



IN THE KNOW

- Project Access can now be found on the Internet at www.projectaccess.net. The site contains information about the program, including eligibility requirements, and an avenue for contacting the staff. United Way of the Plains and the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita helped make the website possible.
- In June, Dr. S. Edwards Dismuke, dean of KUSM-W; Dr. Christopher Moeller, co-chair of Project Access's Physician Participation Committee; Paul Meals, chief of medical programs for SRS; and Anne Nelson, program director, attended a national conference in Washington, DC, for 450 communities who are in various stages of developing solutions to address health care access for the uninsured. During the conference, Wichita's representatives helped to facilitate various breakout sessions and participated on a panel of successful programs.
- In April, Anne Nelson, Sarah Gilbert, career development director for the City of Wichita, and Carolyn Earnest, co-chair of the Operations Council, attended a nationwide Project Access Community Event (PACE) in Asheville, NC, hosted by the Buncombe County Medical Society, originators of the first Project Access program.
- In August, community members from Dallas and Oklahoma City will travel to Wichita to learn more about Project Access.

ACCESS INFORMATION

Project Access Prepares for Site Visit

When Wichita's Project Access staff learned that HRSA wanted to schedule a site visit, they knew that their grant application to the Community Access Program initiative had successfully passed the initial stages.

"I'm pleased we've made it to this important stage of the

application process," Anne Nelson, program director, remarked, "Not only for the program but also for our community partners who worked so earnestly to help prepare the grant application."

Project Access submitted a proposal in May to HRSA — Health Resources and Services Administration — for a \$1 million, one-year grant. HRSA, part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, is expected to award funding through the CAP initiative to 40-50 new programs this year. The grant would begin October 1, 2001 and run through September 30, 2002. This is the last year HRSA will fund its Community Access Program initiative.

Three HRSA representatives, including a staff member from Washington, DC, and the Kansas City regional office, along with a staff member from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, will conduct Wichita's site visit on August 8.

"The site visit is our opportunity to show HRSA that what we put on paper in the grant application is actually occurring, from our partners' perspective," Nelson explained.

Topics of interest during the site

visit will include the community's needs and level of involvement as well as the current delivery system of health care to the uninsured. They will review the program, analyze statistics, evaluate the tracking system and discuss plans for the potential funds.

If Wichita's application is accepted, the funding will build on work already underway through a three-year, \$700,000 grant from The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. These projects include an expansion of the computerized patient enrollment and tracking system and a study of hospital services used by the uninsured population.

In addition, Project Access would utilize the HRSA grant to help providers implement case management, prevention and health education activities to improve the health of uninsured patients. CAP management teams, comprised of a social worker and a nurse, would identify patients who need help addressing chronic health problems, such as diabetes, hypertension, asthma and cardiovascular disease, and seek avenues for their primary care.

"The majority of the HRSA grant funding would be distributed throughout the community to our partners who will provide much-needed services to the uninsured citizens of Wichita-Sedgwick County," Nelson commented.

Local grant funders include the Wichita City Council, Sedgwick County Commission, United Way of the Plains and the Kansas Health Foundation.



Program Adds New Staff Member

Project Access expanded its full-time staff to five this spring with the addition of Madlyn Rapp, patient services coordinator for the school nurse program. Prior to joining the program, Rapp worked for a local law firm for eight years. She was also volunteer coordinator and job services coordinator for Episcopal Social Service's Venture House.



Since joining Project Access in April, Rapp has been busy launching the new school nurse initiative in 85 public and private elementary schools in the Wichita area. This summer, 30 nurses completed a training program and began referring students who should not be released back to school and who do not have a primary care home to Project Access. Once a referral

has been made, Rapp contacts the parent or guardian and begins the process of enrolling the student in Project Access and determining what other social services may be available to assist the child and/or family, such as HealthWave, a health insurance program for uninsured youth under age 19.

"The school nurse program promises to be an important resource on behalf of our community's children and one more point of access for Project Access," Rapp said. "This summer's activities have been helpful to see what changes we need to make to insure its success when school starts in the fall."

Rapp can be reached by calling 688-0600 or emailing madlynrapp@projectaccess.net.

Compiling statistics of physician activity during Project Access's first year of operation has been a complicated process, but the data is now available for analysis by the program's staff and its community partners. The extensive report is based on 1,010 physician observations submitted to WPPA, Inc. for entry into the Project Access database. A sampling of the report appears below:

Physician Office Activity

September 1999 - August 2000

Average total charge per patient	\$850
Average charge per visit	\$208
Average number physician visits per patient	4.2

Physician Procedures Activity

Diagnostic/therapeutic services	34%
Pathology/laboratory	18%
Radiology	17%
Evaluation & management	16%
Surgery	15%

Primary Patient Diagnoses

Neoplasms	27%
Ill-defined conditions	14%
Musculoskeletal	11%
Genitourinary	9%
Cardiovascular	7%
Digestive	7%

NUMBERS COUNT

As of June 30...

2,121 patients are enrolled in Project Access

535 physicians are participating in Project Access

\$3,145,685 total amount of care donated by physicians who have submitted UB92s

\$7,250,615 total amount of care donated by area hospitals who have submitted UB92s

\$375,420 total amount of prescriptions purchased with funding provided by the Sedgwick County Commission and the Wichita City Council and filled at no charge by 65 participating pharmacies

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