

8 KAMU Update – June 2008

From the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved

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KAMU News & Events ...

State Increases Funding for Safety Net Clinics by \$2.5 Million

On May 7, both houses of the Kansas Legislature overwhelmingly approved the omnibus appropriations bill, which contains \$2.5 million for safety net clinics. This new state support is specifically targeted for:

- Increased funding to clinics for providing direct care \$1,645,000
- Safety net clinic workforce development \$ 75,000
- Safety net clinic capital financing (grants) \$ 700,000
- Non-federal safety net clinic technical assistance \$ 80,000

The appropriation for safety net clinics was the third largest State General Fund appropriation of the omnibus budget bill. In addition to the omnibus funding, the safety net clinics received an appropriation of \$5,270,840 (which includes \$500,000 for a second year of state dental hub grants) in the “mega bill,” the large budget bill passed earlier in the session.

Together, State General Fund Support for the primary care safety net clinics of Kansas in State Fiscal Year 2009 will be \$7,770,840, an increase of 47 percent over SFY 2008. Four years ago (SFY 2005), total State General Fund Support for primary care safety net clinics was only \$1,520,840.

Thanks to Our Legislative Champions

KAMU and its members are grateful to the following state legislators, who played key roles in supporting the safety net clinics this session.

Senators: Jim Barnett, Pete Brungardt, Jay Emler, David Haley, Laura Kelly, Steve Morris, Derek Schmidt, Vickie Schmidt, Dwayne Umbarger and Susan Wagle.

Representatives: Barbara Ballard, Bob Bethell, Jeff Colyer, David Crum, Bill Feuerborn, Geraldine Flaharty, Jerry Henry, Brenda Landwehr, Peggy Mast, Melvin Neufeld, Marc Rhoades and Sharon Schwartz.

Distributing the State Funds

New capital grant program: An RFP for the capital funds is expected to be released the end of June/first of July with a due date in mid-August. The award date is expected to be mid-September. KAMU will provide more information as the RFP is developed.

Workforce development: KAMU’s Board of Directors has established a task force to determine focus areas and priorities for workforce.

Technical assistance to clinics that are not federally funded: An upcoming survey of clinics will help identify priority areas for TA. Entitled “What Keeps You up at Night?,” the survey is funded by The Sunflower Foundation and conducted by the University of Kansas’ Community Health Research Department.

AmeriCorps Program Launches New Year

KAMU is pleased to announce that its Kansas Community HealthCorps/AmeriCorps grant for 2009 has been fully funded and was one of the top three grants submitted nationwide. Congratulations to Clinical Programs Director Denice Curtis and AmeriCorps Director Polli Kenn. Recruiting for AmeriCorps sites is now underway. If your clinic is interested in having a member, contact Polli Kenn at pkenn@kspca.org, 785-233-8483.

In Print and on the Web

KAMU Executive Director **Cathy Harding** wrote a letter to the editor regarding “Cover the Uninsured” week and the service the safety net clinics provide to this population in their individual communities. The letter appeared in these newspapers and possibly others: Kansas City Star (www.kansascity.com); Wichita Eagle (www.kansas.com); Topeka Capital Journal (www.cjonline.com); and Emporia Gazette (www.emporiagazette.com).

In addition, the Kansas Health Institute interviewed Harding regarding the results of the legislative session. See “Lawmakers count on clinics to fill gap” at www.khi.org.

KAMU & Related Events: Calendar In Brief *(See below for details on upcoming events.)*

June 3: Kansas Dental Network Conference Call

June 10: Kansas Physicians’ Network Conference Call

June 23-25: HRSA All-Grantee meeting

July 8-9: KAMU Strategic Planning Session

July 15: Applications due for Community Health Center Executive Fellowship

July 17: “A Cryptic Scenario: What’s in Your Plan?” - Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise

Aug. 8: UDS Clinical Measures Training

Aug. 10-16: National Health Center Week

Sept. 12-16: NACHC CHI & Annual Conference, New Orleans (see www.nachc.com)

Sept. 24-26: “Challenges and Champions: Building Medical Homes,” KAMU’s 2008 Primary Care Conference, Hotel at OldTown, Wichita

Conference Calls for Clinicians

Continuing education credit is available for both calls.

