

120 MSSSC NEWS

A Continuum of Care

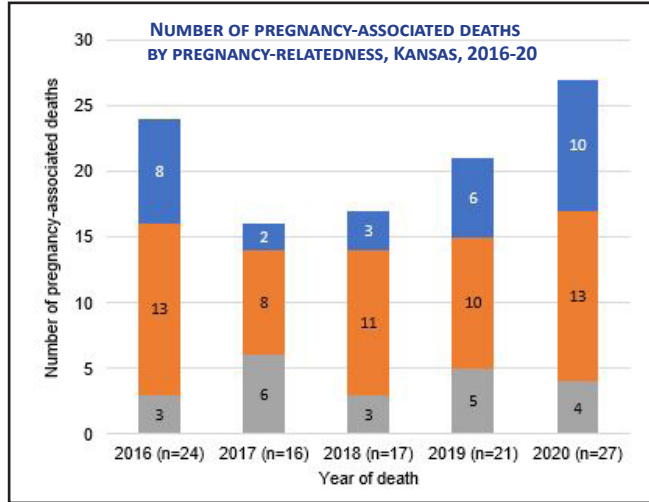


AUGUST
2023

INSIDE

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Maternal deaths up in Kansas, nation



• PREGNANCY-RELATED (N=29) • PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED, BUT NOT RELATED (N=55)
• PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED, BUT UNABLE TO DETERMINE PREGNANCY-RELATEDNESS (N=21)
SOURCE: KANSAS MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Maternal deaths in the U.S. more than doubled during the past two decades, according to a study published last month in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Maternal mortality – defined in the study as a death during pregnancy or up to a year afterward – increased from an estimated 505 in 1999 to 1,210 in 2019.

The study also found significant disparities by racial and ethnic groups. Black mothers died at the highest rates (an estimated 55.4 maternal mortality ratio per 100,000 live births in 2019, up from 26.7 in 1999), while American Indian and Native Alaskan mothers had the largest MMR increase (from 14 to 49.2). The MMR among the white population increased from 9.4 to 26.3.

Maternal deaths have continued to increase during the pandemic. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported earlier this year that there was a 40% increase between 2020 and 2021 in women who died during pregnancy or within 42 days following delivery.

The Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee (KMMRC) examines all pregnancy-associated deaths in the state (defined as the death of a woman during or within one year of pregnancy, regardless of the cause). Its new report determined there were 105 deaths in Kansas between 2016 and 2020 that were pregnancy associated. That translates to a pregnancy-associated mortality ratio of 56 deaths per every 100,000 live births.

Of the 105 deaths in Kansas, 29 were pregnancy-related (from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy), 55 were pregnancy associated but not related, and 21 were pregnancy associated but pregnancy-relatedness could not be determined. More than half of the pregnancy-associated deaths occurred after 43 days postpartum.

The 29 pregnancy-related deaths translate to a pregnancy-related

PLEASE SEE **MATERNAL DEATHS**, PAGE 2

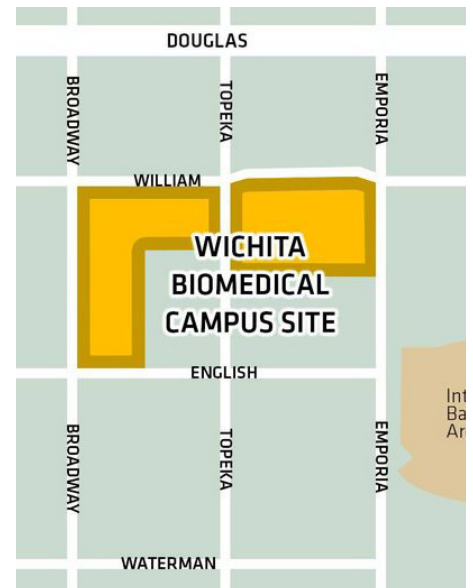
Site selected for KUSM/WSU campus

The Wichita City Council voted earlier this month to sell or lease two downtown properties for the site of the new joint health sciences center for University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita and Wichita State University.

