

Kansas Health Impact Conference

Bridging Gaps for a Healthier Kansas

Hosted by



October 23, 2025
Manhattan Hilton Garden Inn
Manhattan, KS



The Kansas Health Impact Conference is a comprehensive event dedicated to encouraging and learning across disciplines, sectors and communities, because we know that partners working together have the power to bridge gaps in health and well-being. This conference aims to bring together healthcare professionals, payers, state collaborators, and community organizations to explore strategies and solutions for improving health outcomes in underserved communities.

Key discussion topics:

1. Use of data to better understand and prioritize community health needs.
2. Identifying and connecting with community and regional resources that support health and wellness.
3. Building partnerships across organizations and communities to address shared health challenges.
4. Developing practical action steps that link data, resources, and partnerships to improve health outcomes.

Visit the [conference webpage](#) to register and see more information about our breakout sessions.

Registration closes October 8

8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions

Sarah Irsik-Good, MHA, President and CEO, KFMC Health Improvement Partners

8:45 a.m. From Trust to Transformation: Bridging Community and Holistic Care for Human Flourishing

Chaplain Mary Flin - Seminary of Urban Leadership

Shannon Sadowski - Community Health Navigator, TUMI Topeka

This session explores how trust-building and holistic care can transform neighborhoods into healthier, more empowered communities. Through the lens of spiritual care models and the work of neighborhood health navigators, participants will examine how localized, relationship-driven approaches can foster resilience, build internal community capacity, and promote human flourishing. Join us for a conversation on the power of collaboration between neighbors, chaplains, and community health leaders to address challenges and create lasting change.

10:00 a.m. Breakout Sessions

Community Health Worker Track

Improving the Health of Kansas Farmers and Rural Communities through Extension CHWs

Elaine Johannes - KHF Distinguished Professor in Community Health and State Extension Specialist, Kansas State University/ K-State Extension

Data Track

Utilizing Data to Identify Health Disparities and Improve Health Outcomes

Sonia Jordan - Health Equity Manager, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

Amy Jantz - Clinical Informatics Specialist, Quality – Medical Affairs, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas

Community Track

From the Streets to Stability: Multidisciplinary Care at Encampments to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

Misty Bosch-Hastings - Director, Homeless Solutions Division, City of Lawrence

Kelby Sanders - Substance Use Disorder Outreach Clinician, Mirror, Inc., HRT

Rebecca Lagger-Dyar - Family Nurse Practitioner, Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Department

11:00 a.m. Visit Exhibitor Booths

11:30 a.m. Health Equity Innovation Award and Networking Lunch

12:30 p.m. Stronger Together: Creating Community Partnerships to Increase Nutrition Security

Katie Martin - CEO, More Than Food Consulting, LLC

This session will explore the intersection of food insecurity, health outcomes, and the charitable food system, offering a comprehensive overview of how communities can

Registration closes October 8

work together to create holistic solutions. Participants will gain insight into the relationship between food insecurity and health, better understand the structure and function of food banks and pantries, and learn about innovative practices for providing charitable food. Katie will be available during the afternoon break to sign her book, *Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries*, which will be available online at a discount prior to the conference. Books will NOT be available for purchase at the conference, so please purchase your book ahead of time and bring with you. Click here to purchase [Katie's book](#).

2:10 p.m.

Breakout Sessions

Community Health Worker Track

The Future of Community Health Workers in Kansas: Pathways to Access, Sustainability, and Growth

Treva Smith - Certified CHW Instructor and Workforce Development Specialist, Community Care Network of Kansas

Angela Scott - Co-President, Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition

Data Track

Sifting Through the Static: Transforming Fragmented Maternal Health Data

Mariah Chrans - Program Director at Cradle Kansas City, Community Health Council of Wyandotte County

Community Track

Beyond the Table: Building Bridges for LGBTQIA+ Health Equity

Tori Gleason - Clinical Analyst, LMH Health

3:10 p.m.

