

A New Beginning

There is a common refrain heard at the first of each year: Out with the old, in with the new.

For Project Access, the start of 2007 means the end of publishing its own newsletter — AccessInfo — that focused primarily on its activities.

For Central Plains Regional Health Care Foundation, it means introducing a publication that will inform its readers about Project Access plus the new Enhanced Care Management of Sedgwick County program and other projects.

So, let me welcome you to the first issue of Health Central. Our goal is to keep you up-to-date on the activities and personnel of the entire Central Plains organization, which is committed to improving the health and well-being of many individuals living in Sedgwick County who are either uninsured, underinsured or receive health coverage through Medicaid.

As president of Central Plains, I am proud of the hard-working staff members and dedicated health care professionals who daily make a difference in the lives of thousands of people in Sedgwick County. The partnership that founded Project Access in 1999, in close affiliation with the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, demonstrated that our community cares and backed it up with action. This commitment has made us a model for the rest of the state and country. Starting in 2007, we are bringing this expertise to ECM, a pilot project in collaboration with the State of Kansas.

Now, with Health Central, you can keep up with everything we do. Happy reading!

Christopher Moeller, MD



Partnership with Dental Society revived

Sometimes a good idea just won't die. The merits of forming a cooperative relationship between the Wichita District Dental Society, Medical Society of Sedgwick County and Central Plains did not end when an earlier attempt faced setbacks in 2005. Starting in November 2006, dentists have joined other health care providers donating their services through Project Access.



"Thanks to the leadership of the Dental Society, the Central Plains Board, and in particular Dr. Lucynda Raben, we're pleased to announce that 12 dentists and oral surgeons are now part of the Project Access network," said Anne Nelson, Central Plains chief operations officer.

"I am convinced that this partnership between WDDS and MSSC will lead to new ways to coordinate patient care among physicians, dentists and oral surgeons," said Lucynda Raben, DDS.

Just like physicians working with the program, participating dentists commit to accept a set number of Project Access patients each year. Dentists also can refer their current patients without health insurance to determine eligibility for Project Access. If dentists caring for a Project Access patient identify other health needs, they can refer them to a participating specialist for additional medical care.

The services provided by dentists are limited to address immediate care

conditions and does not include comprehensive dental care. Project Access physicians with patients needing dental care are asked to first complete an oral assessment form. Referrals from indigent care clinics are not being accepted at this time.

Call Project Access at 688-0600 with questions about this new service.

MSSC leadership change

After 42 years of dedicated service as executive director of the Medical Society of Sedgwick County, Dwight Allen has turned over the leadership reins to Jon Rosell, a former HeartSpring executive and recognized professional in the health care community.

"Central Plains is fortunate to transition from one excellent executive director to another," said Anne Nelson, Central Plains COO. "Jon possesses a real understanding of the challenges caring for the uninsured and underinsured in Sedgwick County."

"Project Access and the new Enhanced Care Management Project are on the cutting edge of innovative health care management in our community for those unable to access traditional forms of medicine," said Rosell. "Both projects apply practical and creative methods to address significant health needs. These approaches, when



Jon Rosell

coupled with highly competent and caring staff, are powerful tools in dealing with real-life health issues. I'm excited about being a part of the future growth of both of these programs not only for the benefit of our local community, but also for the state of Kansas."



# Thank you providers! You made a difference in 2006.

In 2006, health care providers in Sedgwick County donated over \$10 million through Project Access and served 1,315 patients.

The breakdown of this impressive amount of donated care follows:

- Physicians donated health care services worth \$2,519,904
- Hospitals donated medical services worth \$7,559,699.
- The combined total is \$10.1 million.

The value of this care goes beyond dollars and cents. In surveys sent to patients when they complete their enrollment cycle, they express their

gratitude for the services provided by Project Access providers. Here are just a few examples of what patients say.

*I am most appreciative for the care I received from my doctor, nurses and other staff. Without Project Access the care I needed would not have happened.*

*Thank you for your help. I appreciated the doctors, nurses, and all of the health care people that I came in contact with. God bless you all.*

*I was really sick and had no money and no job. With the help of the doctors in this program I am now well and healthy and have a wonderful job. I am very grateful*

*for this program. I am now able to be the grandmother that I want to be for my grandchildren. Thank you.*

*I am very grateful for the program, and am very impressed with the quality of care I received. Thank you to all involved.*

"Nearly every day, patients tell us how important this program is to them" said Allen Nelson, Project Access program manager. "It is the commitment of our community's physicians, hospitals and other providers who make the difference in people's health. We join our patients in saying 'thank you.'"

## Programs add new Project Access and ECM staff members

January 2 was Matt Schrock's first day as ECM program manager.

"Being part of a pilot program that is trying innovative approaches to helping clients make their lives better really appealed to me," explains Schrock. "My goal is to continue to grow the ECM program and to build community awareness."



A native of Oregon, Schrock came to Kansas to take an AmeriCorp graduate fellowship with the state's HealthWave program. He completed his master's in clinical social work at Washburn University. Prior to joining ECM, Schrock

was director of social work for Via Christi HOPE. For the last five years, he has also directed the First United Methodist Church's Religious Nurture Center.

Schrock replaces Paul Meals who left for a job with the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services in Wichita.

The new Project Access service coordinator is Julia Voss, who joined the staff in November. Her job is to manage patient services on a daily basis and interact with physicians and pharmacists as well as patients.



Voss worked as an adult case manager at the Southcentral Mental Health Counseling Center before joining Project Access. She is a graduate of Wichita State University with a bachelor of arts degree in psychology. Voss was hired for the position previously held by Laura Graham who left after five years of excellent service.

### IN APPRECIATION . . .

Project Access expresses its thanks to the MSSC Alliance for its recent donation of toys and cash. The toys will help entertain children who accompany their parents to meetings with program staff.

## NUMBERS TO KNOW

Since September 1, 1999...

**7,139 patients** have enrolled in Project Access and **615 patients** are active daily.

**556 physicians** participate in Project Access and **50 physicians** volunteer in six community clinics for a total participation rate of 58% of MSSC practicing physicians.

**\$16,404,973** in care has been donated by physicians submitting HCFA billing reports.

**\$41,261,943** in care has been donated by seven area hospitals submitting UB92s.

**\$2,988,142** in prescriptions have been purchased and **146,908 prescription claims** filed with funds provided by the Sedgwick County Commission and the Wichita City Council and filled at no charge by **80 participating pharmacies.**

In addition, pharmacy efforts by Project Access leveraged over **\$1,671,777** in donated medications for the program's patients.

As of February 14...

**162 clients** are actively enrolled in Enhanced Care Management of Sedgwick County.

**73% of ECM clients** are challenged by three or more of the following chronic conditions:

Arthritis	28
Asthma	16
Congestive Heart Failure	11
COPD	26
Diabetes	38
Frailty	20
Hyperlipidemia	35
Hypertension	57
Ischemic Heart Disease	22
Lower Back Pain	52