The planned 471,000-square-foot facility would be located diagonally across Broadway from the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Construction is expected to start in early 2024 and be completed in 2026. The campus will combine KUSM-W, the KU School of Pharmacy, WSU's College of Health Professions and WSU Tech's Health Professions program. Initially, the center will house about 3,000 students and 200 faculty and staff.

"Pooling the collective resources and successes of Wichita State, WSU Tech and the University of Kansas will ultimately improve the way health care professionals are educated and, in turn, improve patient outcomes for all Kansans," WSU President Rick Muma said.

SAVE THE DATE: KU and WSU leaders will discuss the new science center at the MSSC annual meeting from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 5 at The Vail, 210 N. Mosley in Old Town.



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who care for ...
our patients,
our community,
and our profession.

MSSSC
MEDICAL SOCIETY of
SEDGWICK COUNTY

www.mssconline.org
1102 S. Hillside
Wichita, KS 67211
(316) 683-7557

Outreach to young people key to reducing worker shortage



Maurice Duggins, MD
August President's Message

Workers used to be so plentiful and medical jobs so desirable that it wasn't that difficult to find good staff. That's no longer the case. Whether it is nurses, technicians, receptionists or billers, hospitals and doctors' offices are struggling to find and retain workers. Here is one example:

A study released in June by the Kansas Hospital Association found 25% of Kansas hospital jobs for licensed practical nurses and 21% of registered nursing jobs were vacant in 2022. In 2015, the vacancy rate was 6% for both RNs and LPNs.

MSSC partnered with several community organizations to hold a workshop earlier this month on the workforce needs of health care, both now and in the future. The workshop featured a panel discussion that included MSSC member Laura Tatpati, MD, associate dean at KUSM-W, and other health care and education leaders.

Kevin Strecker, CEO of Ascension Via Christi, noted that the current worker shortage could become severe in the future, as our aging population requires more medical care and more health care workers retire. "We are headed to Armageddon if we don't do anything," he said.

One effort to address this challenge is the new Future Ready Center that Wichita Public Schools and WSU Tech opened this month at WSU Tech's south campus near Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph. Students can earn their CNA certification and then choose either to enter an EMT or patient care technician pathway.

Another Future Ready Center is in the works at Wesley Medical Center. USD 259 also has health science programs at several schools, such as the bio-med program at North High School. It is starting a new program at Curtis Middle School and would like MSSC members to visit the class once or twice a month.

MSSC also is working to grow the health care workforce through outreach to populations underrepresented in medicine. MSSC partnered this spring with the Family Medicine Interest Group at KUSM-W to hold a "Doc for a Day" event targeting students of color. I was among about a dozen MSSC physicians who interacted with the students and shared about being physicians.

Karin Chang, daughter of retired MSSC member Fred Chang, MD, leads a program through the KU Medical Center called T-Score Lift that is also aimed at increasing diversity in health care. It is currently partnering with Wichita Northeast Magnet High School and is seeking to expand to other USD 259 schools.

I attended a "graduation" ceremony this month for a job-prep program run by the Greater Wichita YMCA. It spends 12 weeks training students on job and interview skills, then arranges for summer internships. The YMCA hopes to expand the program to include health care internships.

MSSC members can play important roles in growing our health care workforce, such as by helping with outreach efforts and providing mentoring, shadowing and internship opportunities. If you are willing to help, contact MSSC.

"If we post it, they will come" is no longer guaranteed for health care jobs. We need to be proactive in recruiting and encouraging the next generation to join the medical profession.

MATERNAL DEATHS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

mortality ratio (PRMR) of 15. Based on three-year rolling averages, the PRMRs increased from 11.3 in 2016-2018 to 17.2 in 2018-2020. The leading causes of the deaths were cardiovascular conditions followed by embolism-thrombotic (non-cerebral), hypertensive disorder and infection.

Of the 29 deaths, 23 (79.3%) were considered preventable, with 13 deaths showing a good chance of prevention and 10 deaths showing some chance. KMMRC considers a death preventable if there was at least some chance of the death being prevented by one or more reasonable changes to patient, family, provider, facility, system or community factors.

