

July 15, 2024

Honorable Secretary Janet Stanek
Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment
1000 SW Jackson Street, Topeka, KS, 66612
Community Health Workers Medicaid Reimbursement

CC: Christine Osterlund
Deputy Secretary of Agency Integration and Medicaid Director

Dear Secretary Stanek:

We wanted to extend our gratitude for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and Medicaid Office's careful and persistent work to [increase reimbursement rates for certain services completed by community health workers \(CHWs\) in Kansas](#). The original state plan amendment submitted and approved by CMS in 2023 was a much needed first step, and the increased rates approved this year represent significant progress in ensuring CHWs are sustained as critical care team members.

For those of us who work closely with CHWs, increased rates mean that more Kansans will have access to the essential support they provide, like connecting Medicaid members to the resources available to them. Additionally, building trust in the communities they serve and ensuring fair health access and outcomes are keystones of their deep impact. The stable, sustainable stream of revenue via reimbursement of services through Medicaid is crucial for Kansas as we work toward the shared goal of accessible, high quality, and affordable health care.

We know implementation of new provider and payment models can be challenging and we have already heard concerns about billing issues. **As stakeholders committed to the implementation and sustainability of CHWs, we welcome the opportunity to further our partnership with you on this topic.** Partnering on implementation and training would speed the integration of CHWs into practice and benefit both patients and providers.

Specifically, we would volunteer our time and attention to partner on outreach, awareness building, technical assistance, and the development of implementation manuals that will make it easier for providers to integrate CHWs into their practices and ensure they are appropriately billing for services. This shared vision for implementation and payment will benefit Medicaid, providers, and patients. Knowing that resources can be a barrier, there is a willingness from philanthropic partners to support this work should KDHE be interested.

We are grateful for the efforts of KDHE and the Kansas Medicaid Office to advance the practice and sustainability of CHWs in the state. The increased rates will go a long way to ensure that the powerful community connection and engagement provided by CHWs remains strong. Additionally, we believe continual refinement and support would also accelerate the progress already being made, especially to support the billing and reimbursement process.

Should you desire additional support or have questions, please contact any of the individuals signed below. Our knowledge and expertise is at your disposal.

Sincerely,

McClain Bryant Macklin, JD, MBA
Vice-President of Policy and Impact
Health Forward Foundation
mbmacklin@healthforward.org

David Jordan
Chief Executive Officer
United Methodist Health Ministry Fund
david@healthfund.org

Elaine Johannes, PhD
President
Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition

Lori Alvarado
CEO
DCCCA, Inc.

Sonja W. Bachus
CEO
Community Care Network of Kansas

Karen Braman
Senior Vice President, Clinical and Strategic Initiatives
Kansas Hospital Association

Heather Braum
Senior Policy Advisor
Kansas Action for Children

David Brazil
CEO
Community Health Center in Cowley County, Inc.

Rev. Jennifer Bryan
Founder & CEO
Better Together, Inc.

Bryan Carcamo
Manager of Care Coordination
KC CARE Health Center

Robin Carlson
COO/Founder and Board Member
Pivotal Health & Wellness

Denise Cyzman
Executive Director
Kansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics (KAAP)

Amy Falk
CEO
Health Partnership Clinic, Inc.

Kiley Floyd
CEO
Nemaha Valley Community Hospital

Andrea Gallegos
Behavioral Health Supervisor
Genesis Family Health

Catalina Garcia
Co-Executive Director
Salud mas Bienestar, Inc.

Cathy Harding
Interim Executive Director
Community Health Council of Wyandotte County

Robin Henderson
Executive Director
Eagle Nest, Inc.

April Holman
Executive Director
Alliance for a Healthy Kansas

Denise James
Health Department Administrator
Grant County Health Department

Roy Jensen, M.D.
Director
The University of Kansas Cancer Center

Sarah Kessler, PhD, MPH
Principal Investigator
Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE)

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director
Kansas Parents as Teachers Association

Lindsay Kral
Vice President of Programs and Services
Rainbows United, Inc.

Diana Lady
Public Health Program Specialist
Center for Public Health Initiatives, WSU Community Engagement Institute

Kari Mailloux
Director of Strategic Initiatives
Hutchinson Community Foundation

Karen Martinez
HCV Director
Manhattan Housing Authority

Christy McMurphy
Executive Director
Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition

Michael Mitchell
Senior Strategic Director
Unite Us

Paula Neth
President & CEO
The Family Conservancy

Tarah Remington-Brown
CEO
Kansas Academy of Family Physicians

Patrick Sallee
President & CEO
Vibrant Health

Sharla Smith
Executive Director
Kansas Birth Equity Network, KU Medical Center

Jessica Thompson
Deputy Director
Thrive Allen County

Belinda Vail, MD
Chair, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
University of Kansas Health System

Jason Wesco
Executive Vice President
Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas