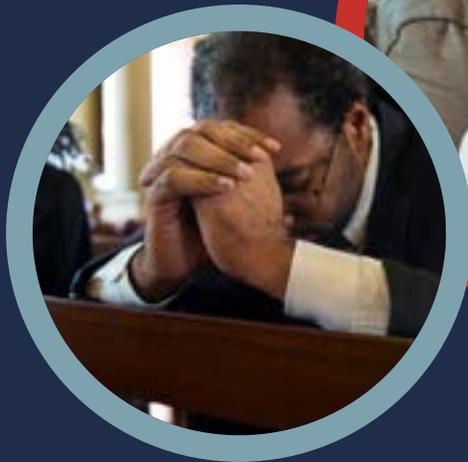
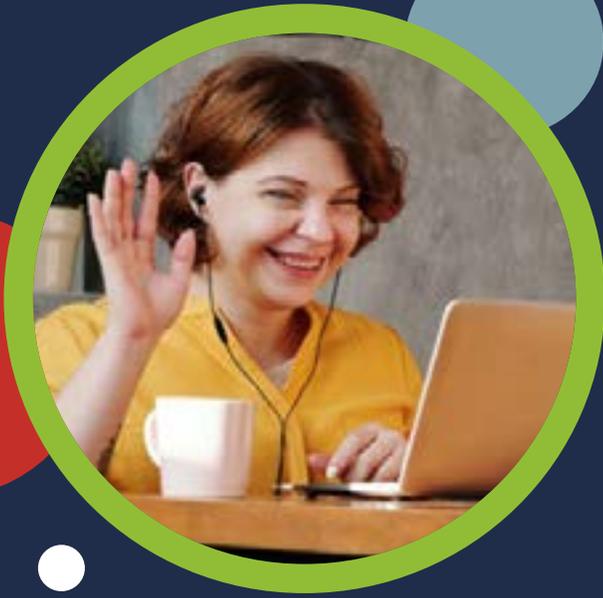


2020

YEAR IN REVIEW





Dear friends,

Like all of you, the Health Fund has been impacted by the once-in-a-century COVID-19 pandemic. While the pandemic has affected how we do business and how we partner with churches, organizations and Kansans to improve the health of Kansas, we remain committed to our mission. Given the challenges, we are more energized than ever to work with each of you and ensure Kansans are physically, spiritually and mentally healthy.

Like Kansas' state motto – Ad Astra, Per Aspera – the past year proved that we can overcome difficulties to reach the stars. Despite mourning the tremendous amount of loss and grief caused by the pandemic, we celebrate our partnerships and the work we were able to do with so many of you in 2020.

As we reflect on our work over the last year, there are many examples of working with partners to persist and innovate in the face of adversity. Through our partnership with Kansas Appleseed, we were able to adapt our work to ensure all Kansans, especially those living in southwest Kansas, were counted as part of the decennial Census. The outreach conducted by Kansas Appleseed and our Spanish language and social media advertising played a major role in ensuring that 99.9% of Kansans were counted and that our state did not lose hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding.

As part of our support of the Attachment and Bio-behavioral Catch-up (ABC) home visiting project, we saw our grantees and the home visitors quickly adapt to a remote work environment by pioneering televisits during the pandemic. Use of virtual home visits not only resulted in families keeping appointments but also enabled many to complete the program more quickly, benefitting Kansas families by providing critically important social and emotional support during this difficult time.

Over the last year, we launched a community health worker (CHW) initiative to help improve access to services and the delivery of services. CHWs are culturally competent providers who can help patients navigate the health system. As part of our work, we recently released research outlining the role CHWs are playing in Kansas and launched an effort to fund CHWs in five sites throughout Kansas to demonstrate how CHWs can benefit providers and patients. Looking ahead, we know that CHWs can play an important role in connecting patients from hard-to-reach communities with information and care, and we will work to ensure that happens through trainings, education and policy work that we support.

One of the more exciting areas of our work last year was the Faith in Democracy program, which aimed to support congregations throughout Kansas in boosting voter engagement. Built on the premise that the health of a community is inextricably linked to civic engagement, the program was able to work with forty churches throughout the state and saw that 91% of the new voters our partner churches' teams engaged, voted. As we look to improve our health system post-pandemic, we will need to continue to support civic engagement throughout the state, and we will work with our partners at the Voter Network to do just that.

There is much work ahead and many challenges to overcome. However, I am more confident than ever that together we can meet those challenges and achieve our shared vision for making Kansas a healthier place to live and work for all Kansans.

Best,

David Jordan,
President





ACCESS TO CARE

Health Fund Research Highlights How Policy Changes Increased Access to Telehealth Service & Support For Telehealth

As part of the Health Fund’s access to care work, we support efforts to develop a sustainable health care system that improves the delivery of and access to services. To that end, we saw an important role to play in understanding the future of telehealth in Kansas.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, emergency telehealth policy changes issued by the federal government and State of Kansas improved access to telehealth and preserved access to care. The changes expanded reimbursement and payment parity, broadened reimbursement for telephone visits and relaxed communication platform requirements and rules for originating and distance sites. They also enabled additional provider types and services and decreased geographic limitations.

