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**Testimony on:**

Overview of the Kansas Association  
for the Medically Underserved

**Presented to:**

Aging and Long Term Care Committee

**By:**

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January 18, 2011

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HOUSE AGING & LTC

DATE: 01/18/11

ATTACHMENT

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Good morning Mister Chairman and members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee.

I am Cathy Harding, Executive Director of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved, (KAMU). We were asked today to provide an overview of our association, and to identify issues affecting us this session. I am pleased to be here today to provide you with this information.

KAMU was designated the Primary Care Association of Kansas by the federal Bureau of Primary Health Care in 1991 and maintains that designation today. As the Primary Care Association, KAMU represents 39 primary care safety net clinics that all share the same mission of providing health care services without regard for patients' ability to pay. KAMU and our members believe Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to comprehensive, affordable and quality health care. The 39 Safety Net Clinics along with their 26 satellite sites provide Kansans a total of 65 access points. Membership includes public and private non-profit primary care clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC's), one Federally Qualified Health Center Look-Alike, local health departments and the Statewide Farmworker Health Program.

KAMU's mission is to "support and strengthen our member organizations through advocacy, education and communication." Through this work we support our member clinics in becoming a health care "home" where all Kansans have access to comprehensive medical, dental and behavioral health services. Our clinics provide a wide spectrum of quality services that address preventative, acute and chronic health care needs. Seventeen of our 39 clinics provide comprehensive dental services, and ten are partnering with their local Community Mental Health Centers to achieve an integrated model of primary medical and mental health care.

All of our clinics assist their patients in obtaining additional services necessary for optimum health. For example, one of our members (the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas) has an in-house pharmacy that also serves as our statewide Unused Medications Clearinghouse and distributes unused medications donated by mail order pharmacies and long-term care facilities to our member clinics. As a result of this program, thousands of low-income Kansans receive needed prescription medications that they could not otherwise afford.

In 2009 our 39 clinics provided care to over 223,000 underserved Kansans – a 31.6% increase in patients in just two years (2007-2009). With the current economic climate in our state, the number of individuals who are uninsured and underinsured will continue to rise. Our clinics are challenged now to recruit and retain an adequate workforce and to maintain a healthy financial position given this growth – particularly since 94% of our patients reported incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level, and 74% are either uninsured or are covered through Medicaid/CHIP.

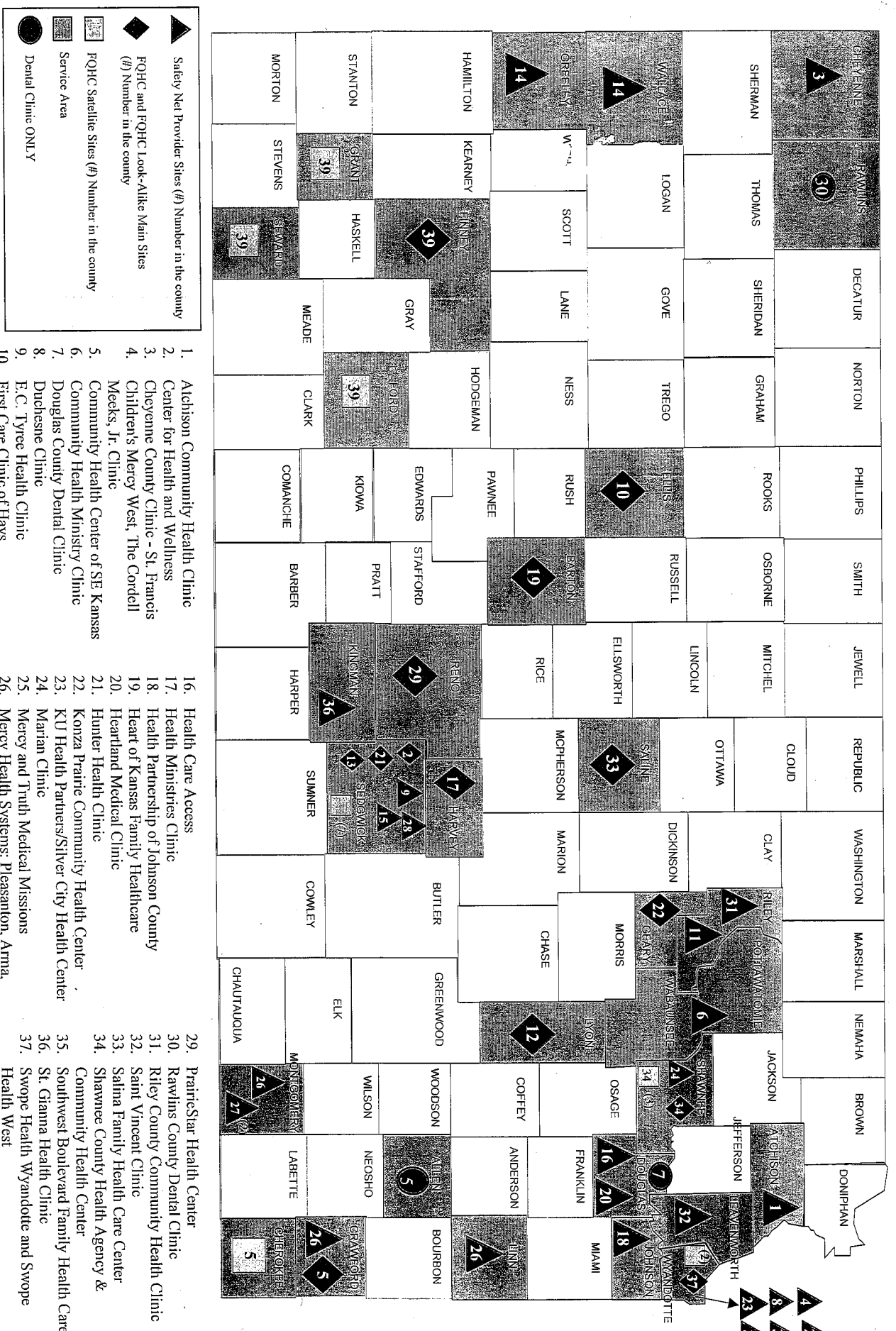
The biggest issue we will face in the coming session is adequate funding for our clinics to meet the growing need for services. Governor Brownback's budget recommends the Kansas safety net clinics receive \$7.2 million for SFY 2011 and SFY 2012. Ninety-eight percent of state investment goes directly to the clinics through grant programs. The remaining 2% is used to support the clinics through technical assistance to non-federal clinics and workforce development.

