



Sedgwick County...  
working for you

# fastFACTS

about Sedgwick County Government

## Health Access

### Background

Affordable health care is essential for all Sedgwick County citizens. According to the Kansas Health Insurance Survey, approximately 10.9% of Sedgwick County residents are uninsured - that's nearly 45,825 of our neighbors, friends and family members. The impact of this problem does not just affect those individuals; it affects individuals, businesses and our entire health care system.

The Board of Sedgwick County Commissioners initiated a community dialogue to research the problem and look for possible solutions to decrease the barriers citizens have to health care access. The first public step toward solutions was on June 7, 2007, when the County hosted a community summit on health care access. Approximately 90 community members attended that meeting, representing the health care industry, nonprofit sector, business community, citizens, academia and local and state governments.

During this summit, three main barriers emerged: Coverage, System Coordination and System Navigation. The Health Access Project was initiated with working groups created to work on solutions to each of the identified system barriers.

### Working Group Strategies

**Coverage** - To evaluate the current health delivery system for capacity, deficiencies and potential improvements.

**Coordination** - To create a coordinated system for community health care access.

**Navigation** - To improve communications and accessible information on health care options

### How can I get more information?

For more information on Health Access, call Roderick Harris, Director, Center for Health Equity, Sedgwick County Health Department, at 316-660-7312 or email [rlharris@sedgwick.gov](mailto:rlharris@sedgwick.gov).

### Working Group Recommendations

The three working groups held regular meetings from September 2007-March 2008. Additionally, Commissioner Tim Norton led a steering team to oversee all work. The working groups' final recommendations were:

1. Enhance Publicity of 2-1-1
2. Community Health Coverage Plan
3. Build Relationships with KHPA
4. 24/7 Nurse call Line
5. Outreach
6. Shared Health Information
7. Extending Clinic Hours of Access
8. Research Data on ER Usage
9. Transportation Plan

### Next Steps

In September 2008, an oversight committee was established to ensure timely implementation of the proposed recommendations over the next year. Members of the oversight committee include:

|                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| Graham Bailey  | Anne Nelson    |
| Beth Oaks      | Randy Peterson |
| Brian Rose     | Jon Rosell     |
| Dave Sanford   | Hugh Tappan    |
| Michael Vinson | Ron Whiting    |
| Tim Witsman    |                |

This committee will meet monthly. Updates from each meeting will be posted to [www.sedgwickcounty.org](http://www.sedgwickcounty.org). These updates can be found on the Health Access page, which is found by clicking on "Health Department" in the top right corner of the Web page.