

Health Care Alliance Benchmark-update

Efforts continue regarding the research for data resources that can be used to measure the success of Health Care Alliance strategies regarding local health care access, quality and cost. In addition it is also a benchmark goal to develop health care information in a format so that the Wichita MSA (Metropolitan Statistical Area) can be compared to other metropolitan areas identified in Wichita Visioneering documents such as Omaha, Kansas City, Denver, Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

To date health care costs have been one of the primary factors regarding the development of a benchmark, but work on the benchmark will continue to recognize the importance of health care access and quality as part of the Health Care Alliance benchmark. Thus far a number of databases have been examined (Kids Count, Kaiser Family Foundation, MEDPAR, Milliman, Kansas Health Insurance Information (KHISS) and others); each has its strengths and limitations.

One of the most recent developments on benchmarking involved discussions by representatives of the Health Care Alliance Leadership Team with representatives of the Kansas Insurance Department and KDHE regarding the use of state insurance and health data. As a result of that meeting it was agreed that Kansas Insurance Department staff would review their data to determine if they can develop some measurements that will provide an indication of Kansas health care costs that might also be used to make state and MSA comparisons. At this time this is a work in progress and underway.

In addition there are efforts being taken by the local Health Department to enhance community health data that may provide opportunities to incorporate public health indicators into the benchmark. It is possible that development of this type of data may not only provide a resource for local health information but also offer the potential for comparability with other metropolitan areas.

Current proposed benchmark:

"Increase health care quality and accessibility, while at the same time the Wichita MSA will reduce the rate of growth in annual health costs by %."

** Note: Efforts are currently being made to access state and national data to establish a base line and to which a specific numerical percentage can be developed.