As is the case nationally, there were racial and ethnic disparities, which raises concerns about implicit bias and access to care. Of the 29 women who died in Kansas, 18 (62.1%) were racial and ethnic minorities and 11 were non-Hispanic whites.

Most maternal deaths do not occur during pregnancy. In fact, a study published in JAMA in June reported that, over the past decade, maternal mortality during labor and delivery decreased in U.S. hospitals across people of all ages, races and ethnicities. In Kansas, 10 of the 29 pregnancy-related deaths occurred during pregnancy.

There are several efforts aimed at reducing maternal deaths in Kansas, with a particular focus on supporting women after their pregnancies. The Kansas Perinatal Quality Collaborative (KPQC) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are currently working on the Fourth Trimester Initiative, which is aimed at studying and improving the experience of postpartum mothers and families in Kansas.

Currently, 34 hospitals and birth facilities are participating in the initiative, including Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph and Wesley Medical Center. The initiative centers around implementing

the Alliance for Innovation on Maternal Health (AIM) postpartum patient-safety bundle. Additionally, the KDHE Bureau of Family Health developed a Maternal Warning Signs Initiative focused on universal patient and provider education throughout the perinatal period that was disseminated to local public health partners and birth facilities participating in the Fourth Trimester Initiative.

In an important policy change, the Kansas Legislature and Gov. Laura Kelly extended last year the state's Medicaid postpartum coverage from 60 days following birth to 12 months. Nationally, such an expansion has shown to significantly reduce maternal mortality, particularly among Black women. Other possible reforms include expanding prenatal and postnatal home visitations, addressing social determinants of health, diversifying the perinatal workforce and investing in community-based organizations.

How to help prevent deaths

The Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee recommends the following actions to help prevent pregnancy-related deaths:

► Screen and provide brief intervention and referrals for:

- Comorbidities and chronic illness
- Intimate partner violence
- Pregnancy intention
- Mental health conditions (including postpartum anxiety and depression)
- Substance use disorder

► Improve communication and multidisciplinary collaboration between providers, including referrals

► Increase patient education and empowerment

In Brief ▶▶▶

New and noteworthy

New school year underway



New first-year medical students have begun their training at the University of Kansas School of Medicine and the Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. KUSM held its white coat ceremony on July 21 in Kansas City for 211 new students, 29 of whom began at KUSM-Wichita. Garold Minns, MD, dean of KUSM-W, led the students in reciting the Oath of Commitment to uphold high standards of professionalism and patient care. Nearly 75% of the class are Kansans, while the remaining students hail from 19 other states.

KansasCOM, which opened its downtown campus last year with 90 students, held its white coat ceremony on July 29 for 136 new students. The students come from 24 different states, with 31 of the students from Kansas.

Rine closing salvage business

MSSC member Grant Rine, MD, is closing Old Town Architectural Salvage, a store at 126 N. St. Francis that he has owned for more than 20 years.

"We had a lot of cool Wichita historical artifacts," Rine told The Wichita Eagle. "I've always been interested in saving old buildings and historic preservation."

In addition to closing his store this summer and selling the building, Rine, a radiation oncologist with Wichita Radiological Group, plans to retire from medicine by the end of this year.

Earl Mills scholarship funds available

Scholarship funds are now available from the Earl L. Mills Education Trust for practicing physicians to support additional study in medicine. Applicants must have practiced in Kansas continuously for at least a five-year period and may not be a member of a medical group of more than five practicing physicians. Funds may be used for study in medicine or health care for a period of at least four months, but no more than one year.

To apply, send a letter introducing yourself and explaining what you want to study. The deadline is Aug. 31. Send to Earl L. Mills Education Trust, INTRUST Bank, N.A., ATTN: Alex Robinson, P.O. Box 1, Wichita, KS 67201-5001.

