



# ACCESS INFORMATION

**O**n April 24, Good Samaritan Clinic began enrolling patients in Project Access. Now, all six community clinics have SRS workers on site enrolling patients and taking applications for state medical and other support programs.

The board members of Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation (the non-profit organization overseeing Project Access) hope to build on the community partnerships formed around caring for uninsured people. Many key community leaders, including physicians, hospital administrators, residency program medical directors, indigent care clinic directors, government representatives, KUSM-Wichita staff and members of other organizations, are hard at work on two important funding requests:

- 1) an application due in June to the Department of Health and Human Services for a new Community Access Program grant, and
- 2) a second-year grant application to The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation due in September.

These two grants, if received, will move our community forward to develop a financing mechanism and business plan for a coordinated system of care for the uninsured in Sedgwick County. Ultimately, we must come together to innovatively attempt to lower the number of uninsured people at a time when this population continues to increase.



Anne Nelson  
Program Director

## SRS Is An Active Partner In Project Access

**W**hen Dr. Paul Uhlig approached SRS about joining a new community partnership to better serve the health care needs of the area's uninsured, he found a state agency ready to do things differently.

"When Project Access came along, SRS, under the direction of Rochelle Chronister (former secretary of the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services), was making a philosophical shift and exploring ways to better respond to the needs of the community," explained Paul Meals, SRS chief of adult and medical programs. "John Sullivan, director of the Wichita SRS office, was also supportive of this new focus on increasing community outreach."

Coinciding with its new philosophy of service, SRS was also in the early phase of implementing the federal children's health program and increasing Medicaid enrollment. "Project Access presented an excellent opportunity for us to get information about these programs into the community," Meals said.

There was, however, one critical roadblock to placing SRS staff in area indigent care clinics, a key component to the Project Access concept. SRS workers at the clinics needed access to the information in the state computer system to determine patient eligibility for Project Access and other

state aid programs. Timing played a role in solving this dilemma. Federal monies dedicated to improving participation in Medicaid and in the children's health program became available. SRS used these funds to purchase

computer hardware for staff members working at the clinics. A dedicated phone line, office space and other resources were provided by the indigent clinics.

"These computers make our workers at each site very productive. As a result, we are finding a whole new

population we hadn't reached before," said Patty Mitts, health care services supervisor.

Building a better rapport with the medical community has been an important benefit to SRS's participation in Project Access. "You can't be effective working in isolation. By partnering with physicians, the hospitals and clinics, we are addressing needs in a more coordinated way," Meals noted. "Because of our relationship with the clinics, we have a better knowledge of what they do. They have been great to work with and very welcoming to our staff."

To fill the position at each clinic, SRS placed workers with strong customer service skills and the ability to work outside of SRS's offices in downtown Wichita. "Our staff are enjoying helping people through Project Access and with



Patty Mitts, health care services supervisor, and Paul Meals, chief of adult and medical programs, are part of a team of SRS staff committed to Project Access.

## IN THE KNOW

- As of May 3...  
480 physicians are participating in Project Access.  
756 patients are enrolled in Project Access.
- Since September 1...  
\$1,807,022 in care contributed by local physicians, hospitals and other providers.  
\$48,938 in prescriptions purchased for patients and filled at cost, thanks to area pharmacists.

### THANK YOU

**to the additional Wichita SRS staff members working at area clinics:**

**Sue Creegan**

Guadalupe Clinic

**Presten Fry**

Good Samaritan Clinic

**Mike McAdam**

Sedgwick County Health Dept.

**Glenda Reynolds**

United Methodist Health Clinic

**Nan Putnam**

supervisor

**Todd Ingram, SRS network**

**administrator**, for his work setting up the computers at each clinic

**Kim Decker** former supervisor, now managing SRS customer service

### THANK YOU

**Janet Schalansky, secretary of the Kansas Department of SRS and John Sullivan, director of the Wichita Office of SRS** for their support of and commitment to Project Access.

### THANK YOU

**Lee Walton, computer programmer in Asheville, NC**, for providing technical assistance to Wichita's Project Access.

## SRS A Willing Partner *continued from front page*

other available services," Mitts commented. The following two SRS staff members couldn't agree more.

Rex White traded a roomy office in the downtown SRS office building for a small cubicle at Hunter Health Clinic. But he loves it. "This is very rewarding work," White said. "I get to really see how my work is impacting the community."



*Rex White  
Hunter Health Clinic*

White has enrolled over 220 patients in the program since October 20 when Hunter Health became the second clinic connected to the Project Access system. "I have seen many young adults no longer eligible for the children's health program as well as a number of elderly."

When White talks with Project Access patients, he points out their role in this community partnership. "I stress the importance of keeping appointments and cooperating with the program, and I emphasize that the physicians are volunteering their services," White explained. "Project Access has already been a great help to many people. It is fulfilling a real need in the community."

Ylonda Dennis is honored to be working at the Center for Health and Wellness which has been online with Project Access since March 1.

"I'm learning a lot of medical information from the clinic staff, and I enjoy having the time to really help each patient," Dennis said.



*Ylonda Dennis  
Center for Health  
and Wellness*

When Dennis meets with clinic

patients to determine eligibility for Project Access, she also explores whether they qualify for other SRS services. "I look closely to see if we can help them in other ways, especially the senior citizens," Dennis explained. "SRS is making a difference here at the Center, and positive relationships within the community are being made."

"There are many different pieces to the Project Access partnership, but our system of enrollment would grind to a halt without SRS," said Anne Nelson, program director.

"We want to help expand this great program," Paul Meals concluded. "Interest from other cities in Kansas represent the level of success we're experiencing locally with Project Access."

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