

KAMU Update ☆ July 2008

From the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved

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KAMU & Member News ...

New State Funds

This year the Kansas Legislature appropriated \$2.5 million in new funding for safety net clinics, which includes \$700,000 for safety net clinic capital financing and \$80,000 for technical assistance to safety net clinics that are not federally funded. Here are a few details about how these funds will be distributed.

Capital Improvement Grant (CIG) Program. KAMU is administering a Request for Proposal process and has sent the RFP to member clinics. The purpose of this grant program is to increase the capacity of the safety net so that more underserved Kansans receive care. Capital equipment (defined as a per item cost of at least \$5,000) or building renovations/expansions are allowable requests. The maximum award is \$100,000, although smaller requests are encouraged.

An e-mail stating intent to apply is required, and must be sent to KAMU by **July 15, 2008**. Completed grant applications are due Aug. 15, and award announcements will be made by Sept. 15.

Technical Assistance (TA) for Non-federal Clinics. Thanks to the following people for volunteering to serve on a TA Task Force to determine funding priorities:

Julie Branstrom – Douglas County Dental Clinic
Cathy Gordon (or Cindy Moore) – Mercy & Truth Medical Missions
Nikki King – Health Care Access
Amanda Lowe – Health Partnership Clinic of Johnson County
Tina Payne – Health Ministries Clinic
Toni Pickard – Healthy Options for Kansas Communities (HOP)
Mary Virden – Silver City Health Center

KAMU Strategic Planning Session

KAMU and its members will meet this month to develop a three-year strategic plan for the association. Executive directors of member clinics are invited to attend.

Toward 2011: Charting KAMU's Future

KAMU Strategic Planning Session

July 8-9, 2008

Kansas History Museum, Topeka

Wathena Appoints New Leader

The Board of Directors of Northwest Health Services in Missouri has named Benjamin Ernst as Chief Executive Officer, effective July 8. Northwest includes one Kansas site and KAMU member, Wathena Medical Center in Wathena.

Ernst is retiring from the United States Navy after 20 years in various health care administration positions. He has a BA in Economics from the University of Missouri-Columbia, an MBA from the

University of Notre Dame and a Master's in Health Administration from Baylor University. He and his family are moving to St. Joseph, Mo., from Atoka, Tennessee. Ernst succeeds Susan Wilson, who will continue in a transitional role until the end of August. In more than 20 years of service with Northwest Health Services, she has led the organization through multiple site and service expansions.

Kudos!

Congratulations to **GraceMed Health Clinic** in Wichita. It received the Janet Sevier Gilbreath Special Project of the Year Recognition Award last month from the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund. The award is presented annually to acknowledge the Fund's project of the year. See the news release at www.healthfund.org and the story in the Fund's 2007 annual report.

A profile of **Silver City Health Center** in Kansas City will be featured in the REACH Healthcare Foundation's annual report and on its web site for the coming year: www.reachhealth.org.

Farewell, Partners

Two of KAMU's partners at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment are departing. Barbara Gibson, Director of Primary Care, is retiring on July 11. Gloria Vermie, Director of the State Office of Rural Health, left on June 20 to take a position in the State Department of Public Health in Iowa (her home state).

Barbara will continue to reside in Topeka and has plans to pursue multiple volunteer interests. Gloria will continue to work on rural health issues in her new position.

Emergency Preparedness Meets Kansas Weather

After Manhattan was hit by a tornado in early June, Flint Hills Community Clinic reported that they had been seeing some people with minor injuries and animal bites (from trying to capture stray animals). The free clinic also sent some of their nursing staff to the hardest-hit sites to administer tetanus vaccines. Fortunately the clinic's facility was not damaged.

KAMU Events & Trainings ...

Conference Calls for Clinicians

Continuing education credit is available for both calls. Contact Erin Scrapper, escrapper@kspca.org, for information.

Kansas Dental Network: July 1, 2008, 12 noon – 1 pm

Topic: "Patient Education: How to effectively and efficiently educate patients in a safety net dental clinic."

Presenter: Ginny Clark, RDH BSDH, Friendly Smiles Program Coordinator, Douglas County Dental Clinic, Lawrence, Kans.