Book signing with Katie Martin/ Exhibits and Snacks

3:45 p.m.

From the Ground Up: Local Voices Leading Health Equity Work

Panel presentation facilitated by Brenda Groves - Quality Improvement Manager, KFMC Health Improvement Partners

Kitchen ReStore

Solomon Valley Transportation

Third panelist TBD

Health equity doesn't start in a boardroom—it begins in neighborhoods, kitchens, and communities where every day needs are met with compassion and creativity. In this panel, you'll hear from leaders whose work embodies the heart of community health. These changemakers are bridging gaps and building trust through food, kitchen essentials, and transportation—meeting people where they are to make a lasting impact.

4:45 p.m.

Adjourn

About the speakers



Mary Flin, MAT, BECC, SEC

Mary Flin graduated from Manhattan Christian College in 1986 with a B.S. in Bible/Christian Education and an Emphasis in Counseling. She earned the Master of Arts in Theology (MAT) from Fuller Theological Seminary in 2019. She married Ross in 1979 and they served together for 23 years until his death in 2003.

In 2011 she and a team launched The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI Topeka), a seminary in collaboration with World Impact whose mission is to train leaders for the urban Church. Still the home of TUMI Topeka, the training center became the Seminary of Urban Leadership (SOUL) in 2023 as new collaborations and initiatives grew. SOUL currently holds classes in the community, county jail, and the Topeka Correctional Facility. In January of 2023, she completed basic chaplaincy training and, soon after, the SOUL Center for Urban Chaplaincy was launched. Mary completed Clinical Pastoral Education in spring of 2024 and received ACCC certification in 2025. Currently she is in the second semester of Supervisory Educator Candidacy and Master Christian Life Coach Certification.

Mary served bi-vocationally for many years and has had extraordinary opportunities to receive on-the-job training in nearly every arena navigated by those impacted by poverty and/or incarceration. She has worked with homelessness, domestic violence, mental illness, incarceration, neighborhood ministry, and crisis care supervision.

Through chaplaincy training, Mary realized the potential impact of spiritual care in high poverty neighborhoods and the spaces through which neighbors journey. She began practicing chaplaincy in her own neighborhood, chasing the question: "Considering the documented positive impact of spiritual care on social determinants observed in healthcare spaces, what might happen if every urban neighborhood had a chaplain of their own?" Shoulder to shoulder, Mary and her neighbors, church, students and friends are providing intentional, compassionate engagement, envisioning healthy communities and seeing, firsthand, a tangible difference in the lives of those affected by various adversities, including poverty, incarceration, homelessness, mental illness, and addiction.



Shannon Sadowski, AABA, BFA

Shannon Sadowski is the Community Health Navigator for Central Park in Topeka, working with the Seminary of Urban Leadership (SOUL) to empower individuals and improve community well-being. Drawing from her own transformative journey—including overcoming homelessness, addiction, and mental health struggles—Shannon brings deep empathy and lived experience to her role. Shannon completed courses in case management, chaplaincy, and Christian grief counseling to support her role. She is a student in SOUL's seminary program, The Urban Ministry Institute of Topeka (TUMI Topeka) and is pursuing professional chaplaincy through Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE). Shannon supports individuals through spiritual care, resource navigation, and personal development. Her mission is to help community members discover their strengths, set achievable goals, and pursue a path toward healing and purpose. Shannon's work exemplifies how faith-based outreach, lived experience, and local engagement can meaningfully impact health outcomes and human flourishing.



Elaine Johannes, PhD, MS, BS

Elaine Johannes is the Kansas Health Foundation Distinguished Professor in Community Health for K-State Research and Extension and is a state Extension Specialist in the Department of Applied Human Sciences, College of Health and Human Sciences at Kansas State University. She has extensive experience in working with communities to address health disparities, unequal access to health care, and the social drivers and conditions that impact people's health and well-being. Johannes' Extension programming builds the capacity for resilience and well-being through community-level approaches. Beginning in 2024, she led the implementation of a community health worker (CHW) staffing model for Extension units in rural, frontier locales.

