The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimate that more than one million Americans are living with HIV, and 24 to 27 percent of these people are unaware of their HIV infection. In addition, the number of people living with AIDS is increasing, as effective new drug therapies keep HIV-infected persons healthy longer and dramatically reduce the death rate.

In September, the CDC released a revision of federal guidelines and recommended that doctors include HIV tests in routine medical care for all Americans between the ages of 13 and 64, regardless of the patient’s risk. The goal in making the revision: identify the nearly 250,000 Americans believed to have HIV who don’t know they are infected.

The CDC previously recommended “routine testing” for high-risk groups: intravenous drug users, homosexual males, and people living or working in areas where more than 1 percent of the population is infected with HIV. It also recommends testing for all pregnant women. However, the newest guidelines recommend screening all patients ages 13 to 64 at least once, and annual screenings for high-risk patients.

Under the new guidelines the HIV test is an “opt-out” screening – meaning a patient will no longer have to sign a separate consent form for the test. Instead, if a patient signs a general consent for care and doesn’t expressly decline the HIV test, the physician can order the test as part of a standard battery of blood tests.

In Kansas, the percentage of persons aged 18-64 who report having received an HIV test is below the national average. Forty-one percent report having had an HIV test in Kansas, while 45.6 percent of the nation as a whole report having been tested. CDC officials hope that
While the award was presented last fall, I would like to take the opportunity to extend further recognition to Carolyn Gaughan, CAE, executive director, Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, for receiving the 2006 Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA) Virginia Lockhart Health Education Award. This award was presented to Carolyn in recognition of her outstanding work in tobacco control in Kansas. The award recognizes outstanding service in public promotion of health and/or environmental issues. Congratulations to Carolyn for her persistence and dedication to a tobacco-free Kansas.

Kansas Career Opportunities Brings Health Professionals Face-to-Face with Rural Communities

Each year, Rural Health Education and Services hosts the Kansas Career Opportunities (KCO) events. The events, held in both Wichita, Kan., and Kansas City, Kan., are designed to introduce medical students, resident physicians, and allied health students to current and potential career opportunities in rural communities throughout Kansas.

The Kansas City event, held on Oct. 26, 2006, in the Hixson Atrium of the University of Kansas Medical Center, attracted 181 participants. Twenty-five community exhibitors were on hand to introduce participants to the communities and opportunities throughout the state. On Nov. 9, the Wichita KCO event attracted 103 participants. These resident physicians, allied health, medical and nursing students had the opportunity to meet with 27 exhibitors.

Participants of the Wichita KCO event also had the opportunity to attend one of two concurrent sessions during the event: “Scoring With Your Community,” a panel discussion designed for physicians, medical students and physician residents, and “Acting the Interview,” a round table discussion designed for nursing, and allied health care professionals and students.

Robert Freeloave, MD, program director, Smoky Hill Family Medicine, Salina, Kan., was the moderator for the panel discussion. Panelists included: Ryan Williams, MD, Central Kansas Medical Center, Great Bend, Kan.; Tanya Williams, MD, Dodge City Medical Center, Dodge City, Kan.; and Mark Mingenback, vice president of professional services, Central Kansas Medical Center, Great Bend and Larned, Kan. Joyce Tibbals, assistant director, Rural Health Education and Services, and Lauren Lambert, writing and marketing coordinator, Rural Health Education and Services facilitated the
Kansas’ Health Ranking

Health ranking improves over previous year

Americans as a whole are only .3 percent healthier than they were in 2005, according to the 17th annual edition of America’s Health Rankings: A Call to Action for People & Their Communities. The report, released in Dec. 2006, is produced by United Health Foundation in partnership with the American Public Health Association and Partnership for Prevention, and is a yearly assessment of the relative healthiness of the nation, based upon analysis of comprehensive determining factors such as personal behaviors, the environment in which people live and work, the decisions made by public and elected officials and the quality of medical care delivered by health professionals.

Kansans contribute positively to the nation’s overall health report however, as the report’s state-by-state analysis shows, Kansas’ health improvement since last year has increased by 2.1 percent. In comparison to other states, Kansas ranks 17th in the nation for health, up from 23rd in the nation in 2005.

Several factors contribute to the state’s ranking and report highlights four strengths that Kansas has experienced during the previous year. The strengths include a low rate of uninsured population, at 10.8 percent; a low prevalence of smoking, at 17.8 percent of the population; a low incidence of infectious disease, at 7.9 cases per 100,000 population; ready access to adequate prenatal care, with 79.1 percent of pregnant women receiving adequate prenatal care; and high immunization coverage, with 83.8 percent of children ages 19 to 35 months receiving complete immunizations.