To understand how these changes impacted Kansans and providers, we commissioned research to examine telehealth access and utilization. The research found that providers and patients benefited from expanded telehealth services, especially as in-person visits declined during the pandemic.



KUMC Researcher Dorothy Hughes

Telehealth is not intended to replace in-person care, but provides options contributing to positive patient health outcomes and improving safety – especially for chronic disease management and for elderly/vulnerable patients.

“ I was totally against telehealth before COVID. I did not see a use for it in my practice. Now that I have tried it...my patients and I love it. I’m very afraid that reimbursement will be taken away and I will have to give it up.”

“We need to continue to be able to provide telehealth and phone services for our patients to keep them safe and be reimbursed like in-person visits so that keeping our patients safe does not negatively impact our ability to keep our clinic doors open. The overhead cost of providing telehealth services makes this difficult otherwise.”

Health Fund & Partners Lead Community Conversations on Future of Rural Health Care



OBERLIN - DOWNTOWN

A strong health system is critical to thriving rural communities and the health of rural Kansans. Even before COVID-19 began surging in rural Kansas, it was becoming more difficult to sustain health care services in a changing Kansas, where the rural health system is starved of resources with limited opportunity to innovate.

Significant shifts in population – sharp rural depopulation and an increase in older residents – make maintaining health care and other important services in rural communities more tenuous each year. Compounding the problem is the growing number of uninsured residents in rural Kansas driving up uncompensated care costs and changes in how and what services are delivered in rural hospitals. And finally, the current financing system restricts the ability of hospitals to adapt to the changing times. Together, these challenges threaten health care in rural Kansas communities.

To better understand and prepare for the future of rural health care in Kansas, the Health Fund partnered with Kansas Health Foundation, Kansas Hospital Association and the University of Kansas Public Management Center on a series of regional conversations on the future of rural health to discuss challenges and explore potential solutions.

Join one of our upcoming conversations on the future of rural health. Learn more: communityconversationsks.com.



EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT

Health Fund Launches New High 5 For Mom & Baby Premier Program



Kansas hospitals and birth centers play a crucial role in helping mothers initiate breastfeeding and continue to breastfeed successfully after leaving the facility. Since 2012, High 5 for Mom & Baby has been helping Kansas hospitals and birth centers adopt five evidence-based maternity care practices, along with supporting policies, proven to help ensure breastfeeding success.

Building on that success, in 2020 we launched High 5 for Mom & Baby Premier, expanding the program to ten practices to ensure the best possible breastfeeding experience for mom and baby. The ten High 5 for Mom & Baby practices are based on the WHO/UNICEF Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding – a set of evidence-based practices proven to increase breastfeeding success and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities.



UNIVERSITY OF KS HOSPITAL



ADVENTHEALTH OTTAWA

Through participation in High 5 for Mom & Baby, Kansas hospitals and birth centers demonstrate their commitment to infant and maternal health by supporting breastfeeding success. Facilities following at least five practices earn recognition as a High 5 for Mom & Baby facility. Those which follow all ten practices earn the High 5 for Mom & Baby Premier recognition. For a list of recognized Kansas hospitals, or to learn more about the practices, visit High5Kansas.org.

Health Fund & KDHE Collaboration Leads to New Maternal Depression Screening Benefit



Beginning in 2019, the Health Fund partnered with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to participate in a national project, Pediatrics Supporting Parents, aiming to integrate social and emotional development screening into the pediatric visit. In partnership with KDHE, we convened a group of stakeholders and state partners to examine how state Medicaid policy could better support the social and emotional health of new mothers and young children.

Building on existing work of KDHE, the group prioritized changing state Medicaid policy to add new coverage of maternal depression screenings for new mothers. As a result of this collaborative work, the state – effective January 1st – now covers maternal depression screening. The policy supports reimbursement for up to three screenings during the prenatal period under the mother’s Medicaid ID and up to five screenings during the 12-month postpartum period under the child’s Medicaid ID as part of a well-infant/child visit. It is estimated that 5,347 mothers will receive a maternal depression screening in their child’s pediatric primary care visit in the first 12 months of life. Ultimately, the new policy will improve health for mothers and children and save the state money.



PEDIATRICS Supporting PARENTS

To implement the policy, we will continue to partner with KDHE to fund the Kansas Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics and other key stakeholders in providing promotion, training and outreach around the new covered screen. We also continue to partner with KDHE to support efforts to advance policies aiming to improve the health of our youngest Kansans and their families.



HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS

Lilly Endowment Awards Health Fund 5-Year Grant to Expand Healthy Congregations Program and Partnership with Neighboring Movement

The Health Fund received a five-year, \$999,058 Thriving Congregations grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to expand the Healthy Congregations (HC) Program in partnership with Wichita, KS-based Neighboring Movement, whose Good Neighbor Experiment (GNE) connects asset-based community development with Christian values by helping teams practice learned skills of community neighboring.

