



Sedgwick County...  
working for you

Health Department

July 2009

FACTS&details

about Sedgwick County Government

## Community Health Navigator Project

### What is a *community health navigator*?

*Community health navigators* are volunteers who provide health information to other citizens. Navigators go into the community at the neighborhood, church and other civic organization levels with health access information and health education toolkits.

### What are the goals of the *community health navigator* project?

- Educate residents on the importance of having a medical home for seeking primary care and preventative care.
- Promote positive help-seeking behaviors throughout the community.
- Provide health access education toolkits to community residents through one-on-one conversations or in group settings.
- Collect demographic data for evaluation purposes of the Health Access Projects.
- Collaborate with county residents, public and private agencies, non-profits, and academic institutions to improve health status, healthcare access, and reduce health disparities.
- Increase the proportion of persons who have a medical home.

### Why did the project start?

The *community health navigators* project was started to improve the impact of the local public health system's limited resources. It is clear several in Sedgwick County are not aware of the many local health resources available, including affordable, quality medical homes. Further, education is needed on appropriate usage of health service resources, such as when to go to the emergency room.

### When did the project start?

The *community health navigator* project was launched in March 2009, during Cover the Uninsured Week. The navigators are part of the Sedgwick County Health Department's Center for Health Equity.

### What is the vision for the Center for Health Equity?

The Center's vision is to achieve fairness in health status, healthcare access, and social well-being for all residents of Sedgwick County.

### How do I become a *community health navigator*?

Navigators must attend a training session which takes approximately an hour and a half. If you would like to schedule a training session and become a *community health navigator*, call 316-660-7252 or email [dross@sedgwick.gov](mailto:dross@sedgwick.gov).

### How do I schedule a navigator to give a group presentation?

Call 316-660-7252 or email [dross@sedgwick.gov](mailto:dross@sedgwick.gov) to schedule a presentation about health access options in our community.