Kansas Physicians Network: July 8, 2008, 12 noon – 1 pm

Topic: "Emergency Room Diversion." *Presenter:* Barrett Hatches, President & CEO, Swope Health Services, and Chief Operating Officer, Swope Community

Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise

A Cryptic Scenario: What's in Your Plan?

Thursday, July 17

9 am-3 pm, Kansas History Museum, Topeka

This event will give participants an opportunity to evaluate their clinic's response plans and capabilities. The exercise, which is based on actual events, will focus on mitigation, preparedness,

response and recovery elements that should be included in your emergency operations plan. For more information, contact Nikki Harrison, nharrison@kspca.org, 785-233-8483.

UDS Clinical Quality of Care Measures Training

Participants in this training will learn how to report on the six new clinical measures required by UDS. The conference is designed for those responsible for gathering and reporting data, as well as managers, quality improvement staff and decision makers who must understand the changes in 2008 UDS collection and reporting.

August 8, 10 am -3 pm

Hotel at OldTown, Wichita

For information, contact Denice Curtis, dcurtis@kspca.org, 785-233-8483.

Dental Hub Funding, Round II Press Conference

July 23, 10 am

GraceMed Health Clinic, Wichita

Recipients of the second round of dental hub funding will be announced at this press event. All interested persons are invited to attend. For more information, contact Val Renault, vrenault@kspca.org, 785-233-8483.

Save the Date for KAMU's Annual Conference!

Building Medical Homes: Challenges and Champions

September 24-26, 2008

Hotel at OldTown, Wichita

This year's conference will continue our focus on providing medical homes for the state's uninsured and underinsured, with special attention to best practices that KAMU members have instituted in their clinics. More information will be sent to member clinics soon. With questions, contact Nikki Harrison, nharrison@kspca.org, 785-233-8483.

Leadership Program Taking Applications

The Community Health Center Executive Fellowship program is now taking applications for the 2008-09 class, which begins *this* October. **Application deadline is July 15.**

The year-long, online course prepares individuals for *executive and senior* management positions in community health centers and safety net clinics. The regional fellowship is offered by the University of Kansas Medical Center, in collaboration with KAMU and the Greater Midwest Association of Primary Health Care. For details, visit www.chcexecfellow and see the brochure posted on KAMU's site, www.kspca.org.

Other Conferences & Events ...

Understanding, Implementing and Improving the Stroke Education Measure

This teleconference includes tips from the Joint Commission and a Primary Stroke Center. Clinical practice guidelines for stroke include recommendations for patient and family education during hospitalization as well as information about resources for social support services.

July 17, 2008, 1:00pm - 2:00pm CST

Call Information: (888) 259-9857 Conference ID # 52036257

To receive handouts: contact amy.wood@heart.org

Intended audience: Primary Stroke Centers; hospitals interested in certification; others interested in improving stroke education. For more info, see krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us.

Grantsmanship Training Program

The Grantsmanship Center's program will be held in Wichita on July 28-August 1. Tuition for the Grantsmanship Training Program is \$895 (\$845 for each additional registrant from the same organization). For more information, visit www.tgci.com or call (800) 421-9512.

Medicaid News ...

New Medicaid Cards

Effective this September, the Kansas Health Policy Authority is implementing a permanent plastic medical card for Medicaid beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will no longer receive monthly paper medical cards. The new card will allow individuals to check their eligibility and benefit information quickly and easily.

KHPA has scheduled an educational meeting regarding the new Kansas Plastic Medical Cards for **Tuesday July 1, 2008 at 1:00 pm** in Topeka. To participate in person, contact Morgan Reed at Morgan.Reed@khp.ks.gov, (785) 296- 8055. To participate by phone, call 877-270-7501 and enter passcode 5833480. For more information about the change, contact Jeanine Schieferecke, Senior Manager - Medicaid Eligibility, Kansas Health Policy Authority, LSOB-Suite 900, 900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas 66612, (785) 296-8866; Jeanine.Schieferecke@khp.ks.gov.

Clinical News ...

