

# ADVANCING WOMEN'S HEALTH AND EQUITY THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

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## BOARD OF DIRECTORS & MEMBERS

### Diverse membership recruited.

20 board and 165 network members recruited representing 64 community organizations.

Member categories:

**Mental Health:** Alzheimer's association, Carin Health, Dole VA Medical Center, Harry Hynes Hospice, National Alliance on Mental Illness, Wichita African American Council of Elders

**Health Literacy:** Envision, League of Women Voters, Wichita State University, YMCA

**Reproductive Health:** Ascension Health, Colborn Fitness, GraceMed, Positive Directions, Sedgwick County Health Department, Trust Women



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

### Network funded \$60,000 in activities across Kansas.

In two years, 19 projects were funded to address identified barriers and improve the health of women. Projects were held in Wichita, Topeka, and Lawrence and included education, health services, and support programs.

Served over 127 people:

-60% low health literacy

-45% made less than \$50,000 annually

Example projects: Fresh Food Market by Safe Streets, increased therapy services by The Village, increased access to breast cancer screenings by Witness Project of KS, and added 8 female condom dispensers with TikTok how-to video (over 20,000 views).

## 2018 NETWORK FOUNDED

### To improve health equity for women across the lifespan.

Team at Wichita State led by Dr. Amy Chesser, Dr. Nikki Keene Woods, and Melody McCray-Miller secured funding from Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute.



## WHN BOARD IDENTIFIED 3 PRIORITY HEALTH CONCERNS

1. **Women's Mental Health**
2. **Reproductive Health**
3. **Health literacy and access to health education**

Collectively members identified **three barriers** to health equity in Kansas:

1. Availability of affordable insurance
2. Lack of access to appropriate care in rural areas
3. No universal free preventative care

## OUTREACH

### WHN collected data to inform future efforts.

- Held patient round tables to define health.
- Networking events to support statewide collaboration.
- Semi-structured interviews & quarterly evaluations to assess progress.
- Validated online 3-question health literacy screening tool to improve quality of health services.



# WOMEN'S HEALTH NETWORK OF KANSAS



## NETWORK MEETINGS

**Held regular meetings despite challenging times.**

Board and Network met quarterly to share ideas, learn from speakers, and build trust. The Network had to pivot during the pandemic and started meeting virtually in Spring 2020. Despite the distance the Network continued to build trust.



## LESSONS LEARNED

**Community partners shared lessons at last quarterly meeting of 2020.**

- Learned how to pivot during a pandemic
- Collaborating fosters unity and networking
- Community needs continue to grow
- Huge need for prevention programming & services
- Improving health equity for women requires continuous efforts & collaborations

## EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

**Usability testing conducted.**

To improve educational tools used by community partners, usability testing was conducted with 7 organizations.

- Participants reported being able to understand the tools
- Received tips to improve tools for clients (e.g., survey order, readability, length of content)



## COMMUNITY DATA

**Survey data and existing health data were combined in Community Health Assessment.**

- Network activities served vulnerable community members, 60% with low health literacy
  - (versus state level of 8%)
- Members reported high satisfaction with meetings (100% N=43)
  - Reported meetings were well organized and good use of time (100% N=43)



## NEXT STEPS

**Continued future collaboration.**

Team built many collaborative tools.

- Extensive website with resources for women's health and COVID-19 services
- Facebook page & YouTube channel with links to community partners & resources
- Disseminate online 3-question health literacy tool among partners

The work to continue building community trust to address health inequities for women continues.