In 2023, she was the recipient of the Samuel J. Crumbine Medal from the Kansas Public Health Association, selected by the National Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU) Board of Health and Human Sciences for the National Outstanding Engagement Award, and received the National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA USDA), Cooperative Extension and APLU North Central Region Excellence in Extension Award.



Sonia Jordan, MA

Sonia Jordan serves as the Health Equity Manager for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas, bringing over 16 years of experience in public health, including data and informatics, health equity, infectious disease, and emergency preparedness. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she served as the Operations Director for Douglas County Unified Command and led mass vaccination operations.

Sonia's work has earned her recognition from the deBeaumont Foundation (the 40 Under 40 in Public Health Award) and the 2021 Douglas County Preparedness Partner of the Year Award. She is also a certified teacher and facilitator with the Kansas Leadership Center.

In her community, she is a lay leader at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lawrence, Kansas, and juggles her most rewarding role yet—being a dedicated soccer mom to three.



Amy Jantz, RN, BSN, CPE

Amy M. Jantz is a certified pediatric nurse with over 20 years of experience in nursing and healthcare. In her current role as a Quality Clinical Informatics Specialist within the Medical Affairs division at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, she integrates her clinical expertise from both inpatient and outpatient settings to support data-driven improvements in healthcare delivery. Amy has a deep passion for women's health and has worked in high-risk obstetrics at The Center for Advanced Fetal Care at The University of Kansas Medical Center, as well as in rural hospitals recognized with Blue Distinction designations.

With a strong foundation in women's healthcare and electronic health information systems, Amy plays a key role in bridging clinical practice, quality improvement, and technology. She collaborates with interdisciplinary teams to analyze datasets, identify trends, and drive process improvements using LEAN principles. Her work supports the implementation of innovative informatics solutions that enhance patient care and operational efficiency. Amy is known for her collaborative spirit, analytical mindset, and commitment to leveraging data to advance clinical workflows and healthcare quality.



Misty Bosch-Hastings

Misty Bosch-Hastings is the Director of Homeless Solutions for the City of Lawrence, Kansas, where she leads an integrated, equity-driven response to homelessness. Her work incorporates street medicine, mental health outreach, harm reduction, and low-barrier sheltering — resulting in a 66% reduction in chronic homelessness in one year. A nationally recognized systems strategist, Misty designs cross-sector models that prioritize public health, human dignity, and practical impact for vulnerable communities.



Kelby Sanders, ST/LAC

Kelby Sanders is a Substance Use Disorder Outreach Clinician with Mirror, Inc., contracted to the City of Lawrence's Homeless Response Team (HRT). A person in long-term recovery, Kelby brings both lived experience and clinical training to his work supporting individuals experiencing homelessness and active addiction. His path from peer support to licensed clinician reflects a deep personal commitment to helping others find the same hope and healing he once needed.

Kelby provides field-based Substance Use Disorder (SUD) assessments, harm reduction services, and connection to detox and treatment. His trauma-informed, nonjudgmental approach helps engage individuals often left behind by traditional systems. Kelby's work exemplifies the power of lived experience in advancing effective, person-centered health interventions across Kansas.



Rebecca Lager-Dyar, PMHNP-BC, FNP-BC

Rebecca "Becky" Lager-Dyar is an experienced Family Nurse Practitioner with a strong commitment to delivering accessible, patient-centered care. She earned her Master's degree as a Family Nurse Practitioner from the University of Saint Mary in 2022 followed by her specialty in Psychiatric-Mental Health in 2024 from University of Missouri-Kansas City. Her focus is on holistic wellness and collaborative treatment. Becky works with City of Lawrence's Homeless Response Team providing medical and psychiatric care for the unhoused residents of Lawrence. She also works with the Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health Department providing medical and psychiatric care for the underserved population of Douglas County. Becky works closely with the clinical teams from different community partners to ensure integrated medical, psychiatric, and therapeutic care, promoting recovery, stability, and improved quality of life for every patient.