Vignettes from MSSC's history

MSSC is celebrating its 120-year anniversary this year. Here are a few historical vignettes pulled from MSSC meeting minutes and other sources:

- "Sedgwick County Medical society meets tonight at usual place. Subject, 'Adenoids.'" – Item in the *Wichita Daily Eagle*, Sept. 25, 1905.
- An entry in an MSSC minutes book dated Dec. 1, 1908, reports: "Minutes of this meeting quarantined with Dr. Hagan and probably destroyed for sanitary purposes." No further explanation was recorded.
- The cases discussed at the meeting of Sept. 20, 1910, included a pregnancy the doctor "thought had extended over almost eleven months" and another in which the baby, six weeks overdue, "weighed sixteen pounds on hay bales scales."
- Early MSSC meetings weren't all science and cigars. At the meeting of Jan. 31, 1911, according to the minutes, a member "in a very enjoyable manner entertained the society with recitation of some original verses." On Oct. 7, 1930, "Dr. Graves recited a poem, 'Hippocrates Jones,' one of his own composition." On Jan. 20, 1931, Dr. Lawrence Knox, a baritone who sang often around town and on KFJH Radio, "rendered some very fine musical selections." Dr. Knox sang again Dec. 15, 1931, at a meeting that also featured a seasonal reading and an address titled "Shakespeare's Doctors."



MSSC members recognized

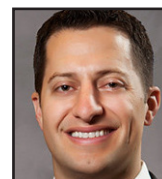
Eleven MSSC members were recognized this month in the *Wichita Business Journal's* "Excellence in Health Care" feature. Drs. Rishi Adhikari, Scott Adrian, Chris Dakhil, Cole Gillenwater, James Haan, Ben Hawley, Jefferson Jex, Shuo Li, Abid Mallick, Holly Montgomery and Ashley Robbins were asked questions about why they chose a career in health care, their biggest career challenges and their best career advice.



Dr. Adhikari



Dr. Adrian



Dr. Dakhil



Dr. Gillenwater



Dr. Haan



Dr. Hawley



Dr. Jex



Dr. Li



Dr. Mallick



Dr. Montgomery



Dr. Robbins

ROSTER UPDATE

Keep your 2023 roster current with this information.

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

NEW MEMBERS



Elaine M. Fan, MD

[BC] Pediatrics [F] Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
KUSM-Wichita Pediatrics (9/5/23)

OFF: 316-962-2080 | FAX: 316-962-2079

3243 E Murdock S-510, 67208

NPI: 1598297178

Medical education obtained at University of New Mexico
School of Medicine, Albuquerque 7/2013-5/2017. Resi-

dency in Pediatrics at UMass Chan Medical School/Baystate Medical
Center, Springfield, MA 7/2017-6/2020. Fellowship in Pediatric Hematology-
Oncology at University of Utah/Primary Children's Hospital, Salt Lake City
7/2020-6/2023.



Maheedhar Gedela, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine [BC] Cardiovascular Disease

[BC] Interventional Cardiology [AT] Structural Heart

Disease [AT] Adult Echocardiography [AT] Cardiovascular

Computed Tomography [AT] Nuclear Cardiology

Heartland Cardiology

OFF: 316-686-5300 | FAX: 316-651-2660

3535 N Webb Rd, 67226

NPI: 1104231216

Medical education obtained at Rangaraya Medical College, Kakinada,
India 8/2005-9/2011. Residency in Internal Medicine at University of South
Dakota Sanford School of Medicine, Sioux Falls 6/2014-6/2017. Fellowship
in Cardiovascular Disease at USD Sanford School of Medicine 7/2017-
6/2020. Fellowship in Interventional Cardiology at Icahn School of Medicine
at Mount Sinai, New York City 7/2020-6/2021. Fellowship in Structural Heart
Disease at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai 7/2021-6/2022.



Gebran Khneizer, MD

[BC] Internal Medicine

[F] Gastroenterology

Kansas Gastroenterology, LLC (mid-September)

OFF: 316-261-3130 | FAX: 316-261-3275

3121 N Webb Rd, 67226

NPI: 1386039477

Medical education obtained at American University of
Beirut, Lebanon 9/2009-6/2013. Internship at American

University of Beirut Medical Center 6/2013-6/2014. Residency in Internal
Medicine at Saint Louis University School of Medicine 7/2015-6/2018.
Fellowship in Gastroenterology & Hepatology at Saint Louis University
7/2020-6/2023.