Kansas Dental Network

June 3, 2008, 12:00 – 1:00PM CST

Call number: 1-866-257-1749 code: 4316945

Topic of discussion: “The California Pipeline Program: Dental School/Community Clinic Partnership.” Presented by Huong N. Le, DDS, Dental Director, Asian Health Services. This presentation will outline how a community health center can and should establish a partnership with a dental school.

Kansas Physicians’ Network

June 10, 2008 at 12:00 – 1:00 PM CST

Call number: 1-866-257-1749 code: 8571360

Topic of discussion: Connective tissue disorders in adolescents. Presented by Carol B. Lindsley, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Chief, Pediatric Rheumatology Director, Mid-America Pediatric Arthritis Program, Department of Pediatrics, University of Kansas Medical Center

HRSA 2008 Primary Health Care All-Grantee Meeting

“Making the Connection” will be held June 23 through June 25, 2008 in National Harbor, MD. This meeting provides a forum for grantees, HRSA staff, and others to improve the health of the nation's underserved communities and vulnerable populations by assuring access to comprehensive, culturally competent, quality primary health care.

The spotlight will shine on Kansas at the meeting: A success story from the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas in Pittsburg will be shared with attendees. For information about registration, contact: PHC Conference Coordinators, 866-849-6542 or BPHCAGM@team-psa.com.

KAMU Strategic Planning Session

Many important changes have occurred in the three years since KAMU's last strategic plan was developed. It's time for KAMU and its members to look forward again and set the direction that will prepare KAMU to serve its members' needs. Executive directors of member clinics are invited to attend. To RSVP, contact Nikki Harrison by June 27 at nharrison@kspca.org, 785-233-8483.

Toward 2011: Charting KAMU's Future

KAMU Strategic Planning Session

July 8-9, 2008

Kansas History Museum, Topeka

Facilitator: Iris Sewell (Chicago, Illinois)

Leadership Program Taking Applications

Do you know someone who has the talent, skill and passion to be a leader in a safety net clinic? 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.

Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise

A Cryptic Scenario: What's in Your Plan?

Thursday, July 17

9 am-3 pm, Kansas History Museum, Topeka

KAMU member clinics that take part in this exercise will receive \$500. Clinics are also encouraged to invite a representative from their local health department and hospital. (If your clinic is in a large metropolitan area such as Wichita or Kansas City, please coordinate with other clinics in the area to invite hospital and health department representatives.)

This event will give participants an opportunity to evaluate their clinic's current response plans and capabilities. The exercise, which is based on actual events, will focus on mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery elements, which should be included in your emergency operations plan.

For more information, contact Nikki Harrison, nharrison@kspca.org.

KAMU to Host UDS Clinical Measures Training

KAMU will host the UDS Quality of Care Measures Training on **August 8.**

This half-day training targets clinical and other staff who are responsible for data collection and reporting. KAMU will send members more details as they are available. General information can be found at bphc.hrsa.gov/uds.

National Health Center Week: August 10-16

National Health Center Week recognizes the vital role of health center providers. In Kansas, we recognize all safety net clinics during this week, so this is a good time to hold an event to celebrate your successes and to invite state or national legislators to visit your clinic.

This year's theme is "America's Health Centers: Home of America's Health Care Heroes." For resources, visit NACHC's website at www.healthcenterweek.org.

Member News ...

We Care Passes Torch

Mary Miles has been appointed the new CEO at We Care Clinic in Great Bend, with her term officially beginning June 23. She has been We Care's CEO in the past, when she helped it move from a free part-time clinic to FQHC status. She succeeds Bill Smith, who accepted the position of City Administrator in Park Rapids, Minnesota. Welcome back, Mary, and fare thee well, Bill!

HOP Expands Services

Healthy Options for Kansas Communities (HOP) in Wichita now has a pediatric dentist on staff. She practices two evenings a week at the clinic.

