



Visioneering Wichita Health Care Strategic Alliance Summary of Accomplishments to Date December 2006

The Health Care Strategic Alliance benchmark is to **"Increase accessibility and quality of health care while lowering the cost."** To accomplish this benchmark, the Health Care Strategic Alliance determined that focusing on the following nine health issues would help the community focus efforts for improving quality, access and for reducing health care costs:

- Asthma
- Unintentional and intentional injury
- Oral health
- Drug/alcohol abuse
- Physical activity
- Nutrition
- Tobacco use
- Palliative care
- Mental health

The Health Care Strategic Alliance started to focus on these nine health issues in August. Since that time much has been accomplished, including:

- The Sedgwick County Health Department has researched measures for these nine areas and working with the Health Alliance Cost, Quality, and Access committees.
- Six strategies to address these health focus areas have been identified and are in process of implementation (see strategies below)
- Met with Health Care Roundtable to discuss possible partnerships and activities
- Met with Janet Harrah regarding possible reporting of healthcare costs and relation to business
- Drafted a "white paper" regarding the Health Care Strategic Alliance and future activities
- Researched other Community Health Collaboratives and Coalitions

Six Strategies of Health Care Strategic Alliance

1. The Health Alliance will support, engage, and assist those working in the nine health focus areas, especially as their efforts relate to costs, access, and quality.
2. The Health Alliance will identify and apply for funding that can help build the capacity of health leadership in the community.
3. The Health Alliance will measure and track progress on the nine health areas to determine the extent to which progress is being made on each.
4. The Health Alliance will engage partners who are in a position to address health and health care concerns for the Wichita MSA. The alliance will facilitate discussions on what does & does not work for businesses, highlighting the needs of businesses (i.e., healthy workforce).
5. The Health Alliance will engage those working on health and health care policies/advocacy to support efforts that improve cost, access, and quality.
6. The Health Alliance will use social marketing techniques to help address and support the nine focus areas.

While all six strategies are important, serious attention will be devoted to strategy 2 to build capacity in health leadership, including collaboration, education, research, and advocacy. The concept of a Wichita Area Health Collaborative is being developed. Such an organization would be a central resource for employers, employees, and the community to raise awareness of the relationship between community health and economic development. It would support and further the work initiated by the voluntary efforts of the health care alliance members by recognizing the need for not only the leadership of people of good will but also of the need for an infrastructure and formal leadership that wakes up every day focused on improving health across the region – across businesses, non-profit organizations, and county health departments.