



# ACCESS INFORMATION

## IN THE KNOW

- Two evaluators from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's Healthy Communities Access Program met with Project Access staff and several community partners during a site visit February 9. Wichita was one of 27 communities selected by HRSA out of several hundred to be part of their national model program evaluation process.
- Project Access was represented at the Health Assembly sponsored by Sedgwick County March 12-13. The assembly convened 250 participants to consider future opportunities and responsibilities of public health care services.
- Analysis of the latest program data is expected to be completed by the end of April. For regular updates on evaluation results, please visit [www.projectaccess.net](http://www.projectaccess.net) and click on "Evaluations."

## Dentists Collaborating With Project Access

Thanks to the leadership of the Wichita District Dental Society and funding support from the Kansas Health Foundation, Wichita Community Foundation, Knight Foundation and United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Project Access is now coordinating donated care for uninsured patients seeking emergency care for dental pain. Since October 1, 2003, 75 patients have been referred to one of 39 local dentists participating in the new initiative.



Lucynda Raben, DDS

Last year, a team of physicians and dentists met to discuss the idea of adding a dental component to Project Access. Lucynda Raben, DDS, past president of the dental society, took on a leadership role in creating the new partnership.

"There is so much charitable dentistry going on in dentists offices throughout Wichita, but without any formal coordination,"

said Raben. "The beauty of this program is that it enables me to provide patients referred by Project Access with the best possible care in the best medical environment."

As of now, patients are only enrolled following a referral from one of the hospital emergency rooms.

A steering committee of area dentists, including John Brammer, John Gagnon, Gilbert Omidio, Charles Squire and Raben, are actively recruiting their colleagues to participate.

"I know involvement will increase once the dentists see how easy it is to work with Project Access," Raben added.

## Program Adds Staff

Project Access expanded by one when Jana Burke joined the staff November 23 in the position of service coordinator. Her primary responsibilities are assessing eligibility and enrolling patients.

For almost 20 years, Burke has worked with children and families, most recently as assessment coordinator for the Kansas Children's Service League, where she conducted home visits for their Healthy Families program.

"I feel like I'm making a difference working for Project Access," Burke said. "By helping our clients, I get to experience successful interventions and positive results everyday."

## Project Access Assists Tennessee Project



Ray Bond (center) of Chattanooga, TN, brought her team to Wichita March 1-2 for training provided by Project Access staff members, including Jana Burke (foreground). Training activities included information about patient enrollment, record keeping and physician recruitment. The Tennessee visitors are working to launch a similar program April 1 managed through the Medical Foundation of Chattanooga.

## Wichita Recognized

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) recognized Project Access for its achievements coordinating delivery of health care to the uninsured during a national meeting held January 15 in Austin, TX. Project Access was one of 12 programs honored by Communities in Charge, a RWJF initiative designed to rethink financing and delivery of health care to the uninsured.

Attending on behalf of the local community partnership were Tim Norton, 2003 chair of the Sedgwick County Commission; Paul Meals, assistant area director for SRS-Wichita; Dwight Allen, executive director of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County; and Anne Nelson, program director.

"Wichita's Project Access is an example of what community leaders are doing to ensure that more Americans have access to comprehensive health care coverage," said Anne Weiss, Communities in Charge senior program officer.

### Patient Comments

*"I am now back working and you all are the reason for it. I am forever grateful for your help."*

*"I like the advice line (Call-A-Nurse). Doctors are not always available, so this helped me make the decision on going to the ER or waiting. Thank you for the help."*

*"Everyone treated me with the utmost respect. Thank you all."*

## Kentucky Program Learns from Kansas Docs

"Giving back" is how Anne Nelson, program director, describes it. She is referring to the more than 60 requests for technical assistance Project Access has received since opening its doors in 1999.

"We were fortunate to have help from the first Project Access in Asheville, NC when our community wanted to find a way to better serve the uninsured," Nelson explains. "Helping other programs keeps that cycle of support going."

Every month, Project Access receives inquiries from communities interested in launching programs to meet the health needs of their uninsured. The level of assistance provided ranges from answering questions over the phone and supplying information on the Project Access website to conducting formal training (*see photo on front page*).

Louisville, KY is one of the latest communities to benefit from Wichita's experiences. In February, local physicians Joe Davison, MD, and Joe Meek, MD, along with program director Anne Nelson, traveled to Louisville to meet with representatives from the Jefferson County Medical Society. Davison and Meek made presentations and answered questions during "Take 10," a kickoff event coordinated by



Joe Davison, MD



Joe Meek, MD

the Louisville physician leadership group to encourage local doctors to commit to seeing 10 patients.

"We're trying to balance helping others and focusing on our local needs, but it's rewarding to see good programs developing in Kansas and throughout the U.S." Nelson remarked.

### NUMBERS COUNT

Since September 1, 1999...

**4,726 patients** have enrolled in Project Access, and **644 patients** are active as of March 10.

**552 physicians** participate in Project Access and **50 physicians** volunteer in six community clinics for a total participation rate of **75%** of MSSC members.

**\$8,466,035** in care has been donated by physicians submitting HCFA billing reports.

**\$20,159,037** in care has been donated by seven area hospitals submitting UB92s.

**\$1,759,133** in prescriptions have been purchased (**78,019** prescription claims filed) 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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