Katie Martin, PhD

Katie Martin's goal is to advance organizational and systems change in the charitable food system. She is recognized as a thought leader on food security issues and has over 25 years of experience developing and evaluating programs to promote health, stability, and financial wellbeing. She earned a Ph.D. in Nutrition Science & Policy from Tufts University. Katie is happily married, is the proud mom of two sons, and blessed to be a host parent for a young man from Nigeria. Katie is also the author of *Reinventing Food Banks and Pantries: New Tools to End Hunger*, which was published in March 2021.



Treva Smith

Treva Smith is the Workforce Development Specialist for the Community Care Network of Kansas, the state's federally designated Primary Care Association. With nearly two decades of experience in community health, Treva is a passionate advocate, educator, and leader committed to strengthening and diversifying the public health workforce.

A certified Community Health Worker (CHW) instructor, Treva has trained CHWs across Kansas and Missouri, elevating the role of frontline public health workers in both urban and rural communities. From 2019 to 2024, she served on the Board of Directors for the Community Health Worker Association of Missouri and continues to support the profession through her active role on the Education Committee of the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition.

In 2022, Treva was elected to the Board of Directors for the National Association of Community Health Workers (NACHW), where she brings a strong voice for workforce development, equity, and justice.

In 2025, Treva expanded her impact by launching her consulting practice as Principal Consultant for Health Legacy and Restorative Pathways LLC. She resides in Topeka, Kansas, with her husband and is a proud mother of five adult children and grandmother to four beautiful grandchildren.



Angela Scott, CHW

Angela Scott has over 8 years of experience in supervising Community Health Workers (CHWs). In her role as the CHW Field Supervisor at the University of Kansas Medical Center, Angela has made significant contributions to the development and implementation of CHW programs across 20 counties in Kansas. Angela plays a pivotal role in various aspects of CHW program management, including assisting with the development of a database for CHWs, streamlining workflows, and evaluating the success of meeting the project goals. Angela's expertise extends beyond her immediate responsibilities as she also provides CHW consultant services locally and nationally. Her consultancy work involves job readiness training for CHWs and guiding organizations in the implementation of CHW programs. Angela currently serves as the co-president for the Kansas CHW Coalition, demonstrating her dedication to advocating for the rights and recognition of CHWs at a broader level.



Mariah Chrans, PhD, IBCLC

With nearly two decades of experience in public, community, and maternal health, Mariah Chrans brings deep expertise in cross-sector collaboration, health equity, and systems-level change. As Program Director at the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County, she leads Cradle KC, a pioneering multisector maternal health data-sharing initiative serving the Kansas City region. Her career spans co-founding Uzazi Village, developing state-adopted tools like "My Life, My Plan," and advancing community-based programs that center resident voices. Dr. Chrans holds a Ph.D. and B.S. in Public Health from Walden University and serves on numerous local, state, and national boards. Her work integrates human-centered design, equitable data practices, and community-driven solutions to improve maternal and infant health outcomes.



Tori M. Gleason, DC, MPH

Tori M. Gleason is a Clinical Analyst at a community hospital in Lawrence, Kansas. She earned her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Palmer College in 2006 and a Master of Public Health in Epidemiology from the University of Kansas School of Medicine in 2023. With 19 years of experience as a sports chiropractor serving both rural and urban communities, and a decade of service on the board of a Critical Access Hospital with a Rural Health Clinic, Tori brings a unique blend of clinical insight and strategic leadership to her work.

Her commitment to advancing health equity is reflected in her research on sexual and gender minority (SGM) health outcomes. Tori integrates clinical expertise with data-driven approaches to improve population health, emphasizing inclusive and impactful communication. Her involvement on national and regional community advisory boards has deepened her dedication to centering individuals with lived experience in healthcare decision-making.



