

ACCESS INFORMATION

Welcome to the first issue of Access INFORMATION. As you know, a vigorous and enthusiastic effort is underway in Wichita-Sedgwick County to create a coordinated community partnership to serve the health care needs of the area's low-income, uninsured residents. Under the leadership of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, **MSSC Project Access** promises to demonstrate how resources can be focused to meet critical community needs in ways that no single organization could accomplish alone.

September 1 is the target date for Project Access to begin caring for patients. There is much to be done before now and then. This newsletter will provide Project Access partners with the latest information as the program develops.

If you have questions or comments to share, please feel free to call the Project Access office at 688-0600 or to contact Dr. Michael Bates or myself. We invite everyone to join in the process of putting Wichita's caring spirit into action through this important new program.



Paul Uhlig, MD
Chairperson, MSSC Project Access
Operations Council

Care Coordination Committee Busy Taking Care of Business

Designing the processes that will coordinate patient enrollment and referral is the goal of Project Access' Care Coordination Committee.

"We are working on the nuts-and-bolts aspects of the project," explained Nancy Wiebe of UKSM-Wichita's Division of Community Partnerships, who is assisting the committee chair, Dr. Richard Kellerman.

"Thanks to the system developed in North Carolina, we don't have to reinvent the wheel," said Dr. Kellerman of UKSM-Wichita's Department of Family and Community Medicine. "We plan to use their system here in Sedgwick County and tweak it to fit our needs and resources."

MSSC Project Access will utilize the C.A.R.E.S. computer database developed by North Carolina's BCMS Project Access. The database tracks physician referral status and patient eligibility and enrollment. The committee plans to install and test the database at pilot sites in order to better facilitate the introduction of Project Access to the community.

The committee is comprised of representatives from the areas indigent clinics, SRS, Health Department, USD 259 and Wichita hospitals. Joining Dr. Kellerman and Ms. Wiebe on the Care Coordination Committee are:

Stephanie Adams-Stone,
United Methodist Health Clinic



The Care Coordination Committee worked on plans for managing Project Access during its June 27th meeting held at UKSM-Wichita.

- Michael Bates, MD, MSSC
- Cindy Burbach, USD 259
- Dan Caliendo, MD
- Fred Chang, MD
- Debbie Donaldson, ComCare
- Marlene Dreilling, Guadalupe Clinic
- Maurice Duggins, MD,
Center for Health & Wellness
- Carolyn Earnest, RN,
Central Plains Foundation
- Brian Katan, MD
- Charles Magruder, MD, Health Dept.
- Peggy Baker, Health Department
- Arneatha Martin,
Center for Health & Wellness
- Robert McCown, MD,
Hunter Health Clinic
- Fred McLean, Good Samaritan
- Paul Meals, SRS
- William Nixon, MD
- Susie Schwartz, Hunter Health Clinic
- Kim Snapp, MD, Good Samaritan
- Dan Tatpati, MD
- Jo Wescott, Mission Services
- Rob White, DO,
United Methodist Health Clinic

TARGET DATE
SEPTEMBER 1

IN THE KNOW

● Betsy Bloxham has been appointed pre-program director for MSSC Project Access. She will assist with the administrative details involved in establishing the project. Applications are being accepted for the position of program director.

● On June 1, MSSC Project Access was introduced to the Wichita City Council and Sedgwick County Commission during a special joint meeting. A funding request for \$600,000 to purchase medications for project participants was submitted. A response is expected soon.

● The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation recently notified MSSC Project Access that it is one of 26 applications under consideration to receive funding for health care delivery systems targeted to the uninsured. The foundation received 100 grant applications; 20 programs will receive funding. A site visit is scheduled later this summer.

● Work has begun to enlist the involvement of area pharmacies in Project Access. To date, area independent pharmacists, Dillon's, Albertson's and Osco pharmacies have agreed to participate in the project.

● The Physician Recruitment Committee, co-chaired by Dr. Chris Moeller and Betsy Bloxham, mailed a letter and fact sheet in June to all members of the Medical Society, inviting them to join Project Access.

● **It's Official!** Project Access has found a home in the Medical Society of Sedgwick County offices. Contact Project Access at:
1102 S. Hillside
Wichita, KS 67211
TEL: (316) 688-0600

Several Visits Planned To Study North Carolina's Project Access

This summer, representatives from MSSC Project Access partners will travel to Asheville, North Carolina to study the Buncombe County project model. Members of MSSC Project Access' Operational Council as well as representatives from area hospitals, pharmacies, local governmental entities and project referral sites will be encouraged to join one of the trips to Asheville.

"These trips will provide an incredible jumpstart to Wichita's Project Access," said Dr. Paul Uhlig. "Everyone will have an opportunity to meet with their counterpart in Asheville and see first-hand how the program works."

For example, staff members from Wichita community clinics can sit down at a BCMS Project Access computer terminal, enter patient information and watch the operation of the care coordination system.

Executive jet transportation contributed by local corporations will

fly 6-8 people per trip to North Carolina, returning on the same day. Scheduled travel dates include: July 20, July 28, August 5 and August 11.

"I think everyone will come home filled with enthusiasm for our own Project Access," added

Dr. Uhlig.

Call 688-0600 if you are interested in going to Asheville on one of these trips.



START-UP TIME LINE

JULY

Interview Coordinator candidates
Develop project budget
Define accounting procedures
Develop eligibility/referral process
Establish governance structure
Continue physician recruitment
Obtain office supplies and equipment

AUGUST

Project Access Coordinator starts
Set-up computer and office systems
Test computer systems at pilot site
Develop billing and payment processes for pharmacy services
Complete billing and coding issues
Conduct training for system users
Continue physician recruitment

SEPTEMBER

Project Access officially begins serving patients

THANKS to MSSC members who have responded to the recent letter requesting their involvement.

Medical Society of Sedgwick County
1102 S. Hillside
Wichita, KS 67211