Recognizing that this year tough budget decisions will need to be made, I am pleased to state that investing in the safety net clinics is a positive decision – in fact, it actually saves the state money.

- Nationally, studies show that Medicaid patients served by FQHC's **saves** Medicaid an average of about 30% in annual spending per beneficiary due to lower specialty care referrals, ER visits, hospital admissions, and prescription drug costs. So, this is a direct savings to our Medicaid program.
- Safety-net clinic care provides a cost effective return on the State's investment of 10:1; and keeps the working poor healthy and economically contributing members of their Kansas communities. The state's investment amounts to only about \$32 per patient for an entire year of care.
- Some of our clinics – FQHCs – are on the cutting edge of outcomes-based medicine. In fact, they are required to track quality measures and report them to the Bureau of Primary Health Care annually. Many of our non-federally funded clinics have participated for years in KDHE's Diabetes Collaborative to improve outcomes of their diabetic patients. Patients that receive care at our clinics receive quality services in a culturally appropriate environment.

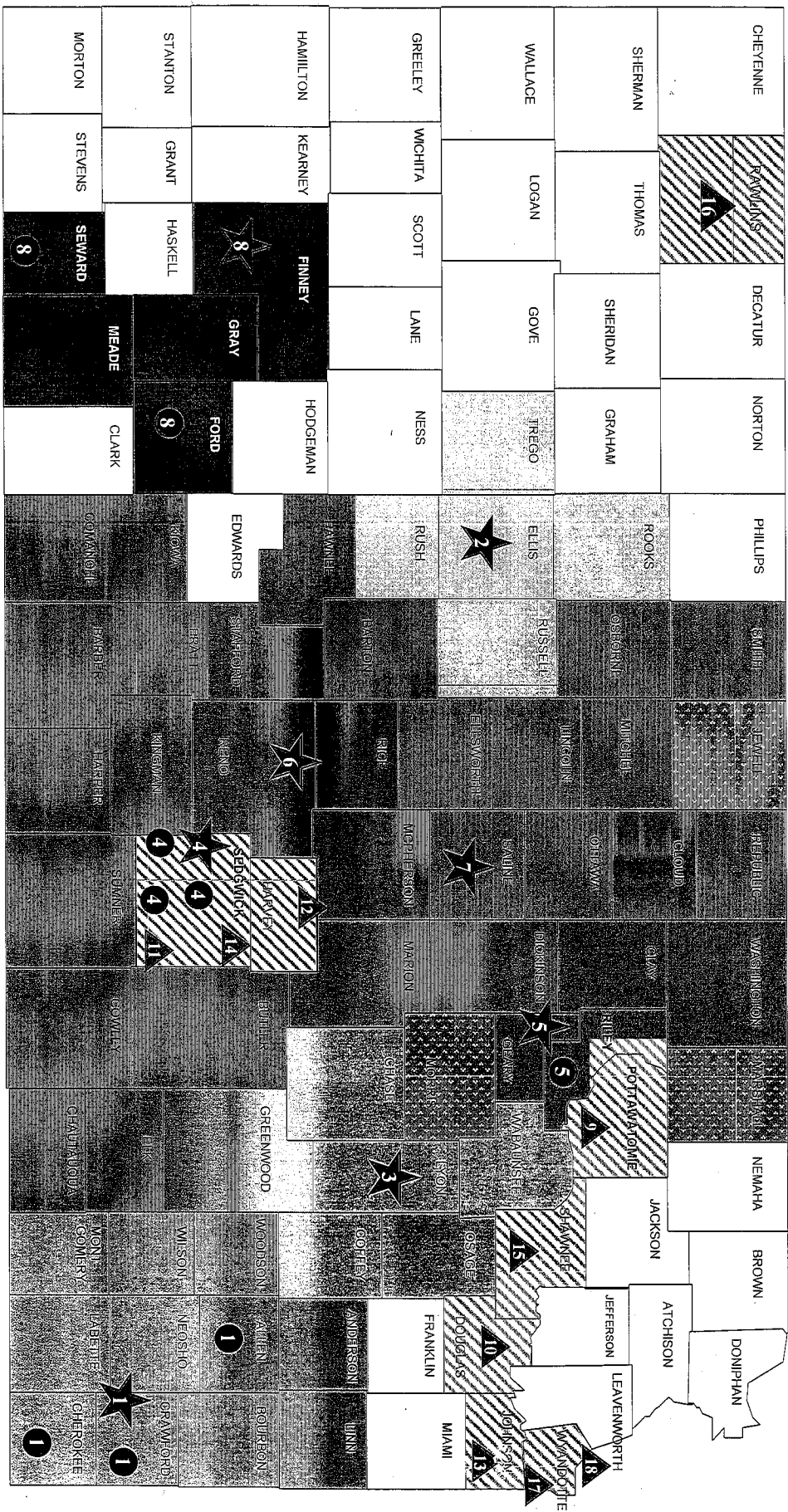
Again, thank you for the opportunity to provide this information today. I'm happy to stand for questions.

# 2010 KAMU Primary Care Safety Net Clinics and Satellite Locations



1. Atchison Community Health Clinic Center for Health and Wellness
2. Cheyenne County Clinic - St. Francis Children's Mercy West, The Cordell Meeks, Jr. Clinic
3. Community Health Center of SE Kansas
4. Community Health Ministry Clinic Douglas County Dental Clinic
5. Duchesne Clinic
6. E.C. Tyree Health Clinic
7. First Care Clinic of Hays
8. Flint Hills Community Health Clinic
9. Flint Hills Community Health Center
10. GraceMed Health Clinic