Brenda Groves, LPN, CDP, CADDCT

Brenda Groves joined KFMC Health Improvement Partners (KFMC) in 2011 and currently serves as the Quality Improvement Manager. Brenda has been a dedicated servant leader within her community for the past two years, driven by a strong commitment to volunteerism and mission-focused service. She has taught a trauma-based coping skills class for children residing at a local shelter, led a Food Smarts nutrition education series for a Boys & Girls Club teen group, and designs and leads KFMC's community service projects. Since September 2024, she has also served as a committed volunteer with SENT Topeka, where she continues to support community growth and development. Brenda leads with a mission and serves with passion, embodying the principles of servant leadership through every effort.

Event information

Kansas Health Impact Conference Registration — Registration closes October 8, 2025

The registration fee (virtual or in-person) for the Kansas Health Impact Conference is \$150. Register [here](#).

We do not want cost to be a barrier to attend the summit. If you are interested in a scholarship, please contact Tammy Elliott (see below for contact information).

About the Kansas Health Impact Conference

The Kansas Health Impact Conference is an educational event drawing healthcare leaders and community collaborators from across Kansas and neighboring states. The program encourages collaboration and learning across disciplines, sectors, and communities—because we know that partners working together have the power to bridge gaps in health and well-being.

Who should attend?

The content of this program is designed for healthcare professionals and organizations, payers, community leaders, community partners, and health equity advocates.

Attire

Business casual attire is suggested for this program. Temperatures in meeting rooms are difficult to control for everyone's comfort levels; therefore, we recommend you dress in layers to allow for these variances.

Hotel Information

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn, 410 S. 3rd Street, Manhattan, Kansas, for the Kansas Health Impact Conference participants at a discounted rate of \$124 per night for October 22, 2025. To book a room, call 785-532-9116 or visit their [website](#). Reservations must be made by September 26, 2025, to receive the reduced rate.

Continuing Education

KFMC Health Improvement Partners is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course offering is pending approval for RN, LPN, or LMHT re-licensure. Kansas State Board of Nursing provider number: LT0258-1009.

Accessibility

We value inclusion and access for all participants and are pleased to provide reasonable accommodations for this event. For inquiries about accessibility or to make a reasonable accommodation request, please contact Tammy Elliott at telliott@kfmc.org or 785-271-4152.

Event Information

If you have any questions about the event, please contact Tammy Elliott at telliott@kfmc.org or at 785-271-4152.



Registration

The registration fee (virtual or in person) for the Kansas Health Equity Summit is \$150. Virtual attendees will have access to materials and live broadcast of plenary sessions throughout the day.

Scholarship: If you are interested in a scholarship to cover your registration expense, please contact Tammy Elliott at telliott@kfmc.org or call 785-271-4152.

Refund Policy: A full refund will be given for cancellations received prior to 5:00 pm on October 8, 2025. Registrations may be transferred to another individual.

Register for the Kansas Health Equity Summit

Online: To register online, visit

<https://kfmchealthimprovementpartners.regfox.com/kansas-health-impact-conference>

You will have the option to register online and pay via credit card or mailed check. Registration is not final until receipt of payment is confirmed.

Mail: Send registration form and payment to

KFMC Health Improvement Partners
800 SW Jackson Street, Suite 1110
Topeka, KS 66612

Please make checks payable to KFMC Health Improvement Partners.

Nurses: Please list your name as it appears on your nursing license.

Type of Attendance: In-person Virtual

First Name: _____ Last Name: _____

Title/Credentials: _____

Preferred Pronouns (will appear on nametag): _____

Organization Name: _____

Organization Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____ Email Address: _____

Nursing License Number: (Required for CNE certificate) _____

Do you have dietary restrictions we need to be aware of? Yes No

If yes, please specify so we can accommodate you _____



Thank you to the Kansas Health Opportunities Coalition members for supporting the conference!

