



ACCESS INFORMATION

This is my final column for the Project Access newsletter. As most of you know, I have accepted a new position with the Concord, New Hampshire Hospital and Dartmouth Medical School and will leave Wichita at the end of August.

It has been my great privilege to be a part of this extraordinary community partnership establishing MSSC Project Access. This program is a wonderful example of how a community can come together to address the problems facing health care in our country.

During the last 10 months, I have been fortunate to work with many outstanding individuals, all dedicated to improving the health of the citizens of Wichita and Sedgwick County. I extend my sincere thanks to each of you for your contributions. Whether large or small, each one has been significant.

The future development of Project Access is in the very capable hands of Wichita's talented and committed medical community. I plan to continue a personal connection to Project Access, despite the distance, and will be available as needed as the program evolves.

Let me conclude with quote from my grandfather, Dr. Henry Tihen. His words have guided many decisions during the development of Project Access:



"Whenever in medical matters the welfare of the patients is the first consideration, all other things will fall into place."

Paul Uhlig, MD

City and County Officials Approve Funding for Project Access

Members of the Wichita City Council and the Sedgwick County Commission have announced approval of Project Access' request for funding to underwrite the cost of prescription drugs. The city and county each included \$250,000 for MSSC Project Access in their recently-adopted budgets. Funds are expected to be available when the project begins serving patients on September 1.

"All of us working on Project Access are deeply appreciative of this demonstration of support from the city and county governments," stated Dr. Paul Uhlig.

Providing prescription medicines is an essential element in Project Access' efforts to offer comprehensive medical care to low income, uninsured patients. The funds approved by the city and county will reimburse area pharmacies for the cost of drugs dispensed to Project Access patients.

Representatives from MSSC Project Access met with elected officials from city and county governments during a special joint meeting on June 1. At the meeting, members of the community partnership provided information about Project Access and invited the city and county to participate.

"This is a very exciting project because of the long-term benefits for the city," said Chris Cherches, Wichita city manager. "It is not very often that the private and public sectors come together to address a serious need within the

community. It is a project deserving of city support."

"Project Access is a natural extension of what Sedgwick County government already does," said Bill Buchanan, Sedgwick County manager. "We are committed to providing the time and resources to make sure the public knows about it and to make it successful."

Pharmacy Services Come On Board

With the assistance of the Wichita Academy of Pharmacists and Prescription Network of Kansas, arrangements for the pharmaceutical services component of Project Access have been finalized.

"We're ready to do our part for the total project," said Paul Bryan, owner of Valley Drug and immediate past president of the Wichita Academy of Pharmacists. "If everybody does their share, Project Access will definitely be a success for the community."

"We're happy to be involved with Project Access and to fulfill a need that otherwise would not be met," said Peter Stern, executive director of Prescription Network of Kansas.

Area pharmacies have pledged to donate their time and expertise to the project. Most local independent pharmacies and area chain pharmacies are committed to Project Access.

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TARGET DATE
SEPTEMBER 1

IN THE KNOW

● The third delegation to travel to Asheville's Project Access departed on August 17 and included the following individuals:

Joe Meek, MD, dean, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita
Charles Magruder, MD, director, County Health Department
Fred Chang, MD, retired surgeon and associate dean, Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education

Gwynne VanScoyk, administrator of school nurses, Via Christi Regional Medical Center

Nancy Wiebe, community partnerships, UKSM-Wichita

● Trish Petz has been hired to fill the position of administrative assistant for Project Access. She will report to Anne Nelson, program director. Trish's duties will include working with the C.A.R.E.S. database.

● Project Access has relocated to its official offices in the Medical Society, 1102 S. Hillside. The phone number is still 688-0600. The new fax number is 688-0831.

THANK YOU

Wichita Clinic for the donation of office furniture to Project Access.

Total Installation Management Specialists for transporting office furniture from the Wichita Clinic to the Project Access office.

Koch Industries for donating a fax machine and computers for use at the clinics.

United Way's GIVE program for donating office software.

SRS for donating a laptop computer.

Strategic Planning Meeting Develops Project Access Mission Statement

On August 19, members of the Operations Council and other individuals active in the development of MSSC Project Access met to articulate the project's vision and mission.

"Under Peter Cohen's capable leadership, the group created the framework Project Access needs to operationalize the concepts that have been discussed during the last year," explained Anne Nelson, Project Access program director.



Participants worked together in small groups to formulate the Project Access mission statement during the strategic planning meeting held on August 19.

The following mission statement for MSSC Project Access was the outcome of the day-long discussion:

To enhance the provision of quality health care for low-

income uninsured members of our community through a collaborative, coordinated network of voluntary healthcare providers who practice good stewardship of community resources and deliver services in a caring and respectful manner.

Pharmacy Services *continued from front*

Patients enrolled in Project Access will be issued a card, similar to an insurance card, and will pay a \$4 copay for each prescription. The cost of the prescription will be reimbursed with funds received from the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County.

Using software from Prescription Network of Kansas, Project Access office staff will enter patient eligibil-

ity data which will be available to participating pharmacists. Prescription Network of Kansas will oversee the record-keeping component for medications dispensed to Project Access patients, and coordinate the process of reimbursing pharmacists for the cost of medications. Generic substitutions will be dispensed whenever available to insure an efficient use of fiscal resources.

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