The Fund has supported HC team participation in GNE since 2019 as a strategy to address social isolation and related health challenges in local communities. The Lilly grant will help the Fund further integrate GNE within the HC program, expand availability to more congregations in the Great Plains Conference and beyond, and research GNE's impact on congregations and the social determinants of health within communities.



GOOD NEIGHBOR EXPERIMENT



Adam Barlow-Thompson
Executive Director, The Neighboring Movement



MCLOUTH UNITED METHODIST

Health Fund Grants \$24,095 To UM Congregations For Covid-19 Response

Our connections with nearly 100 Great Plains United Methodist churches through our Healthy Congregations program enabled a rapid response to help teams support emerging community needs as the Covid-19 pandemic spread. 48 grants totaling \$24,095 supported food distribution, mask production, social supports and other local responses in communities throughout Kansas and Nebraska. One church team made and distributed more than 5,000 masks. Another delivered 444 meals to shut-ins and low-income families, and 1,440 lunches for children. We are deeply impressed by the passion, commitment, creativity and resourcefulness of our Healthy Congregations teams in responding to rapidly developing community needs under challenging conditions.



Faith Westwood United Methodist



GRAND ISLAND TRINITY UNITED METHODIST



Health Fund's Katie Schoenhoff Recognized as Emerging Leader in Health Philanthropy

Katie Schoenhoff, the Health Fund's director of programs, was selected to be part of Grantmakers In Health's Terrance Keenan Institute for Emerging Leaders in Health Philanthropy, a national professional leadership development opportunity for our field's next-generation leaders. This is a highly competitive biennial program, and Katie's recognition is well-deserved.

The institute focuses on leadership development, exploration of critical issues facing philanthropy and building collegial connections that can endure throughout fellows' careers. Inspired by the work and writings of Terrance Keenan, who contributed for more than 40 years to the field of health philanthropy, topics include leadership, innovation, taking risks and using resources creatively.



2020 BY THE NUMBERS

GRANTS:

195 grants totaling more than \$1,840,000

- 19 Access to Care grants
- 27 Early Childhood Development grants
- 144 Healthy Congregations grants
- 5 Other grants

INTERMEDIARY:

Leveraged \$860,693 in external funds across all program areas

Health Fund Thanks Retiring Directors, Says Hello To New Directors

The wisdom, guidance and counsel our volunteer Board of Directors provides is key to our ability to improve the health of all Kansans, and we are fortunate to have a diverse, talented and engaged Board. In 2020, we thanked retiring directors Max Clayton, Debora Cox and Garney Hill for their commitment and dedication to the mission, work and life of the Fund throughout nine years of service and were excited to welcome three new directors – Tom Bell, Bryce Flaming and Rev. Ronda Kingwood – to the Board.



Tom Bell



Bryce Flaming



Rev. Ronda Kingwood

Prairie View Receives Janet Sevier Gilbreath Award

Each year, the Health Fund Board selects one outstanding grant-funded project to receive the Janet Sevier Gilbreath Special Project Recognition award, named in honor of our first Board Chairperson. The award recognizes a project which has done the most to advance the Fund's and Janet's vision of health for all Kansans and demonstrates scale, achievement, leveraging, operational excellence, social justice and diversity.

Prairie View, Newton, received the 2019 award for its Tri-County Children's Mental Health Project, which has worked with local physician groups, local early education centers and other community partners to improve training, screening, referrals and capacity to better serve children with social-emotional needs and to help mothers experiencing maternal depression. The project has also worked with partners to develop summer programming, a successful therapeutic preschool and increased availability of evidence-based, affordable parent training and support.



Deanna Berry, 2020 Recipient of the Kim Moore Visionary Leadership Award

In 2018, we established the Kim Moore Visionary Leadership Award to honor the visionary leadership of our founding president and annually recognize a visionary leader in one of our strategic focus fields who demonstrates exceptional leadership and dedication to improving the health and well-being of Kansans. For 2020, we awarded the honor to Deanna Berry, Executive Director of Russell Child Development Center (RCDC) for her work in advancing the field of early childhood development in Kansas.

For more than 20 years, Ms. Berry has advanced early intervention and education, leading early childhood initiatives with a strong vision and voice, while constantly looking for ways to meet the needs of children and families of all backgrounds and abilities so that young children can thrive.



Deanna Berry
*Executive Director of Russell
Child Development Center*

Through Deanna's leadership, RCDC has become a tremendous resource for children and families, delivering multiple quality early childhood programs throughout rural and frontier counties encompassing nearly 16,000 square miles and serving as a trusted and sharing voice in the field. Thanks to Deanna's leadership, vision and work, families in southwest Kansas have become stronger, children have received services needed to become successful and all of this will ensure a brighter future in Kansas.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

