to wear masks at all times unless actively eating or drinking, and maintaining social distancing.

To register or learn more about the event's COVID-19 guidelines, please visit kuendowment.org/jaydocbanquet.

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Dreams: Realized

Medical scholarship opportunity open

The Zola N. and Lawrence R. Nell Educational Trust Scholarship Program is accepting scholarship applications through March 15 for the 2021-22 school year. The scholarship grants funds to assist students studying at the post-baccalaureate level to become a physician or physician assistant.

Grants may be made for tuition, books, fees and related expenses, with tuition and fee money paid directly to the school's registrar. Applicants must have graduated from a Sedgwick County high school. For an application, contact Brian Adams, vice president and trust officer for Commerce Trust Company, at (316) 261-3682. Each application should provide address and phone number for communications between March and June.

COVID-19 vaccine messaging guide

The American Medical Association has updated its "COVID-19 vaccines guide for physicians," including translating the information into Spanish. In addition to providing information reflective of public health guidance, the guide is intended to equip organizational spokespersons with thoughtful messaging, including social media content. It includes words to avoid, sample social media posts, information on how to handle detractors online, among other things.

To download a copy of the updated guide for physicians, please go here: <https://tinyurl.com/4cuulq46>

No-cost infection prevention learning

Enrollment is now open for physician offices, clinics, and other ambulatory settings to participate in a new statewide Infection Prevention Learning Action Network (LAN).

This virtual learning series is offered by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in partnership with the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative (KHC).

The KDHE-KHC LAN will provide nine bi-weekly virtual learning modules over the lunch hour covering the basics of infection prevention beginning Feb. 25 and ending June 17. This learning series is for frontline health care workers, technicians, and office staff with an interest in learning and applying basic infection prevention principles and protocols. There is no cost to participate. Download the KDHE-KHC Learning Action Network informational flyer here: <https://tinyurl.com/eljktz7j>

Deadline for enrollment is March 10. Please consider who among your team members would benefit from this initiative and enroll here: www.khconline.org/LAN-registration.

CDC updates quarantine guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has updated quarantine recommendations for vaccinated persons. Fully vaccinated persons who meet criteria will no longer be required to quarantine following an exposure to someone with COVID-19.

Additional considerations for patients and residents in health care settings are provided. The updated CDC guidance is as follows: "Vaccinated persons with an exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 are not required to quarantine if they meet ALL of the following criteria:

- Are fully vaccinated (i.e., ≥2 weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or ≥2 weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine);
- Are within three months following receipt of the last dose in the series; and
- Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure.

Persons who do not meet all three of the above criteria should continue to follow current quarantine guidance after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19."

For additional quarantine information, please visit the CDC at <https://tinyurl.com/4r7x32vj>.

KDHE quarantine guidance

The current KDHE guidance, which was updated on Dec. 24, with respect to quarantine of persons who have received both doses of COVID-19 vaccine is that: "Once a person completes their COVID-19 vaccination series, they may be exempt from quarantine after exposure or re-exposure as long as they remain asymptomatic.

"At this time, we assume a three-month period of immunity from the date of the last shot. If they become symptomatic, they should be tested via PCR or antigen test. If they had natural disease recently, meaning they had COVID-19 disease in the last few months, an antigen test within the first five to seven days from symptom onset (depending on the EUA for the test they are using) is preferred. Receiving the vaccine does not affect the results of a PCR or antigen test, only an antibody test."

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ROSTER UPDATE

Keep your 2021 roster current with this information.

Key: [BC] Board Certified [F] Accredited Fellowship [R] Residency [AT] Additional Training [F*] Unaccredited Fellowship

NEW ACTIVE MEMBERS



Sundas Abbas, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1649790486

Medical education obtained at Rawalpindi Medical University, Pakistan 12/2005-3/2011. Residency in Internal Medicine at SSM Health St Mary's Hospital - St Louis 7/2017-6/2020.



Abdullah Abu Kar, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1407239718

Medical education obtained at University of Jordan, Amman 9/2008-6/2014. Residency in Internal Medicine at Albany Medical Center, Albany, NY 7/2015-7/2018.



Vikas Agrawal, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1649790486

Medical education obtained at BJ Medical College, Pune, India 7/2002-2/2008. Residency in Internal Medicine at Interfaith Medical Center, Brooklyn, NY 8/2014-10/2017.



Alexandra Ahumada Palma, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1932621042

Medical education obtained at Universidad Autónoma de Baja California, Tijuana, Mexico 1/2008-6/2015. Residency in Internal Medicine at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago 7/2017-6/2020.



Aaron Divanne, MD

[R] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1790151827

Medical education obtained at Instituto Tecnológico de Santo Domingo (INTEC), Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic 11/2005-3/2012. Residency in Internal Medicine at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, Chicago 7/2015-9/2018.



Chloe McBride, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1396274163

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City 7/2013-5/2017. Residency in Internal Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2017-6/2020.