Caritas Clinics Revs Up

The 9th Annual Caritas Celebrates at the Kansas Speedway will be held on June 7. "Revved to Ride" is a benefit for Duchesne Clinic in Kansas City and Saint Vincent Clinic in Leavenworth. It features rides with the Richard Petty Driving Experience and presentation of the Sister Rosalie Mahoney and Caritas Awards.

Marsh Chats

Lougene Marsh, Executive Director of Flint Hills Community Health Center/Lyon County Health Department, took part in an online chat at the Emporia *Gazette* on May 14. The Q&A about the center was printed in the paper's May 16 issue: www.emporiagazette.com.

Stewart Honored

Mary Stewart from the Marian Clinic is one of 36 women in the Topeka area who was recognized at the YWCA 2008 Leadership Luncheon on June 2. This event honors the women who contribute leadership to the community.

Assistance for Patients ...

Free Benefit Bank Helps Patients Gain Resources

Patients at safety net clinics and other low-income people are often entitled to benefits they aren't aware of or don't know how to access. Nationwide, billions of dollars in public funds go untouched each year because applying for state and federal benefits such as Medicaid, food stamps and tax credits is confusing, time consuming or embarrassing. The Benefit Bank (www.thebenefitbank.com) is a free service that provides organizations and community advocates a way to better serve their clients and community.

In our state, the Kansas Benefit Bank (TKBB) is a project of Children's Mercy Family Health Partners (CMFHP) in conjunction with InterFaith Ministries. TKBB is a web-based, counselor-assisted program that helps individuals and families determine their eligibility for cash and non-cash benefits and apply for those benefits in a confidential and secure manner. Trained counselors help people apply for public assistance programs such as Medicaid and HealthWave, food stamps, childcare subsidies and cash assistance.

Leaders of clinics and community organizations may request a Benefit Bank counselor to visit and help people apply for benefits. Outreach counselors are now stationed in Salina, Topeka, Wichita and Kansas City. For more information about how your organization can become involved, contact Chris Beurman, CMFHP Community Relations Manager, at cbeurman@fhp.org, or Cindy Mense,

cmense@fhp.org, Family Health Partners, 215 West Pershing, Suite 600, Kansas City, Mo. 64108, (816) 559-9472.

In addition, CMFHP is working to offer scholarships to groups interested in establishing The Benefit Bank in their organization.

Other Conferences & Events ...

WebEx: Business Continuity Planning for Health Centers

Health centers must be prepared for natural disasters and other catastrophes that could cause major disruptions to caring for patients. Learn in this NACHC WebEx how to plan for service disruption by identifying critical business functions, protecting vital records, and safeguarding valuable resources. Participation is free, but space is limited.

June 10, 2008, 1:00 - 2:00 PM Central time

Session Number: 557 472 638

To register for this training session, visit nachc.webex.com.

Stroke Seminar

Stroke: “Recognizing the Unusual – Age/Gender – Hospital to Outcome Factors”

July 9, 2008

8 am–12:30pm

The Kansas City Stroke Education Consortium is composed of seven area hospitals and the American Stroke Association. These organizations have agreed to collaborate to enhance the educational opportunities for providers of stroke care at all levels of practice. Continuing educational credit will be provided by each sponsoring agency. Visit krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us for more details.

Operations Management Improvement Seminar

This NACHC conference provides strategies to maximize the productivity and resources of your health center, and contains information that is also valuable for safety net clinics that are not FQHCs. It’s designed for chief operating officers, executive management, other managers, front desk staff and Board members. For details, visit www.nachc.com.

Health Center Practice Operations Management Improvement Seminar

Kansas City, Mo.

July 16-17, 2008

Funding ...

Bricks and Mortar

The Sunderland Foundation in Kansas City invests in “the places and spaces where nonprofits do their work” by supporting bricks and mortar projects. It awards grants to nonprofits in the Kansas City region and other areas where the Ash Grove Cement Company does business. This includes Kansas.

