

**VISIONEERING WICHITA
HEALTHCARE ALLIANCE
Access Committee**

Meeting Notes

February 16, 2006

Attendees: Ron Whiting (Chair)
Doren Fredrickson, M.D.
Claudia Blackburn

Overview/Purpose

There was a discussion regarding the purpose and scope of this committee's work. The "Quality of Life" section of the Visioning Plan was reviewed, specifically including the strategies stated for Health Care. The strategies that were deemed relevant to the work of this committee's work on health access included:

- *Improving dental health for all ages.*
- *Promoting and strengthening free and/or reduced cost clinics as a substitute for emergency room use for indigent health care and promote awareness of these resources.*
- *Encouraging physicians and nurses to provide services to the Wichita MSA indigent patients.*
- *Having comprehensive coordinated medical care (including mental, dental and health) for all people regardless of ability to pay and provide easy access to services.*
- *Establish a community-wide expert committee that advises us on health care costs and quality.*
- *Promoting disease prevention.*

There was agreement that this group should be a serious attempt to assess, measure, and communicate the strengths, gaps, and needs relative to healthcare access in the community. It was suggested that a particular focus of the committee should be on access for the under and uninsured, as well as underserved populations.

The need to establish the committee's work as focused and worthy of participation by community stakeholders was discussed. It will be important to involve and engage leaders from these organizations in the community. These included:

- The safety net providers
- Project Access
- The hospitals and health systems
- The county health providers

Potential Measures

Measures of access were discussed. It was agreed that there are a wide variety of measures of access and that whenever it is possible the committee should take advantage of existing measures and resources. Some of the resources included the BFRSS, the Kansas Health Insurance Study, and other surveys and studies conducted in recent years.

A draft list of measures will be compiled for review at the next committee meeting. The goal will be to develop a concise list of measures, covering 4-5 dimensions of health access that the committee can use to focus efforts. Some of the measures discussed included:

- Insurance coverage
- Access to well-child visits
- Access without appointment
- Time to appointment
- Consistent source of care
- Number of physicians (including breakdown of primary care and specialty)
- Prenatal care
- Immunization rates
- Safety net utilization
- Unnecessary admissions due to lack of primary care

Committee Membership

The importance of ensuring the involvement of key individuals at the next meeting was discussed.

Next Steps

TASK	RESPONSIBLE
➤ Develop a draft list of potential measures including sources (if available)	• Ron
➤ Schedule the next committee meeting, with a focus on ensuring attendance by key individuals	• Ron
➤ Identify additional interested individuals to attend, including from the major provider organizations	• Ron/Doren