



# ACCESS INFORMATION

**A**s I watch the work being done to make Project Access a reality, I take special pleasure in the growing enthusiasm surrounding the program.

As a result of a genuine can-do attitude, real progress is being made. Representatives from every sector of our community, including many who do not routinely interact, are busy working side by side to finalize numerous details. Requests for everything from computer equipment to jet transportation have been answered promptly and generously.

I am particularly pleased to announce the board of directors of the United Way of the Plains gave unanimous approval last week to a \$120,000 grant request to fund the first year operation of the project office. This grant, with the expectation of yearly renewals, is the core of our operating budget, with a matching amount pledged from other sources. In other important financial news, the City and County have included \$500,00 for Project Access in their proposed budgets for the coming year. We are deeply appreciative of these strong demonstrations of community support.

In every aspect of this project, new ways of thinking are being explored and new connections are being made. Watch out — the vibrant joy of Project Access can be infectious.



Paul Uhlig, MD  
Chairperson, MSSC  
Project Access  
Operations Council

## North Carolina's Project Access To Play Host to Wichita Planners

**T**he Buncombe County, North Carolina community will become acquainted with dozens of Wichitans before the summer is over. Planning is underway to transport numerous community partners to Asheville for one-day "up close and personal" visits with the nation's first Project Access program.



The first Wichita delegation, scheduled to travel to Asheville on July 20, will include:

- Stephanie Adams-Stone, executive director, United Methodist Health Clinic
- Peggy Baker, RN, director, City-County Health Department Clinics
- Marlene Dreiling, executive director, Guadalupe Clinic
- Linda Lawrence, medical unit secretary, Hunter Health Clinic
- Arneatha Martin, executive director, Center for Health and Wellness
- Fred McLean, executive director, Good Samaritan Clinic
- Paul Meals, chief, SRS Adult and Medical Services
- Betsy Bloxham, interim director, Project Access

While in Asheville, the group will meet with Alan McKenzie, executive director, Buncombe County Medical Society, who will provide extensive background information on the development and operation of BCMS Project Access. Group

members will then meet with their Asheville community counterparts in order to learn more about administering the project and meeting patient needs.

Some group members from Wichita will observe patient visits and the physician referral process. Others will meet with governmental staff members, charitable foundation directors and hospital administrators. Clinic directors will tour Asheville clinics and study how the project works with each site's unique mission.

Another group of eight will travel from Wichita to Asheville on July 28. Additional trips will occur in August. If you are interested in visiting BCMS Project Access, contact Betsy Bloxham at 688-0600.

## MSSC Project Access Finalist for Major Grant

**W**ichita's Project Access has been selected as one of 26 finalists for a grant award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's *Communities in Charge* initiative. Competition for the funding is significant; the foundation received 100 applications.

Representatives from the foundation will conduct a site visit in Wichita on September 30 before selecting 20 programs to receive funding in 2000.

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TARGET DATE  
SEPTEMBER 1

## IN THE KNOW

- The Care Coordination Committee decided to establish Project Access' first operational site at Guadalupe Clinic. The City-County Health Department and the Hunter Health Clinic will be brought "on-line" next, with the remaining community clinics phased in at approximately one per month until the project is fully implemented.
- Over 50 outstanding applications were received for Project Access' project coordinator position. Six finalists will be interviewed by the selection committee during the week of July 19.
- Area physicians have responded overwhelmingly to the Physician Participation Committee's initial recruitment efforts inviting them to be part of Project Access. A followup letter and reply card were recently mailed. Committee members are also personally contacting colleagues to discuss the project.

### THANK YOU

**Cessna Aircraft Company** for contributing the use of a company jet to transport community representatives to Asheville on July 20.

**INTRUST Bank N.A.** for contributing two Gateway computers to assist with project administration and for contributing use of a corporate jet for an Asheville trip.

**United Way's GIVE Program** for contributing an IBM computer.

**University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita** for use of a corporate jet to transport community representatives to Asheville on July 28.

## Interim Director Committed to Project

**B**etsy Bloxham attended the Medical Society's May 4th meeting with her husband, Dr. Thomas Bloxham, to hear about a new program being proposed for Wichita.

"As I listened to the presentation, I began to take the idea of Project Access to heart," Betsy explained. "Because of my Christian faith, my social work background, my familiarity with the medical community and my volunteer experiences, I felt that I could really contribute something."

That evening, Betsy stepped forward to volunteer her skills and time, and life has not been the same since.

As interim director, much of Betsy's time is spent seeking donations of equipment and supplies, setting up the Project Access offices, attending planning meetings, organizing trips to Asheville and visiting area clinics listening to their needs and learning how they can interact with this new community partnership project.

She is also co-chair of the Physician Participation Committee,

a member of the Operations Council and attends the Care Coordination Committee meetings.

Betsy has a degree in social work from the University of Iowa. She has been active locally in her church, neighborhood, her children's schools and with the Junior League of Wichita, where she

worked on their Partnership for Progress project with the public school system.



*Betsy Bloxham visits with Marlene Dreiling, Sr. Kathleen Regan and Dr. Dan Tatpati at the Guadalupe Clinic.*

## Grant Finalist

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MSSC Project Access' application requested \$150,000 for program development for the first year. If accepted, Wichita would then be eligible for one of 15 grant awards totalling \$200,000 a year for three years. The grant would also bring prominent national attention to Wichita.

The following project partners worked on the grant proposal:

Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation: Edwin Fonner, Dr. Paul Uhlig, Carolyn Earnest and Trish Petz

UKSM-Wichita: Ruth Wetta-Hall and Nancy Wiebe

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Medical Society of Sedgwick County  
1102 S. Hillside  
Wichita, KS 67211  
(316) 688-0600