Spanish-language Consumer Guide for Oral Diabetes Medications

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has released a new consumer guide providing information to Hispanic adults with type 2 diabetes that helps them to compare various oral medications. The guide provides important information to patients on how to control their diabetes and avoid side effects. For information, visit www.ahrq.gov. Consumer guides can be ordered free of charge by contacting ahrqpubs@ahrq.hhs.gov or by calling 1-800-358-9295.

TBIs Due to Senior Falls

Traumatic brain injuries due to falls caused nearly 8,000 deaths and 56,000 hospitalizations in 2005 among Americans 65 and older, according to a new report from the CDC. Traumatic brain injuries are caused by a bump or blow to the head and can be missed or misdiagnosed among older adults. They can often result in long-term cognitive, emotional, and/or functional impairments. Information for older adults, their children, caregivers, and health care providers is available at www.cdc.gov/BrainInjuryInSeniors. Resources for practitioners can be downloaded at www.cdc.gov/ncipc/preventingfalls.

Research & Resources ...

Lack of Gains in Infant Health

Trust for America's Health has published a study entitled "Healthy Women, Healthy Babies" that attributes the lack of gains in infant health to worsening health conditions of pregnant women. Hypertension, diabetes, and obesity lead to significant infant mortality rates of low-income, urban, and African-American newborns.

Among other recommendations, the report supported allowing state Medicaid programs to cover women without a waiver and permitting benefits for women for two years after giving birth, as well as expanding programs that provide primary care to women of childbearing age (e.g., Title X Family Planning Program, community health centers, and the Healthy Start Infant Mortality Reduction Program). The study was released in conjunction with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2008 Kids Count report. For further details, see healthyamericans.org.

New Commonwealth Fund Studies

25 Million U.S. Adults Are Underinsured. The number of underinsured U.S. adults – people who have health coverage that does not adequately protect them from high medical expenses – has risen dramatically. The Commonwealth Fund study “How Many Are Underinsured? Trends Among U.S. Adults, 2003 and 2007” finds that as of 2007, there were an estimated 25 million underinsured adults in the U.S., 60 percent more than the 16 million underinsured in 2003. See www.commonwealthfund.org.

Most of this growth came from rising uninsured rates among middle- and higher-income families, according to the article.

Uninsured Rate in Massachusetts Cut Nearly in Half. The study “On the Road to Universal titled Coverage: Impacts of Reform in Massachusetts at One Year” finds dramatic improvements in insurance coverage in Massachusetts in the first year after the state instituted its health care reform plan. The rate of uninsured working-age adults dropped by almost half, from 13 percent to 7 percent. The study also found significant gains in access to care. Overall, employer coverage remained stable, allaying concerns the plan would crowd out existing employer coverage. See the study at www.commonwealthfund.org.

Diabetes-Related Hearing Loss

A new study has been published to compare the rate of hearing loss in adults with diabetes to those without has found it to be twice as common in diabetics. The study, published online June 17, 2008, in the *Annals of Internal Medicine*, was conducted by researchers from the NIDDK, the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, components of the NIH, and Social & Scientific Systems, Inc. For more information, visit www.nih.gov.

Employment Opportunities ...

CHW Seeks Nurse Practitioner

No weekends, no holidays and potential for NHSC Loan Repayment Program! Private non-profit urban primary health care institution seeking NP to provide primary care services at the Center for Health and Wellness, Inc. (CHW) in Wichita. Will carry an individual patient caseload, working in partnership with other providers and the Medical Director. Ideal candidate will have current state of Kansas license with CPR, experience in a clinical setting, ability to communicate with people of all educational levels or diverse backgrounds, and desire for community family health. Submit cover letter with resume to Venus Lee, 2707 E. 21st St., Wichita, KS 67214. EOE.

Seeking Positions: LCSWs and Chemical Dependency Counselor

Via Christi Health Network in Wichita is closing its Employee Assistance Program as Via Christi migrates to a national provider of EAP services. As a result, several Licensed Clinical Social Workers and one Chemical Dependency Counselor are looking to other employment opportunities in Kansas. Interested persons may contact Gary Fair, Director, Employee Assistance Program, at 316 946-5060 or Gary_Fair@Via-Christi.org.

You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience in which you really stop to look fear in the face. You must do the thing which you think you cannot do. – Eleanor Roosevelt