Rajaram T. Pattar, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

OFF: 268-6976

FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1386165702

Medical education obtained at International American University College of Medicine, Vieux Fort, St Lucia. Residencies in Internal Medicine at Providence Hospital - George Washington University, DC 7/2017-12/2018 and Wright Center for Graduate Medical Education, Scranton, PA 12/2018-6/2020.

REINSTATE TO ACTIVE



Smyrna Abou Antoun, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

Sound Physicians

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FAX: 291-4396

929 N St Francis, 67214

NPI: 1821297656

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ROSTER UPDATE (continued)

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Key: [BC] Board Certified [F] Accredited Fellowship [R] Residency [AT] Additional Training [F*] Unaccredited Fellowship



Shauna M. Kern, DO
[BC] Internal Medicine
Sound Physicians
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929 N St Francis, 67214
NPI: 1821259391
Active MSSC member 2015-17.



Diala M. Tannoury, MD
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929 N St Francis, 67214
NPI: 1437342185
Active MSSC member 2010-16.

CHANGES

Johanna H. Agustin, MD
Hutchinson Clinic
OFF: 620-669-2500
FAX: 620-694-2179
2101 N Waldron
Hutchinson, KS 67502

Sarah E. Carlson, MD
[BC] Pediatrics
Redbud Pediatrics

Erik A. Dill, MD
[BC] Cytopathology
Southcentral Pathology Laboratory, PA

Mid-Kansas ENT Associates
East Wichita location as of 2/1/21:
10090 E Shannon Woods Cir, 67226
Same phone, FAX

NMH Health (formerly Newton Medical Center)
Website: www.mynmhealth.org

Patterson Health Center – Anthony
Website: www.pattersonhc.org

Lindsey C. Peller, DO
[BC] Pediatrics
Mid-Kansas Pediatric Associates, PA

Jeffrey K. Wingate, MD
OFF: 644-0551
Mailing address:
9350 E Corporate Hills Dr Box 783074, 67207

DROPPED

Alaa Boulad, MD – Moved out of state
Jason L. Hoke, DO – 1/20/21
Jennifer L. Wiperman, MD – 2/8/21

RETIRED

Bernard F. Hearon, MD – 1/21/21
Barbara Luder, MD – 1/31/21

In Remembrance

MSSC extends its condolences to the family of Dr. Gott

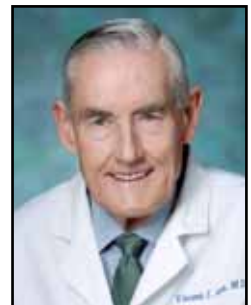
Vincent L. Gott, MD

Internationally renowned cardiothoracic surgeon **Vincent L. Gott, MD**, was not an MSSC member, but he was a Wichita native who made major contributions to medicine.

Dr. Gott, who died Nov. 20 at the age of 93, was born and raised in Wichita and graduated from Wichita State University in 1950. He attended Yale Medical School and did his residency at the University of Minnesota Hospitals. In 1965, he became an associate professor of surgery at the John Hopkins University School of Medicine and chief cardiac surgeon for the Johns Hopkins Hospital, where he practiced for 55 years.

His many achievements include proving that an electronic stimulator could jump-start the heartbeats of patients, revolutionizing heart valve designs, performing the first heart transplant operation at Johns Hopkins Hospital, and perfecting operational procedures for correcting congenital heart defects in patients with Marfan syndrome. Between 1976 and 1999, Gott performed nearly 200 operations to repair or replace defective aortas in patients with Marfan syndrome and became internationally renowned for these operations. He also served as president of the Society of Thoracic Surgeons and the American Society for Artificial Internal Organs.

His colleagues said during his more than 50 years on the faculty at Johns Hopkins, Gott trained more than 60 cardiac surgeons, many of whom would go on to become national leaders in their field.



DR. GOTT



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BretEmberson@ProviDRsCare.Net or (316) 221-9106.

UPDATE

February 2021

Central Plains Health Care Partnership

From the executive director



SHELLEY DUNCAN

Project Access

I think I can speak for all of us at Project Access that 2020 was an interesting, uncertain and somewhat turbulent time for us. When we began working remotely in April, we continued seeing our clients as normal but through email and telephone communications. We saw a dip in referrals during the spring, and some clients we spoke to were hesitant to see a physician. However, as the year went on, this concern seemed to wane, and by the end of the year, we were seeing more clients.

An ongoing challenge for us that began in 2020 and still faces us today is that **our three service coordinators are handling referrals from all sources**. Historically, referrals from community health clinics have been enrolled by Department for Children and Families (DCF) staff located at the

clinics, while Project Access staff enroll clients referred directly from physicians' offices. DCF staff began working remotely in April, however, and were unable to continue enrolling clients into Project Access. This has created a situation where clients have been waiting longer than we would like for enrollments. To ensure that we continue enrolling all qualified clients, Project Access has engaged an employee from the Medical Society to help with enrollments during this time. There is no date yet set for the DCF staff to return to their clinic offices. If any physician would like to discuss a specific patient, please contact shelleyduncan@cphcp.com or triciapetz@cphcp.com.

