



ACCESS INFORMATION

It is a pleasure to introduce you to Anne Nelson, the new program director for Project Access.

Anne brings considerable personal and professional talents to her new position. Growing up the daughter of a doctor, she is very aware of the demands and the rewards that come with a career in the medical field. She has an outstanding record of managerial excellence in non-profit organizations in the Wichita community. During interviews with the Project Access Operations Council, Anne demonstrated impressive listening and communication skills. Her thoughtful, respectful and well-informed interactions with others will be a wonderful asset. I am delighted Anne has accepted the position of program director. She will be an outstanding leader and ambassador for Project Access.

Respectfully acknowledging varying, even competing, perspectives about the needs of our community has been both a challenge and a privilege for those of us associated with Project Access' development. Perhaps the greatest benefit from this endeavor is the creation of new relationships which integrate our similarities and differences and enable us to better fulfill our shared commitment to improve the health and well-being of the community.



Paul Uhlig, MD
Chairperson, MSSC
Project Access
Operations Council

Program Director Selected To Coordinate MSSC Project Access

The important process of selecting the program director of Project Access has been completed. Anne C. Nelson will assume the new position on August 23.

"Over 50 applications were received for the program director position," explained Dr. Paul Uhlig. "The selection committee considered a number of outstanding candidates. We were impressed and pleased with the caliber of people in our community interested in taking on the role of program director for Project Access."

Since 1996, Nelson has been area manager for the Kansas Children's Service League. In this role, she has managed all aspects of KCSL programming in south central Kansas, including sites in Wichita, Andover and Hutchinson. She also has held positions with the Salvation Army's Family In-Home Services program and the Kansas Child Abuse Prevention Council.

Nelson's community work includes membership on the executive committees of the Healthy Start Coalition, Children's Mental Health Coalition, Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council, Coalition for Parenting Educators, Roots and Wings and the United Way of the Plains Agency Executives.

A native Wichitan, Nelson is the daughter of the late anesthesiologist Dr. Courtney Clark. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Wichita State University and a master of science

degree in family therapy from Friends University.

"Project Access is a perfect blend of social service with medical care, two areas I am vitally interested in," Nelson stated. "Creating a more coordinated delivery system for people who usually access medical care through hospital



emergency rooms will be a tremendous asset to our community. I am excited to see this happen in Wichita-Sedgwick County, and am pleased for the opportunity to be part of Project Access."

Physician Participation Continues to Grow

Over 200 doctors have agreed to participate in Project Access. Response card have been distributed to all MSSC members through mailings coordinated by the Physician Participation Committee.

"We're pleased that 25% of the physicians have already volunteered to participate in Project Access," said Dr. Michael Bates, MSSC president. "We will continue to work hard to get over 50% signed on by the September 1 target date."

Posters promoting Project Access will soon appear in physician lounges in area hospitals and medical offices.

TARGET DATE
SEPTEMBER 1

IN THE KNOW

● Peter Cohen, dean of WSU's College of Health Related Professions, will facilitate a strategic planning meeting on August 19 with members of the Operations Council and other interested persons to formulate a vision and mission statement for Project Access. Call 688-0600 for more information.

● Plans are underway to convene another community forum as a follow-up to a meeting held April 15 at UKSM-Wichita where plans for Project Access were first developed. At the second community forum, planned for mid-September, participants will discuss the implementation phase of Project Access, meet the new program director and begin long-range planning activities. More information will be distributed in coming weeks.

● Representatives from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation will be in Wichita on September 30 to conduct a site visit. MSSC Project Access is under consideration to receive a significant foundation grant award.

THANK YOU

United Way of the Plain's board of directors for unanimously approving a grant request for \$120,000 to fund the first year operation of the Project Access office.

Sullivan Higdon Sink, and their employees Tammy Allen and Diane Johnson, for their work creating the Project Access logo and developing the presentation materials for the joint meeting of the Wichita-Sedgwick County governments.

Wichita-to-Asheville Trips Continue

Two successful and informative day-long trips to visit BCMS Project Access in Asheville, NC, have been completed. Plans for at least two more trips in August continue.

Members of the Wichita delegation who traveled to Asheville on July 28 were:

Jan Arbuckle, associate dean of administration, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita

Jeff Christensen, director of planning, Wesley Medical Center

Carolyn Earnest, Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation

Pat Hanrahan, president, United Way of the Plains

Valerie McGhee, director of Senior Initiatives, Wesley Medical Center

Tom Smith, coordinator of Grants in Aid, City Manager's office

Ruth Wetta-Hall, coordinator of Community Health Improvement, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita

Lee Starkel, editor of Project Access newsletter

Many thanks to the UKSM-Wichita for loaning their jet and pilots to fly the July 28th delegation to Asheville.

For more information about future trips to BCMS Project Access, call Betsy Bloxham at 688-0600.



Members of the July 20th delegation prepare to leave Asheville after spending the day learning more about BCMS Project Access.



Debbie McCoy, coordinator of BCMS Project Access, demonstrates the C.A.R.E.S. database system for Jan Arbuckle during the July 28th visit.



Alan McKenzie, executive director of Buncombe County Medical Society, shares information with Ruth Wetta-Hall.

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