



# Commerce Bank

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August 30, 2007

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How much of your business's budget goes to employee health insurance? As we struggle to keep up with the increasing costs of health care, we also know its time to do something about it. Many of us may think the issue is too complex to effect change. Through smart collaboration, we can – and we must – effect change. **I'm inviting you as a business leader to join in a process to bring about solutions, including reduced costs.**

We have a forum to do this through the Visioneering Wichita regional effort. As you know, the Visioneering Wichita process developed strategies for the future of the Wichita metropolitan statistical area. The Visioneering challenge is to address foundational issues about economic development and quality of life.

The Visioneering Wichita Health Care Strategic Alliance (Health Alliance) was formed to lead, coordinate, and report on efforts to enhance health in the region. That group of about 40 volunteers has developed a list of strategies to increase the accessibility and quality of health care while lowering the costs. Key to accomplishing these strategies is the business community collaborating with the healthcare community.

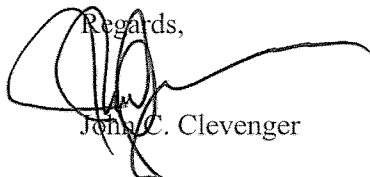
The Health Alliance found models of such collaboration in metropolitan areas around the country and believes the model used in Kansas City for the past 30 years is most relevant to us in Wichita. The Health Alliance is hosting a meeting on **Thursday, September 20, 11:30 - 1:00 at the WSU Self-Help Network**, 358 N. Main Street, in downtown Wichita.

Please join me at this meeting to learn more about what is working in Kansas City and what the Wichita group of volunteers is proposing to improve our leadership efforts to promote long-term high-quality healthcare and deal with rising costs. **Please RSVP by Sept. 18 to Diane Longfellow at [dlongfellow@wichitachamber.org](mailto:dlongfellow@wichitachamber.org)** or 268-1141. Lunch is provided compliments of Commerce Bank. Seating is limited.

Attached is a brief **questionnaire for you to answer by Sept. 10** to provide a sense of what health issues are of most concern to Wichita employers. Also attached is a concept paper about the leadership model proposed by Visioneering Wichita. The model has similarities to the Greater Wichita Economic Development Coalition (GWEDC).

If you have questions about this important project, please contact Kathy Sexton, City Manager of Derby, who chairs the Health Alliance, at 788-3132 or [kathysexton@derbyweb.com](mailto:kathysexton@derbyweb.com), or me at 261-3632. I look forward to seeing you on September 20.

Regards,



John C. Clevenger