



COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS

Presentation on the Community Care Network of Kansas Special Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance October 29, 2019

Chairman Olson and Members of the Special Committee on Financial Institutions and Insurance, thank you for the opportunity to present the Community Care Clinic network. My name is Amy Falk, and I serve as the President of the Board of Directors for the Community Care Network of Kansas (formerly known as Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved or KAMU). I also serve as the CEO of Health Partnership Clinic, Inc., one of 19 federally qualified health centers (health centers) serving Kansas. We believe Kansas should be a state where everyone has access to high quality, whole-person care. Our state is stronger when Kansans have access to the best health care available.

Community Care Network of Kansas (Community Care) represents 37 state-funded clinics with 100 sites. Collectively, we are one of the largest primary care providers in the state, serving one in ten Kansans. While our clinics vary, we have the same, unwavering mission to provide access to health care for those who might not otherwise have it. As health care becomes more difficult to access in underserved areas, our clinics continue to answer the call. In 2018, we served more than 301,000 Kansans through 900,000 visits. The Community Care Clinic network served one out of five (22.3%) Medicaid members in 2018. Those on Medicaid account for 30% of our total patient population. Each year, we see more patients and provide more services. In the past five years, patients served increased by 25%, and visits increased by 20%. Our network stands ready to serve more Kansans, if legislation is passed to expand KanCare. In a study conducted by the Kansas Health Institute, an estimated 43,000 newly enrolled adults may seek care at a one of our clinics, and many of our current patients would be eligible for coverage.

Because we serve everyone who comes through our doors, our uncompensated care is staggering, \$46 million in 2018. Since 1992, the State has provided funding to offset a portion of our uncompensated care. In SFY20, you appropriated \$10.6 million. **Thank you for your on-going support.** In 2018, state funding accounted for 12% of total revenue for Kansas community health centers. For some community care clinics, the state investment in their budgets was even greater.

Health care is expensive, and income can be a significant barrier in accessing care. National studies demonstrate that two-thirds of people who filed bankruptcy cited medical issues as a key contributor. In 2017, 34% of Kansans who were uninsured reported having medical debt. We seek to remove this barrier by providing care to all and using a sliding fee discount scale for patients with incomes less than the 200% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). In 2018, that accounted for 9 out of 10 of our patients. The majority of those (59%) had income levels less than 100% FPL.

Every day, Community Care Clinics experience REAL LIFE, heart-breaking health challenges. Whether it is the mom who comes to our clinic with a stage 4 breast cancer or the truck driver whose uncontrolled diabetes resulted in an amputated foot, the reason for poor outcomes is the same. People without insurance often delay health care. When they do seek care, it is more expensive and complex. We are an

essential source of care for those who do not have health insurance. In 2018, 36% of patients served did not have health insurance.

Our communities take comfort in knowing that personal health does not have to be pushed to its limits before seeking services—that it can be proactive, preventive, wholly inclusive, and cost-effective. We provide care for the mouth, body, and mind. Most of us provide primary and preventive care, along with dental and behavioral health services. We also provide a wide array of other services, depending on community needs and resources. Some of these are pharmacy, vision, labs, x-rays, urgent care, and physical therapy. Additionally, we help patients to reduce barriers caused by life circumstances, such as lack of transportation, inadequate access to food, and unstable or unsafe housing. The level and types of services continue to expand, as we strive to become a one-stop shop for high quality health care.

Type of Care	Number of Patients, 2018
Medical	223,866
Dental and Oral Health	88,955
Vision	4,539
Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder	21,690
Enabling Services (Social Determinants of Health)	18,009
Pharmacy	87,896

Our vision of where we provide care is expanding. Two of the most notable areas are school health and telehealth. Currently 15 clinics serve 28 school districts and we are seeking additional funding to expand integrated care in school-based clinics. In 2017, we provided medical, dental, and behavioral health services to at least 37,000 student

Health care provided remotely through telehealth improves access, quality, and cost of health care, especially in rural areas. Telehealth increases access to specialists, decreases treatment time, enables patients to seek care close to home, and increases support and training for rural health care providers. In 2018, 44% (8) of Kansas health centers used telehealth to provide remote clinical care services. Of these, 75% (6) used telehealth to provide behavioral health services.

Community Care Clinics are a cost-effective alternative to expensive health care services, especially unnecessary emergency room (ER) visits. An average cost of one visit to the ER is \$1,423. Compare that to providing care for an entire year for FOUR patients (\$382/patient/year) for \$1,528. Providing care at a Community Care Clinic is far more cost-effective than the same type of care delivered in the ER.

Chairman Olson and Members of the Committee, this presentation provides a glimpse of Community Care Clinics, the patients we serve, and our impact. We invite you to visit a Community Care Clinic in or near your jurisdiction and can assist with scheduling that visit. On behalf of the Community Clinic Network of Kansas and its member clinics, thank you for the opportunity to present today. We stand ready to ensure all Kansans reach their maximum potential, which starts from a foundation of health and well-being.

Thank you. I stand for questions.