



## Visioneering Wichita Health Care Strategic Alliance Summary of Accomplishments to Date May 2007

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 and annually measure progress:

- Physical Activity
- Nutrition
- Tobacco
- Alcohol
- Oral Health
- Mental Health
- Unintentional and Intentional Injury
- Palliative Care
- Asthma

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

- Researched measures for these nine areas and zeroed in on a key indicator for six of them.
- Drafted a white paper setting forth six strategies to guide the future activities of the Alliance and address our benchmark, which are in process of implementation (see strategies below).
- Met with Sedgwick County Health Care Roundtable to discuss the Roundtable’s involvement as a Vision Partner.
- Met with Janet Harrah of WSU regarding possibly surveying businesses about their healthcare cost drivers and how such costs relate to economic development in the region.
- Researched Community Health Collaboratives and Coalitions in other metro areas.
- Researched and coordinated grant opportunities to further the work of the Alliance and its members.

### **Six Strategies of Health Care Strategic Alliance**

1. Support, engage, and assist those working in the nine health focus areas, especially as their efforts relate to costs, access, and quality.
2. Identify and apply for funding that can help build the capacity of health leadership in the community.
3. Measure and track progress on the nine health areas to determine the extent to which progress is being made on each.
4. 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. Engage those working on health and health care policies/advocacy to support efforts that improve cost, access, and quality.
6. Use social marketing techniques to help address and support the nine focus areas.

In 2006, work focused around Strategies 1, 3, and 5. To achieve Strategy 1, the Alliance invited businesses, health care providers, and associated coalitions of the Wichita MSA to participate in one of the nine focus areas. Nine businesses and organizations took the lead in championing collaborative efforts in each area. They agreed to:

- Champion and set an example with what their organizations are doing; and encourage and reach out to businesses and other organizations.
- Communicate with the other organizations focusing on the areas; communicate with the leadership team, Visioneering Wichita staff and Self-Help Network.
- Agree with and support the use of the indicators developed for their agenda.
- Agree that their name will get out more as a leader in the Visioneering Wichita effort.
- Support the entire Visioneering Wichita Health Care Alliance.

The Sedgwick County Health Department took the lead in developing indicators for tracking progress in the nine focus areas to achieve Strategy 3. Strategy 5 efforts included successfully gaining additional state funding for nursing education programs.

In 2007, efforts have begun on Strategy 2 to build health leadership capacity and on Strategy 4 to engage partners. Linkages are being made with the Kansas Health Policy Authority, and information about the Mid-America Coalition on Health Care in Kansas City is being shared as a possible model for building health leadership capacity here.

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Alliance members are reaching out to the Medical Society of Sedgwick County and business leaders to explore the possibility of enhancing leadership capacity in health matters affecting employers across the region. A community discussion is being planned by Sedgwick County about access to care and possible models for enhancing access.

### **Strategic Alliance Strategy**

Increase the accessibility and quality of healthcare while lowering the cost by:

- a) Encouraging healthy lifestyles, wellness, and fitness and education programs. Address tobacco, obesity, drug, alcohol and violence issues.
- b) Improving dental health for all ages.
- c) Promoting and strengthening free and/or reduced cost clinics as a substitute for emergency room use for indigent healthcare and promote awareness of these resources.
- d) Encouraging physicians and nurses to provide services to the Wichita MSA indigent patients.
- e) Dramatically increasing the use of technology in administrative functions.
- f) Advocating for tort reform.
- g) 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 healthcare costs and quality.
- h) Promoting disease prevention.
- i) Ensuring the availability of qualified nurses.

### **Quality of Life Foundation Vision Supported**

By 2024 the Wichita MSA will be a healthy, safe community that has a vibrant recreation, entertainment & arts focus that embraces diversity and builds pride.

### **Key Benchmark Targeted**

**Job Growth:** By 2008, exceed the highest of the annual percentage job growth rate of the U.S., Omaha, Tulsa, Kansas City and Oklahoma City.

***“The people of our regional community who have participated in the Health Care Strategic Alliance are a courageous bunch. Health care is a complex issue, and it is exciting to see people tackling it. Spirited discussions occur at our meetings, and I’m confident that 2007 will yield even more business and community leaders stepping up to be a part of discussions about achieving more cost-effective health care.”***

**Kathy Sexton, Health Care Strategic Alliance Leadership Team Co-Chair  
and City Manager of Derby**