



KANSAS RURAL HEALTH WORKS

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Sponsored by Kansas Rural Health Options Project

Program Agenda

- Overview – progress to date
- Community concerns revisited
- Summary
- Open discussion
- Next steps...

Program Overview

- Help foster sustainable rural community health care system
- Community-driven process
- 5-6 one-hour working meetings over 5-6 months
- Emphasis is on development of information products
 - Economic impact of health care system
 - Health services directory
 - Community health care survey
 - Data and information reports
- Summary meeting at conclusion
 - Discuss tentative action plan at the final formal KRHW meeting

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What are the Major Health-Related Concerns in Osborne County?
 - Costs of medical services
 - Shortage of local health care service providers
 - Local assisted living options needed
 - Lack of wellness and prevention information and resources
 - Shortage of Emergency Medical Service personnel
 - Overall shortage of funding needed to support the local health care system

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What needs to be done to improve the local health care system?
 - Enhance funding supporting State/Medicare reimbursements for local health care services
- What should be the Over-arching Health Care Goals of the County?
 - To more closely align local services to the evolving needs of the population

Preliminary Community Concerns

- What are the Greatest Barriers to Achieving Health Care Goals?
 - The lack of a unified vision about what can be done to enhance the local health care system
 - More effective communication between local health care providers and the local population

Conclusions from Economic Impact

- Health services is a major economic driver and a “must have” service for economic viability
- Rural communities face major challenges in sustaining accessible, quality health services
- Sustaining health services won’t happen by itself; local people need to step up

Overall Conclusions from Data

- Population trends and income levels are creating challenges
- Accessing state/federal assistance is essential
- Community-based services for those elderly, alone may be needed
- Preventable problems – tobacco, alcohol, seatbelt use
- Youth dropout = no good future

Community Health Directories

- Osborne County Health Services Directory
 - 47 pages of resources
 - 68 local health service providers
 - 62 local government, community and social service providers
 - 132 state and national service providers

Community Survey Highlights

- Approximately 35% of primary health care market “leaks” from the county
- Most who use local services are satisfied
- 40% self-pay health insurance, 60% need government assistance, 6% w/o any
- Most are satisfied with OCM Hospital services
- More I&E needed on most topics
- Illicit drugs (incl. alcohol) is viewed as a problem
- *Other?*

Open Discussion

- Your impressions, reactions to the information provided?
- How satisfied are you with the direction of local healthcare trends?
- What can be done to improve the local situation?
- What do you care enough about to be willing to do something?