Patrick G. McEnulty, MD

[R] Diagnostic Radiology

[F*] Musculoskeletal Radiology

Wichita Radiological Group, PA

OFF: 316-685-1367 | FAX: 316-685-9388

551 N Hillside S-320, 67214

NPI: 1821527698

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Kansas City

8/2013-5/2017. Internship in Internal Medicine at KUSM-
Wichita 7/2017-6/2018. Residency in Radiology at KUSM-Wichita 7/2018-
6/2022. Fellowship in Musculoskeletal Imaging at Washington University
School of Medicine in St. Louis 7/2022-6/2023.



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Dreams: Realized

ROSTER UPDATE *continued*

Keep your 2023 roster current with this information.

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



Maha A. Mohamad, MD

[R] Internal Medicine
[F] Rheumatology
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi Rheumatology
OFF: 316-274-8188 | FAX: 316-274-8140
1515 S Clifton S-205, 67218
NPI: 1083190763

Medical education obtained at Beirut Arab University, Lebanon 7/2007-7/2014. Residency in Internal Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2018-6/2021. Fellowship in Rheumatology at KUSM-Kansas City 7/2021-6/2023.



Kathy M. Nguyen, DO

[BC] Family Medicine
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi St Joseph Family Medicine (9/5/23)
OFF: 316-689-5500 | FAX: 316-691-6719
1121 S Clifton, 67218
NPI: 1609499219

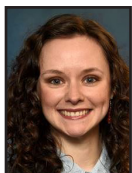
Medical education obtained at Western UHealth College of Osteopathic Medicine of the Pacific, Pomona, CA 6/2016-5/2020. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2020-7/2023.



Justin M. Reiswig, MD

[BC] Family Medicine
West Wichita Family Physicians, PA (9/5/23)
OFF: 316-721-4544 | FAX: 316-721-8307
8200 W Central S-1, 67212
NPI: 1427671148

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2016-5/2020. Residency in Family Medicine at KUSM-Wichita 7/2020-6/2023.



Emalee E. Smith, MD

[R] Pediatrics
KUSM-Wichita Pediatric Hospitalists
OFF: 316-962-7422 | FAX: 316-962-7805
550 N Hillside Mail Stop 853, 67214
NPI: 1336768894

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2015-5/2020. Residency in Pediatrics at University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson 7/2020-6/2023.



Kelly Winter, MD

[R] Surgery
[F] Colon & Rectal Surgery
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi Founders Cir
OFF: 316-274-4707 | FAX: 316-274-4608
1947 N Founders Cir, 67206
NPI: 1790214179

Medical education obtained at KUSM-Wichita 8/2013-5/2017. Residency in Surgery at KUSM-Wichita 7/2017-6/2022. Fellowship in Colon & Rectal Surgery at University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine-Chattanooga 8/2022-7/2023.

CHANGES

Samuel L. Ashby, DO

Ascension Medical Group Via Christi Founders Cir
FAX: 316-274-4739

Deshanett Clay, MD, MPH

KUSM-Wichita
Internal Medicine
OFF: 316-293-2622
FAX: 855-517-9494
8533 E 32nd St N, 67226
Pediatrics
OFF: 316-962-3100
620 N Carriage Parkway, 67208

Nader S. Eldika, MD

Heartland Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine, LLC
FAX: 833-992-2294

Nadia N. Gibson, MD

Preethi C. Kurakula, MD
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi Rheumatology
1515 S Clifton S-205, 67218
Same phone, fax

Ashley M.R. Haynes, MD

[BC] Medical Toxicology
[BC] Addiction Medicine
[BC] Emergency Medicine
[BC] Internal Medicine
Robert J Dole Veterans Med Ctr
5500 E Kellogg Dr, 67218
Same phone

Damen W. Hershberger, MD

Charis Noteboom, MD
Pearl OB/Gyn
2nd location:
3730 N Ridge Rd S-100, 67205
Same phone, fax

Thomas J. Higgins, MD

[BC] Medical Toxicology
Vituity

James Joseph, Jr., MD

Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine
Clinical Faculty, Assistant Professor of Orthopedic Surgery
OFF: 316-640-8463
217 E Douglas, 67202