11. Greeley County Health Services
12. Guadalupe Clinic
13. Health Care Access
14. Health Ministries Clinic
15. Health Partnership of Johnson County
16. Heart of Kansas Family Healthcare
17. Heartland Medical Clinic
18. Hunter Health Clinic
19. Konza Prairie Community Health Center
20. KU Health Partners/Silver City Health Center
21. Marian Clinic
22. Mercy and Truth Medical Missions
23. Mercy Health Systems: Pleasanton, Arma, Cherryvale and Merry Medical Clinic of Lim Co.
24. Montgomery County Community Clinic (MC3)
25. Mother Mary Anne Clinic
26. PrairieStar Health Center
27. Rawlins County Dental Clinic
28. Riley County Community Health Clinic
29. Saint Vincent Clinic
30. Salina Family Health Care Center
31. Shawnee County Health Agency & Community Health Center
32. Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care
33. St. Gianna Health Clinic
34. Swope Health Wyandotte and Swope Health West
35. Turner House Children's Clinic
36. United Methodist Mexican American Ministries (UMMAM)

# KAMU Kansas Safety Net Dental Clinics, Dental Hubs, and Spokes - 2010



## Clinics receiving Dental Hub funding from the State and/or Private Foundations

1. Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas
2. First Care Clinic
3. Flint Hills Community Health Center
4. GraceMed Dental Clinic & Spokes
5. Konza Prairie Community Health Center & Spokes
6. PraisesStar Health Center
7. Salina Family Health Care Center
8. United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries, Inc.

## Other Safety Net Dental Clinics

9. Community Health Ministry Clinic
10. Douglas County Dental Clinic
11. E.C. Tyree Health & Dental Clinic
12. Health Ministries Clinic
13. Health Partnership of Johnson County
14. Hunter Health Clinic
15. Marrian Dental Clinic
16. Rawlins County Dental Clinic
17. Southwest Boulevard Family Health Care
18. Swope Health Wyandotte and Swope Health West