Significant changes since 2005 include the prevalence of smoking decrease by 10 percent and the incidence of infectious disease decrease by 66 percent. While these strengths contribute

Continued on page 4

**Kansas’ Health Ranking**

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<tr>
<th>Determinants - Personal Behaviors</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2005</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prevalence of Smoking (Percent of population)</td>
<td>17.8 ††</td>
<td>19.8 ††</td>
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<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Deaths (Deaths per 100,000,000 miles driven)</td>
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<td>Prevalence of Obesity (Percent of population)</td>
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<td>High School Graduation (Percent of incoming ninth graders)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Violent Crime (Offenses per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>387</td>
<td>375</td>
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<tr>
<td>Occupational Fatalities (Deaths per 100,000 workers)</td>
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<td>6.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infectious Disease (Cases per 100,000 population)</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>8.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Children in Poverty (Percent of persons under age 18)</td>
<td>17.8 †</td>
<td>15.6</td>
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<td>Lack of Health Insurance (Percent without health insurance)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Per Capita Public Health Spending ($ per person)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Immunization Coverage (Percent of children ages 19-35 mos)</td>
<td>83.8 †</td>
<td>77.5</td>
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<th>Determinants - Public &amp; Health Policies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adequacy of Prenatal Care (Percent of pregnant women)</td>
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<tr>
<th>Health Outcomes</th>
<th>2006</th>
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<tr>
<td>Poor Mental Health Days (Days in previous 30 days)</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>2.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poor Physical Health Days (Days in previous 30 days)</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td>2.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Infant Mortality (Deaths per 1,000 live births)</td>
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<td>6.9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardiovascular Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population)</td>
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<td>Cancer Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population)</td>
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<td>Premature Deaths (Years lost per 100,000 population)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>17</td>
<td>23</td>
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From the United Health Foundation - America’s Health Ranking. † and †† indicate major increases and decreases in the last year.
positively to the overall well-being of health in Kansas, according to the report, a few challenges still remain. Also included as a significant change is that the percentage of children in poverty increased by 14 percent within the previous year.

The state has also experienced a high infant mortality rate according to the report, at 7.1 deaths per 1,000 live births. An additional change since 1990 relates to the prevalence of obesity. That rate has increased by 82 percent since the first report was published in 1990; 23.9 percent of the population in Kansas is considered obese.

The purpose of America’s Health Rankings is to stimulate public conversation that leads to activities that enhance the health of the nation, states and communities. The report is premised on the foundation that people will translate reliable information into effective action. For more information regarding the report, visit www.unitedhealthfoundation.org.

Service Delivery to Rural Older Adults

Health care delivery to rural older adults is one focus of a new book co-edited by R. Turner Goins, Ph.D., associate professor, West Virginia University Center on Aging and Department of Community Medicine at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center, and John Krout, PhD. As co-editors of the book, “Service Delivery to Rural Older Adults,” Goins and Krout seek to examine the challenges experienced by older rural residents and their communities in accessing and providing services.

The book is dedicated to issues related to rural health care and features commentary regarding the current and future challenges rural health care faces. The book provides an in-depth analysis of components of rural systems, including nutrition, health service delivery, rural hospitals, long-term care, caregiving, housing, and transportation. Insight into the complexity and inter-dependency of these issues as well as useful strategies for solving problems and overcoming barriers are provided.

Reviews concerning the book indicate for researchers, health care providers, planners, policymakers, and educators involved in the care of the rural patient, “Service Delivery to Rural Older Adults” provides commentary for present and future improvement.

Pertinent information covered within the book includes:
• Health services and related policy issues
• New changes to the Medicare program and how these changes are met with regard to rural health care delivery
• Important selected services in rural America including informal caregiving, housing, and transportation
• Enhancing health care delivery through technology and public policies
• Remarks about service delivery in rural areas

Additional information regarding the research and demonstration project conducted by the Plan of Action on Rural Aging project group at the West Virginia University Center on Aging can be found online at http://www.hsc.wvu.edu/coa/. “Service Delivery to Rural Older Adults” is published by Springer Publishing Company and is available from their Web site www.springerpub.com, Amazon.com, Barnes and Noble, and other retailers.
expanded testing will allow HIV-infected Americans to benefit from earlier treatment after diagnosis.

Concerns regarding the implementation of the new HIV testing protocols include denial that AIDS exists in rural Kansas communities, and a lack of resources and education by health care providers to implement the testing to patients. In an effort to address the needs of education and understanding to rural health care providers, the Kansas AIDS Education and Training Center (KAETC) has implemented the Targeted Outreach Education Project (TOEP), which provides direct education to targeted, hard-to-reach health care professionals throughout the state.

Susan Tusher, LMSW, senior coordinator, KAETC, KU School of Medicine – Wichita, indicates, “Rural health care providers have great difficulty accessing HIV and other educational/CE programs, due primarily to travel, time and distance. Additionally, many rural providers do not believe that HIV affects their populations, TOEP was created specifically to address these issues.”