We also are seeing **more individuals referred to Project Access** who have lost their employment or whose partner lost their employment and no longer have health insurance. We also have had clients referred whose income was over the allowable limit for enrollment in Project Access due to the additional \$600 in unemployment benefits that was provided to those receiving unemployment in 2020. We worked with our board of directors to address this issue and were able to make some allowances depending upon an individual's situation.

Despite the challenges that 2020 brought, we were fortunate to receive **funding through a PPP loan, as well as CARES Act** funding to help with unplanned budgetary expenditures related to remote work. The PPP loan enabled us to cover our costs for 2020 since we were unable to meet our fundraising goal. Philanthropic support covers one quarter of our annual budget.

Project Access was one of 40 local nonprofits chosen to participate in **a yearlong project with Catchafire**, an organization that "strengthens the social good sector by matching professionals who want to donate their time with nonprofits who need their skills." This will allow Project Access to receive assistance from different consultants located around the world for any number of projects needed to strengthen the organization. This award was provided by a local foundation.

We look forward to 2021. We recognize that it will not be like 2020, but we also acknowledge we are unlikely to return to what we knew before the COVID-19 pandemic. That's why we are **most grateful to the hundreds of dedicated medical providers in our community** who continue to donate care and treatment to our clients. We are humbled by their commitment and happy to report we have maintained the same number of physicians who donate care, despite many who had a difficult year themselves. We remain committed to our mission and are honored to serve those who, without Project Access, would be unable to have their health care needs met.



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Donate now!



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Why you matter

Project Access Patient Testimonial

Johnny – Project Access patient

When you work in construction, it is important your body is able to perform the physical tasks required. Johnny, 26, had a pain in his right foot that was immobilizing him. He thought he had an ingrown toenail because the toe was swollen and painful. This pain made it difficult to walk and wear a work boot. Since Johnny is self-employed, health insurance can be challenging to afford. He went to a community clinic, which referred him to a specialist with Project Access. Through the specialist, Johnny discovered that he had a tumor in his foot and that the tumor was creating pressure under the toenail. An in-office surgical procedure removed the tumor and, thankfully, the pathology report came back all clear. Johnny is grateful for the donated care he received, and he is back on the worksite. He knows that without Project Access he would have waited longer to seek medical treatment, which could have resulted in a much different outcome.



About Project Access

In 1999, Project Access began coordinating access to donated medical care for uninsured, low-income residents of Sedgwick County. Thanks to our founding funders – United Way of the Plains, the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County – Project Access is still able to serve the community today. This is who participates in Project Access:

- 640 physicians
- Eight hospital systems
- 14 dentists
- 85 pharmacies
- Other allied health care services, such as physical therapy and hospice care

Project Access and its community partners serve patients in many locations. Eligible uninsured patients are enrolled for limited periods of time to address immediate medical needs. Once enrolled, patients have access to a variety of specialists, as well as prescription medication, durable medical equipment and diabetic supplies. Since 1999:

- 14,473 patients served
- \$54,537,217 physician contributions
- \$176,649,026 hospital contributions
- \$125,184 dentist contributions
- \$5,663,672 purchased medications and durable medical equipment
- \$5,723,640 donated medications
- 34,416 tests utilized through the Coalition Test Project

Update on community programs

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Health ICT is creating a video on pre-diabetes

Health ICT has been working with a local marketing studio to create a short video that describes how a team-based approach to the identification and management of patients with pre-diabetes could be implemented in a clinic setting. The short video focuses on burnout prevention by encouraging physicians to utilize their entire physician-led team to ensure that preventive screenings and treatments are routinely completed while still addressing the patient's acute needs. Once the video is completed, it will be shared with clinics Health ICT has worked with in the past and clinics that receive consultation services from the Kansas Healthcare Collaborative, as well as via newsletters and social media as appropriate.

New DPP providers

The KU Center for Healthcare and Holy Family Medical Inc. have undertaken the development of in-house Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPPs) in their clinics. Health ICT provided technical assistance for meeting criteria necessary to establish a CDC-recognized program and provided funding for the initial costs to develop a program. Health ICT will provide additional funding as certain patient outcome milestones are met. Health ICT has additional funds to help start other programs and is available for free technical assistance. If you are interested in starting a DPP program within your clinic or organization, contact Matt Thibault with Health ICT at MattThibault@med-soc.org.

Survey on employer health care plans

The first Kansas Business Group on Health (KBGH) survey of employers, health care and benefits involved 16 local companies and organizations employing from 19 workers to 3,200 employees. The results were compiled into a benchmarking report (available on the member-only portion of the KBGH website) that compared survey responses with national benchmarking data from the Kaiser Family Foundation 2020 Employer Health Benefits Survey, a random survey of 1,765 employers conducted in the first half of the year. The results were eye-opening. If you are interested in becoming a member of KBGH, please contact Shelley Duncan at shelleyduncan@cphcp.com.


 Executive Director

MSSC NEWS

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