



# Kansas Health Equity Summit

## Creating Oases in Deserts

Wednesday, October 30, 2024, 8:00 a.m.-4:15 p.m.  
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan Complex, Wichita, KS

### Agenda

All sessions held in Room 180, unless otherwise noted.

**8:00 a.m. Registration and Continental Breakfast**

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**8:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions: The State of Resources in Kansas**  
**Sarah Irsik-Good, MHA**  
President and CEO, KFMC Health Improvement Partners

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**8:45 a.m. Keynote: Different Ships, Same Boat – How Collective Action Will Cure What Ails Both Rural and Urban America**  
**Dan Cranshaw, JD**  
Executive Director, KC Healthcare Collaborative



Through vivid examples and real-life experiences, Dan illustrates how bringing diverse voices together can positively impact the Social Drivers of Health (SDOH). Discover how collaborative efforts can bridge the gap in both rural and urban America, revealing surprising similarities in health equity challenges often obscured by political narratives.

Prepare to be inspired and equipped with actionable insights as Dan navigates the waters of collective action, demonstrating its potential to heal and rejuvenate rural landscapes and bustling urban centers alike.

This session promises to energize and empower attendees to become catalysts for positive change in their own communities.

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**10:15 a.m. Break/Transition to Breakout Sessions**

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**10:30 a.m. Breakout Sessions**

**Bridging the Gap: Tackling Pharmacy Deserts and Enhancing Medication Access and Adherence – Room 185**

**Tessa Schnelle, PharmD, MPH, DPLA**

Director of Pharmacy, Cass Regional Medical Center; Clinical Pharmacist, The University of Kansas Health System

This session defines key concepts like pharmacy deserts and distinguishes between medication access and adherence. Identify unique risk factors affecting rural Kansas communities, discuss causal theories behind the rise of pharmacy deserts, and assess potential solutions to overcome barriers to medication access – fostering a collaborative approach to improved health outcomes.

**Strive for Progress, not Perfection: Implementing Health Related Social Needs Data Collection – Room 138**

**Rhonda Spellmeier, MBA, BSN, RN**

HIE Workflow Specialist, KONZA KHIN

Feeling overwhelmed by SDOH screening requirements and creating your program? Progress, not perfection, should be your goal. Learn how to get started and find valuable resources for the data collection aspects of a successful Health Related Social Needs program for your organization.

**Harvesting Hope: Empowering Communities to Overcome Food Insecurity – Room 180**

**Brenda Groves**

Quality Improvement Manager, KFMC Health Improvement Partners

**Rachel Holthaus, BSN, MHCL, The Hope Dealer**

This session explores how empowering your community and nurturing hope can create a healthier, less hungry community. Brenda discusses how a simple call to action sparked what has now blossomed into advocacy and service work and will highlight how a volunteer can play a vital role in advancing the mission of a community-based organization. Rachel shares her journey with the local Blessing Box community, detailing the strategies that fueled its growth and tips for achieving sustainable success.

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

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**12:30 p.m.**      **Oases of Health: Integrating Community Health Workers for Impact and Efficiency**



**Erika Saleski**

Managing Member, ES Advisors, LLC



**Jackie Catron, MPH**

Section Director for Community Health Worker Section, Bureau of Health Promotion,  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment

This session explores the crucial role of Community Health Workers (CHWs) as frontline connectors between healthcare systems and communities, delivering essential services and addressing unmet needs. Learn why CHWs are vital for enhancing healthcare access and outcomes, their integral position within care teams, and practical strategies for their seamless integration alongside sustainable funding approaches.

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**1:30 p.m.**      **Transition to Breakout Sessions**

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**1:40 p.m.**      **Breakout Sessions**

**Inequities in Antibiotic Prescribing: Examining National and Statewide Trends and Reimagining Antimicrobial Stewardship Through a Lens of Equity – Room 138**

**Kellie Wark, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor Infectious Diseases, University of Kansas Medical Center

Co-lead Antibiotic Stewardship Program, Healthcare Associated Infections and Antimicrobial Resistance, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

This session delves into the inequities surrounding infections and antibiotic prescribing, highlighting how demographic factors influence prescribing practices at both national and state levels. Participants explore various data sources to assess these trends within their own regions and collaborate on creating effective stewardship interventions aimed at reducing disparities. The goal is to foster equitable antibiotic use and improve patient outcomes across diverse populations.

**Empathy in Action: The Ripple Effects of SDOH Screenings on Patient Care – Room 185**

**Dorothy Rice, RN, BSN, MBA, CPHQ, CPHRM, ACM**

Administrative Director of Quality, Patient Safety, Patient Liaison, Case Management and Risk Management, AdventHealth Ottawa

**Tammy Bragdon, RN, BSN**

Director of Quality and Infection Prevention, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital

Discover how SDOH screenings drive meaningful change in patient care. This session highlights the ripple effects of increased staff awareness, enhanced empathy among nursing staff, proactive healthcare actions, expanded resources for Spanish-speaking patients, and the cultivation of trust within diverse communities.

**Panel Presentation: Partnering to Improve Behavioral Health Access – Room 180**

**Jennifer Findley**

Vice President, Education and Special Projects, Kansas Hospital Association

**Yazim Wood**

Chief Executive Officer, Legacy Regional Community Foundation

**Karla Hermes, LMSW**

Director of Social Services, Nemaha Valley Community Hospital and Seneca Family Practice

**Lisa Southern, LMLP, LCP**

Executive Director, Compass Behavioral Health

Kansas ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in access to mental health care services compared with other states. While an improvement from prior years, the need still outpaces the access. During this panel discussion, learn from Kansas communities about what they are doing to meet the behavioral health needs of their individual rural communities through innovative ideas, partnerships and projects.

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**2:40 p.m.**      **Break with Snacks**

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**3:00 p.m.**

**Bridging Healthcare Gaps through Mobile Integrated Healthcare and Community Paramedicine**



**Justin P. Duncan, MSc, BS, NRP, EMT-CP, CCEMT-P, CP-C, FP-C**

Chief Executive Officer, Washington County (Missouri) Ambulance District Founding Partner,  
Washington County (Missouri) Mobile Integrated Healthcare Network

Integrated healthcare is the future. Discover the essentials of Mobile Integrated Healthcare (MIH) and Community Paramedicine. This session delves into the basics, explores strategic partnerships, and discusses how non-traditional collaborators can bridge care gaps and meet community needs.

Following the event, Justin is available to answer questions and showcase a community paramedicine vehicle, providing you with an opportunity to engage directly and learn more about the program.

**4:00 p.m.**

**Closing and Next Steps**

**Sarah Irsik-Good, MHA**

Don't forget to sign in and complete all session surveys to receive nursing and social work credits!

Thank You to Our Partners!

