

# UPDATE

June 2009



Wichita Business Coalition  
on Health Care

## Annual meeting moves Coalition forward, group ready for action

Medical homes and their place in improving health care quality and lowering overall health care costs was the theme May 29 at the Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care's first annual meeting.

Employers say they're ready to take on a medical home project. Physicians said they're willing to participate and health plans said they're agreeable, with care, to sharing relevant health care data. (Continued below)

- [Board elects members to 10 new seats, see below](#)
- [Pictorial: Annual Board Meeting, see below](#)



## Coalition awarded \$25K recognition grant from KHF

The Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care was awarded a \$25,000 Recognition Grant from the Kansas Health Foundation for its value-based benefits project.

The project is a multi-faceted initiative that will bring together the region's employers, health plans, and providers to develop health plan benefits structures that improve employee health outcomes.

In order to create sustainable change in health care cost that also produces the best outcomes for patients, benefits design should result in both a reduction of inappropriate utilization and a maximizing of health outcomes. This creates the best value for purchasers of health care. This value-based benefit design is the bridge between cost and quality strategies.

Kansas employers could benefit from strategies and tools that help them design and implement

### New Members...

*UnitedHealthcare*

*Kansas Academy of Family Practice*

benefits that are value-based. Such strategies and tools should be developed through an approach that includes employers, health plans, and providers in productive dialogue and collaborative planning.

The initiative will be based around a health plan evaluation tool (eValue8). This tool will provide a common framework for discussion, as well as national benchmarks. As a part of the entire process it will provide a foundation for employers, health plans, physicians, and hospitals to better coordinate quality improvement, utilize evidence-based care, and set performance expectations in key areas such as chronic disease management, behavioral health, pharmaceutical management, prevention and health promotion.

## Coalition elects 10 new board members for 2-year terms

The Wichita Business Coalition on Health Care elected 10 board members to its 20-member board.

The board seats, which were voted on and announced May 29 at the Coalition's annual meeting, are for two-year terms. The original seats had expired after the first



year in order to stagger board seat elections. Additional elections to the Coalition board from now on will be for two-year terms.

The Coalition brings together employers, providers, insurance companies and other stakeholders to address health care costs, quality, and access in the Wichita community.

The Coalition provides the opportunity for the business and health care community to work collaboratively toward improved quality, decreased costs, and better health for the community, said Ron Whiting, executive director.

**The newly elected board members are:**

Dr. Thomas Ashcom, Kansas Heart Hospital

Dr. Joe Davison, West Wichita Family Physicians

Steve Edgar, Wesley Medical Center

Catherine Holdeman, City of Wichita

Mitchel Hylton, Mid Kansas Physician Associates

Shannon Krysl, USD 259

Chris Meyer, IMA of Kansas

Matthew Stafford, Merck & Co.

Doug Stanley, Foulston Siefkin

Morgan Wiebe, Commerce Bank

Ashcom



Edgar

Davison



Holdeman



Hylton



Krysl



Meyer



Stafford



Stanley



Wiebe

**Annual Meeting, cont'd**

More than 60 employers, health care executives, providers and other stakeholders attended the meeting, which featured presentations by Dr. Frederick Bloom, assistant quality chief with Geisinger Health System in Pennsylvania, and Dr. Rick Kellerman, past president of the American Academy of Family Physicians and chairman of Family Medicine at the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita.



Dr. Bloom, who oversees quality in 40 community practice sites and two medical centers, was a recipient of the American Medical Group Association Preeminence Award to Geisinger Community Practice for service line redesign, including systems of care for

measure results and understand quality outcomes. You need to measure errors and act on those to improve on care."

- Enhanced access -- "When a patient needs to be seen, get him in that day." At the very least, the third next available appointment should be within 24 hours, he said.
- Payment for added value -- Additional resources, such as e-mail communications, generate savings and value to the patient, but "not to the primary care practitioner," Bloom said. "But the expense is." He calls for payment reform that aligns payments to real and reasonable expenses primary care physicians incur. In the end, experts agree. everyone wins. and saves

chronic disease.

money.

At Friday's meeting, Dr. Bloom chronicled his health system's road to becoming an integrated medical home model, which he said in the first two years showed a 9 percent decrease in overall costs in the total population while improving the general health of patients.

He said a successful program of patient-centered care must include:

- Coordinated care -- It's a team approach, he said
- Quality and safety -- "You need to



Dr. Kellerman, who has long been an advocate of the medical home model, outlined what medicine looks like today and what his practice should look like in 10 years, with a patient-centered medical home model.

He cited a 2004 study in Health Affairs that showed when an area increases the number of primary care physicians, quality goes up and costs go down.

## Pictorial: The Annual Meeting