Sean C. Kane, DO

Mid-Continent Anesthesiology, Chtd
OFF: 316-789-8444
FAX: 316-867-0468
6446 E Central S-323, 67206

Andrew S. Kettner, MD

Nathan D. Pfeifer, MD
West Wichita Family Physicians, PA
FAX: 316-721-8542

Alexandra A. Lekson, MD, MPH

[BC] Emergency Medicine
Vituity

Trevor S. Mattox, MD

[BC] Emergency Medicine
Vituity

Robert M. McFarland, MD

Great Plains Imaging, LLC
OFF: 316-491-6368

Natalia A. Montoya, MD

Montoya Family Practice DBA MFP Health and Wellness
FAX: 316-633-4468

Anh H. Nguyen, MD

Amanda M. Raney, MD
West Wichita Family Physicians, PA
FAX: 316-773-6862

Claudia Perez-Tamayo, MD

Central Care Cancer Center
2nd location (no longer Garden City):
OFF: 620-342-1117
FAX: 855-774-5285
1401 W 12th Ave
Emporia, KS 66801

Hannah M. Scoville, DO

[BC] Family Medicine
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi North Amidon

Cassie L. Scriptor, MD

[BC] Family Medicine
KUSM-Wichita
OFF: 316-293-2607
FAX: 316-293-2696
1010 N Kansas, 67214

Aaron D. Sinclair, MD

[BC] Family Medicine
[BC] Sports Medicine
KUSM-Wichita Family Medicine
Residency at Wesley
OFF: 316-962-3070
FAX: 316-962-3136
850 N Hillside, 67214

Jennifer L. Wiperman, MD, MPH

[BC] Family Medicine
Ascension Medical Group Via Christi St Joseph Family Medicine (9/5/23)
OFF: 316-689-5500
FAX: 316-665-6082
1121 S Clifton, 67218

Gregory A. Zandrow, MD

[BC] Emergency Medicine
Vituity

RETIRING

C. Joseph Beck, MD – 8/31/23

David G. Lehr, MD – 7/31/23

Christopher D. Miller, MD – 8/1/23

DROPPED

Shaun M. Altneu, DO – Moving out of state

Bryan N. Angle, MD – Moving out of state

David A. Ashkenasi, MD – Moved out of state

Tamra Lemley, MD – Moving out of state

Lindsey C. Peller, DO – Moved out of state

UPDATE

August 2023

Central Plains Health Care Partnership

From the executive director



SHELLEY DUNCAN

Project Access

Project Access staff remain busy enrolling clients in the program due to serious medical conditions. These are individuals who have very low incomes and no health insurance, but who have been diagnosed with a medical condition often requiring a medical specialist. People come to Project Access with many different conditions that are quite serious by the time they see us. These individuals typically have not had preventive or primary care that would have identified conditions earlier and possibly mitigated the seriousness of the disease state. We are proud of what we do, and even prouder of our medical community that so generously donates all care and treatment to our clients. Without you, our program would not exist.

I recently had the opportunity to meet one of our clients and I want to highlight him to help paint a picture of the people we serve. For donating physicians, you know these people, and possibly you know their stories. I am quite sure if you have treated this client, you did hear his story. For me, meeting this client was a humbling experience that only reinforced for me what a difference our program makes in someone's life. "George" is 57 years old, although he looks much older than that. He has trouble breathing and speaks loudly, possibly due to hearing loss. He is with Project Access because of his asthma and COPD. The first thing George told me was that he has never had to rely on help like this before in his life. He tearfully told me that he has been a cook at a local bar and grill for over 20 years but due to the smoke from the grill, he can only work three to four hours a day. As a result, his income dropped and he was having trouble paying his bills.

George has already seen several physicians through Project Access. He said one of his doctors told him that "no doctor in Wichita would not support him getting disability." George came into the office for several reasons. First to receive a self-measured blood pressure cuff (SMBP), and second to see if he would qualify for some financial help for his unpaid bills. He also hoped to receive some help with applying for Social Security disability. "I'm not too smart," he said, which is part of the reason his mother accompanied him to our meeting. Through the generosity of a local foundation, we received funding to purchase SMBPs and to create a flexible fund that can help our clients with one-time financial obligations they couldn't pay due to their health conditions. George qualified for the flexible funds. The monthly rent for his mobile home is \$250. We provided payment to the mobile home park for one month.