Health care facilities are one of the areas funded within this guiding principle: “Grants from the Foundation help build the places where families in distress find help and healing, where young minds grow and thrive, and where communities come together for celebration and inspiration.” For more info, visit www.sunderlandfoundation.org.

FY 2009 Budget Period Renewal for FQHCs

The Health Resources and Services Administration, Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC) has released HRSA 5H80-09-001-009 Budget Period Renewal grant funding opportunity.

This application guidance details the requirements and review criteria for organizations seeking a non-competitive continuation grant in fiscal year (FY) 2009 for continued operational support under the Health Center Program. Visit the Grants.gov website at www.hrsa.gov to access the HRSA 5H80-09-001-009 Budget Period Renewal guidance/application.

File to Renew FTCA Status July 11

All health centers must file a renewal deeming application for coverage by the Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) no later than **July 11, 2008**. For more information, see the Bureau of Primary Health Care's Policy Assistance Letter (PAL) 2008-05, New Requirements for Deeming under the Federally Supported Health Centers Assistance Act for Calendar Year (CY) 2009 at <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/policy/pal0805.htm>.

PAL 2008-05 supersedes PAL 2007-02, and provides updated instructions for submitting applications for initial deeming and renewal deeming for CY 2009. For further information, contact the FTCA Program at 1-866-FTCA-HELP (866-382-2435) from 9:00 AM to 8:00 PM (ET).

Grants for Families Struggling with Child Health-Related Expenses

The UnitedHealthcare Children's Foundation has announced new grants to help children who need critical health care treatment, services, or equipment not covered or not fully covered by their parents' health benefit plans. UHCCF provides grants to families to help pay for child health care services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy sessions, prescriptions, and medical equipment such as wheelchairs, orthotics, and eyeglasses.

Parents and legal guardians may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 each for child medical services and equipment by completing an online application at the UHCCF Web site uhccf.org.

Clinical News ...

What Are Your Continuing Ed Needs? Please Take This Survey

The KU Area Health Education Centers (AHECs) provide continuing education for physicians, nurses and allied health professionals. In order to provide continuing education that meets the needs of individual learners and is cost effective, the AHECs are asking for your help.

If you are a clinician, please complete the needs assessment survey at kuahec.kumc.edu. Just click on "Survey." The AHECS have agreed to share this valuable information about your needs with KAMU.

FDA Heparin Flush Solution Recall

In May, the FDA issued a notice about recalls of injectable heparin products and heparin flush solutions that may be contaminated with oversulfated chondroitin sulfate. Affected heparin products have been found in medical care facilities in one state since the recall announcement. Health professionals and facilities are asked to review and examine all drug/device storage areas, including emergency kits, dialysis units and automated drug storage cabinets to ensure that all of the recalled heparin products have been removed and are no longer available for patient use. To learn more, go to www.fda.gov.

Guide to Help Patients on Coumadin®/Warfarin Therapy

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has released a new consumer publication, *Your Guide to Coumadin®/Warfarin Therapy*. The easy-to-read patient brochure explains what patients should expect and watch out for while undergoing Coumadin®/Warfarin blood thinning therapy. For information, visit www.ahrq.gov.

Recreational Water Illnesses on Rise

According to the CDC, more recreational water illnesses (RWI) outbreaks were reported in 2007 than ever before, and the numbers could increase in the coming years. During 2004-2007, the number of Crypto cases tripled. At the same time, the number of Crypto outbreaks linked to swimming pools more than doubled.

The leading cause of RWI outbreaks is Cryptosporidium or Crypto, a chlorine-resistant parasite, primarily associated with treated swimming places, such as pools and water parks. Because Crypto is chlorine resistant, even a well-maintained pool can transmit this parasite. For more information, check www.cdc.gov/crypto, www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming and www.epa.gov/beaches.

New Guidelines to Help Smokers Quit

An updated clinical practice guideline released by the U.S. Public Health Service identifies new counseling and medication treatments that are effective for helping people quit smoking. Clinicians are urged by JAMA to use the updated guideline to accelerate progress in reducing the use of tobacco.

The 2008 PHS guideline update and its companion products, which include a consumer guide and a pocket guide for clinicians, are available www.surgeongeneral.gov. For more information, see www.ahrq.gov.

