

2005 Public Health Partners in Kansas



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KPHA, established on July 9, 1920 by a charter filed in the Kansas Office of the Secretary of State, declared the purpose of the Association was to “Unite all persons and societies engaged in the promotion of public health in one administrative body to the end that duplication of effort might be avoided; ...” Incorporators included Wm. White, editor of the Emporia Gazette, and Dr. Crumbine, M.D., executive secretary of the Kansas State Board of Health. For 20 years the Association met semi-annually. In 1940, officers were elected, and today, the Association is 500 members strong, representing all individuals and organizations of public health.

Kansas Health Foundation The Wesley Foundation was organized to support the Wesley Medical Center in Wichita, Kansas. In 1985 the Foundation was endowed with more than \$200 million in proceeds from the sale of the assets of the medical center to a for-profit company. With that endowment, the Foundation embarked on a wide variety of grant-making activities in health care, particularly focusing on basic research projects. Formed as the philanthropic arm of Wesley Hospital in Wichita in 1978, the Foundation later became an independent grant-making entity. In 1985, endowed with the proceeds from the sale of the hospital, the Foundation set out to respond to the needs of the people of Kansas. In 1992 the Wesley Foundation changed its name to the **Kansas Health Foundation (KHF)** and refocused its grant-awarding philosophy. As a private philanthropy, based in Wichita, their mission is to improve the health of all Kansans. Using strategic grant-making, the Foundation focuses on three program areas: Public Health, Children's Health and Leadership Mission: To improve the health of all Kansans

The **Kansas Health Institute** is an independent, nonprofit health policy and research organization based in Topeka, Kansas. Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant from the Kansas Health Foundation, the Kansas Health Institute conducts research and policy analysis on issues that affect the health of Kansans.

The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans, based in Topeka, Kansas, was created in August of 2000 as part of a \$75 million settlement between Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. The settlement charge that established the Sunflower Foundation directed it to serve the health needs of Kansans, including providing health care and health care information to indigent, uninsured, underinsured persons; promoting preventive health care, including, but not limited to, activities aimed at reducing the number of Kansas adults and youth who use and are addicted to tobacco products; and other health related services. The Sunflower Foundation will fund projects that focus on improving health status or access to quality, affordable health care for Kansans.

The **Kansas Public Health Workforce and Leadership Development (WALD) Center** was created in January 2002 as part of a statewide alliance involving several partners collaborating in the area of public health workforce and leadership development. These partners include: The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), Office of Local and Rural Health (Topeka) The University of Kansas School of Medicine, Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health (Wichita) The Kansas Association of Local Health Departments (KALHD) (Topeka) The University of Kansas Public Management Center (Topeka)

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The WALD Center is a Web-based virtual education center that enables the integration and coordination of a continuous preparedness, information and education endeavor for the public health workforce in Kansas. This allows for the promotion of competency-based public health workforce development and leadership in this state.

The **Kansas Foundation for Medical Care, Inc. (KFMC)** is a Quality Improvement Organization (QIO). Their major contracts are with the Department of Health and Human Services - Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS). They also contract with many private companies. Throughout the various contracts, their role is to work with healthcare providers to develop ways to improve the quality of healthcare provided to Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and ultimately all Kansas healthcare consumers. Their vision is to serve as the primary agent in focusing the statewide healthcare community to achieve significant and continuing improvement in the quality of healthcare. In this role, they will encourage the active involvement of the healthcare community. They strive to be both a partner and a resource to the healthcare community in joint efforts to improve the healthcare provided to our citizens.

The **REACH Healthcare Foundation** is a 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation established in 2003 through the sale of Health Midwest facilities located in Kansas, to the Health Corporation of America (HCA). Under a settlement agreement developed between Health Midwest, HCA and the Kansas Attorney General, the REACH Healthcare Foundation received a disbursement of nearly \$100 million in June 2004. The settlement agreement charges the REACH Healthcare Foundation with the responsibility of advancing research, education and access to healthcare for indigent and uninsured residents of Johnson, Wyandotte and Allen Counties of Kansas. The Board of Directors of REACH will invest these with the goal of distributing grants totaling an estimated \$3 to \$5 million each year. REACH stands for research, education and access to charitable health care.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment KDHE's mission is to optimize the promotion and protection of the health of Kansans through efficient and effective public health programs and services and through preservation, protection, and remediation of natural resources of the environment. Bureau's of the KDHE Division of Health include: 1. Child Care and Health Facilities, 2. Children, Youth and Families, 3. Consumer Health, and 4. Epidemiology and Disease Prevention, Offices of the Division of Health include: 1. Health Promotion and 2. Local and Rural Health.

Local County Health Departments 99 County Health Departments in Kansas promote and protect the health of County residents through education, prevention, surveillance and treatment, using public health functions of assessment, assurance and policy development. Their mission is to protect and promote the health of individuals in their respective Counties and Communities as a whole, with the ultimate goal of enabling all residents to have healthy choices available to them while living in a safe and healthy environment.

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Hutchinson, KS In 1986, the Kansas West Conference of the United Methodist Church established the Health Fund with a portion of the proceeds of the sale of Wesley Hospital in Wichita. The Health Fund works with all of its resources to fulfill its mission of Healthy Kansans through strategic and cooperative philanthropy guided by Christian principles.