Our Community Health Worker will teach George how to use the blood pressure cuff and to guide him through the application process of disability. When George and his mother left, he gave me a hug, teared up again and told me that if he wins the lottery, he will pay Project Access back 10-fold for all that he receives from the program and the physicians who are treating him. This is George. He is but one of the many hundreds of people we – and you – serve every year.

Kansas Business Group on Health

KBGH held its 45th annual Healthcare Roundtable Conference at Village Travel, which generously donated the space for the event. The half-day conference had speakers on diversity, equity and inclusion, second opinions, federal legislation updates and mental health first aid. The conference was a success and evaluations were positive.



Kansas Business Group on Health

CONTACT US

1102 S. Hillside
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www.healthict.org

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CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Why you matter

Project Access Patient Testimonial

Ray's Story – In his own words (age 62)

During the COVID crisis, I lost my job, my health insurance expired, and my doctor retired. I applied for Social Security and decided that since I was in good health and could not afford health insurance on a small, fixed income, I would go without coverage until I was able to enroll in Medicare.

But things have a way of happening suddenly in life. A small polyp began to form on the roof of my mouth. It was not painful, but it was growing, and I was concerned. I went to a free health clinic. The nurse practitioner said she did not know what it was, but it could be something serious, and advised me to see a specialist. I was afraid it might be oral cancer, and I said that treatment would probably wipe out my savings and put me in debt for the rest of my life, so she recommended Project Access.

The staff at Project Access are patient, friendly and kind. As soon as I was enrolled, I had an appointment with an excellent

ENT, Dr. Aaron Thiessen.

As soon as he saw the polyp, he reassured me that it did not appear to be cancerous, but he said: "Let's go ahead and get it out of there and send it to the lab, just to be sure."

A few days later, he called and said it was non-cancerous, more like a wart, and not to worry anymore.

Project Access has also offered to connect me with other services such as optical, dental and social programs. They provided me with a free high blood pressure testing kit, and they are helping me to enroll in the Affordable Care Act, so that I can have health insurance again.

We are fortunate to have Project Access in our community. They certainly helped me, and I am grateful.



DR. THIESSEN

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:

- 15,164 patients served
- \$58,576,240 physician contributions
- \$195,902,095 hospital contributions
- \$157,100 dentist contributions
- \$5,850,607 purchased medications and durable medical equipment
- \$6,249,735 donated medications
- 41,832 tests utilized through the Coalition Test Project

Update on community programs

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

KBGH has its second book club of the year reading Dr. Atul Gawande's book "Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance."

We continue our quarterly Human Resource Forums, which are very well received by the HR professionals who attend. This is an informal opportunity to share concerns and successes, ask questions and learn from each other and from KBGH.

Staff from KBGH attended the National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions Leadership Summit in Nashville in July. The summit was excellent with many different topics presented by leading experts in their fields. Topics included women's health, employers who have implemented innovative benefit plans that have decreased costs and improved health, new progressive pharmacy benefit management companies and a documentarian who has created videos focused on adolescent mental health issues.

Health ICT

We are in the final stages of our two current grants, with one having ended in June and the other ending at the end of September, but we are still going strong until the end.

We have finalized details to partner with a local employer to engage in a direct contracting arrangement for diabetes education services with local provider Great Plains Diabetes, which will allow up to 10 employees with uncontrolled diabetes to have personalized diabetes education and support.

After finishing a pilot with Community Health Workers at Salud + Bienestar to offer the Healthy Heart Ambassador (HHA) program to patients from Project Access, Salud + Bienestar has expanded its services and now offers the HHA program in multiple areas throughout the city. We also continue to support a local telehealth provider with enhancing its patient-facing app to allow for more clinical decision support within the app. This will automate routine care for patients with certain chronic conditions.

Shelley Duncan
Executive Director

MSSC NEWS

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