Medicaid and Medicare ...

Provider Notice: State Issues New Plastic Medical Cards

Beginning on September 1, 2008, the Kansas Medical Assistance Program (KMAP) will no longer issue monthly paper cards but instead will issue permanent plastic medical identification (ID) cards. Each KMAP beneficiary who currently receives a monthly paper card will receive a permanent plastic medical card. This change will benefit both providers and beneficiaries with greater convenience, accuracy and security.

To assist providers through the transition, workshops will be held throughout the state. Online registration will begin on the KMAP Web site in mid-June: www.kmap-state-ks.us.

Wichita – July 21; Topeka – July 23; Overland Park – July 24; Hays – July 29

Wichita Low Income Subsidy Meeting

Medicare's Part D low-income subsidy (LIS) lessens the out-of-pocket costs for those with limited incomes and resources who may be paying the full cost of their medicines. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is now conducting outreach to find, assist and enroll individuals in Sedgwick County who are eligible for this subsidy.

Anyone who works with people with Medicare, their families, and/or caregivers is invited to a meeting on **Wednesday, June 11, at 1:00 p.m.** at the Inter-Faith Ministries to discuss ways to reach people who qualify for and need help with their prescription drug costs. Please RSVP by June 9 to Kim Cogdill at either 816-426-6301, Kimberly.Cogdill@CMS.hhs.gov.

Research & Resources ...

Training Family Physicians in CHCs: A Health Workforce Solution

Many family medicine residencies have a long history of working with community health centers (CHCs) to train family physicians. Despite the long history of this affiliation, little research has been done to understand the effects of training residents in this underserved community setting. This study conducted

at the University of Washington compares CHC and non-CHC-trained family physicians regarding practice location, job and training satisfaction, and recruitment and retention to underserved areas.

To learn more, visit krhis.kdhe.state.ks.us/olrh.

Drug-Free Workplace Kit

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration has developed a Drug-Free Workplace Kit, suitable for all sizes of workplaces. The free kit provides public and private workplaces with practical evidence-based information, resources and tools for producing and maintaining drug-free workplace policies and programs. It also discusses the importance of understanding the legal aspects of the problem. The kit is available at www.workplace.samhsa.gov.

Women's Health

The FDA Office of Women's Health has an extensive list of free easy-to-read fact sheets and guides regarding women's health and related issues. You can download them at www.fda.gov/womens.

Policy News from the Commonwealth Fund

Rural success: North Dakota faces health care challenges common to many rural areas of the U.S., from attracting health care professionals to deploying adequate resources in small, geographically dispersed communities. Despite these disadvantages, the state's health care system appears to be performing better than that in many other states – rural or urban. [The North Dakota Experience: Achieving High-Performance Health Care Through Rural Innovation and Cooperation](#) discusses how the state has developed this effective health system.

More coverage, lower costs: A new health care reform proposal would ensure near-universal health coverage and help lower overall health spending, with minimal disruptions to Americans who are satisfied with their current coverage. The “Building Blocks” plan that is presented in [Health Affairs](#) and a [Commonwealth Fund issue brief](#) would preserve employer-sponsored health insurance, Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program, while building on the existing success of the Medicare.

Going Dutch: Two years ago, the Netherlands launched a national health care initiative to provide universal health care coverage for its population. Not a single-payer system, the Dutch approach combines mandatory universal health insurance with competition among private health insurers. According to the authors of “[Universal Mandatory Health Insurance in the Netherlands: A Model for the United States?](#)”, the Dutch model may be of particular interest to policymakers in the U.S.

Tip ...

Reduce Clutter, Save a Twig

At www.catalogchoice.org, you can opt out of receiving direct mail catalogs. The mission of Catalog Choice is to reduce the number of repeat and unsolicited catalog mailings, and to promote the adoption of sustainable industry best practices. It helps if you have the information from each catalog (e.g., spelling of your name and customer number), but isn't essential.

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It's what you learn after you know it all that counts. - V.J. Nelson