TOEP programs are held at the rural health care provider’s practice site or in the towns where they practice, allowing providers the ability to devote 1-2 hours to a program, rather than close their practices for a day or more to travel to a program in a more urban area. Incentives to garner interest in the project include a meal, continuing education credit for all disciplines, and a packet of HIV educational materials – all FREE to participants.

The central focus of the TOEP educational trainings is HIV 101 and Testing/Rapid Testing. This includes: discussions about the basic science and epidemiology of the disease, antiretroviral treatment and adverse drug reactions, the need for routine testing and the new CDC HIV testing recommendations, changes in testing theory and methodology, and a hands-on demonstration of the actual testing process.

Donna E. Sweet, MD, MACP, principal investigator/director, KAETC, states “It is important to remember that AIDS is a sexually transmitted disease. Anyone who is sexually active should be tested.” She also indicates, however, that making the testing part of the routine will be difficult.

In regard to the HIV testing protocols, Tusher indicates, for the most part, rural health care providers have responded favorably. “They [health care providers] agree that, as risk factors have changed over the course of the last 25 years, routine testing is indeed necessary.”

A state-wide educational needs assessment is conducted with all participants of the TOEP project, as well as six- and 12-month follow-up surveys, to continually update and enhance the project. In KAETC’s six-month follow-up surveys of TOEP participants, several state that they have done either rapid or conventional testing, or have at least made referrals for testing.

While progress is being made toward educating the state’s health care providers about HIV disease through the TOEP project, Tusher indicates that additional training and resources are still needed to fully implement routine HIV testing in rural health care organizations. “Continued education is needed regarding the significance of the new CDC HIV testing recommendations, using the “opt-out” strategy, and in conducting risk and sexual history assessments. Finding additional funding (for example, to help smaller clinics purchase rapid test kits) remains an issue.”

For more information regarding the TOEP project, or the Kansas AIDS Education and Training Center, contact Donna Sweet, MD, MACP, or Susan Tusher, LMSW, kaetc@kumc.edu, 316-293-2682, or visit, www.kaetc.org.
Numerous e-mails came through last spring listing several practices in need of physicians to fill-in, for whatever reason [vacation, maternity/paternity leave, illness, etc.]. Nearly forty communities expressed a need, and several different dates were available. I examined the list and pinpointed a community that needed coverage during the week I had free…it just so happened to match with a town called Marion, Kan.

We call this opportunity to provide temporary coverage ‘Locum Tenens’ or simply Locums. [It is an opportunity for practicing physicians and resident physicians with the University of Kansas Medical Center to provide temporary coverage to rural communities throughout the state.] I’ve provided numerous hours of coverage in the past, as it helps keep me anchored into why I do what I do.

I currently work as a hospitalist at the University of Kansas Medical Center (KUMC), Kansas City, Kan. This means that my patients are very complicated, i.e. liver/kidney transplant, really bad heart/lung disease, or complex diagnosis, in need of a second or even third opinion.

As I pulled into town of Marion on Monday morning at 7:00 a.m., this small town of Marion did not meet my expectations – it was not so little. Once arriving at the hospital, my first meeting with the nurses was as expected. I’m sure they thought: “Who is this guy? I wonder how it will be working with him for a week?” As for my own thoughts: “Who are these people? I wonder how it will be working with them for a week?” I found out quickly how helpful and friendly they were.

By the end of day one I was feeling at ease. By the end of day two, three, and four, I felt as if I’d lived there for years. The community was clearly one of the best I’ve ever worked for or visited, and I’ve been to quite a few. The people in the hospital – the nurses, lab tech, radiology, pharmacy, as well housekeeping – were fantastic. Same goes for the folks in restaurants, stores, on the street. But most importantly to me, were the patients in the hospital and clinic. Having the opportunity to hear their stories, and assist in their heath, was an honor. Some tend to think that being from a bigger city is better, of those I met in this town, however, I sensed that most really didn’t care. Not a lot of big city envy here, but a sense of satisfaction with what they’ve created.

Seeking out the opportunity to try new things while in Marion, I spent my evenings testing the local menus. I had much success in this endeavor and I believe I ate everywhere I could and some places twice. Every meal was excellent. Knowing the way to the heart for most of us is through the palate, I decided on food as a way of saying thanks to those I worked with in Marion. Two trips to the Big Scoop, day and evening shift, helped immensely. Being that I wasn’t familiar with the best flavor, I simply let the staff decide; this allowed nursing to ‘triage’ the flavors, i.e. which were good, which were bad, and it was indicated which flavor was their own, as I was not allowed to touch it.

While the food was fantastic and the people were great, I withheld one large concern regarding my experience in Marion. The concern, however, was not related to patient care at all, but rather about the clouds of bugs that swarmed around the county lake. As I ran laps around the lake, there were occasional clouds of bugs, which necessitated putting my head down and closing my mouth in order to avoid having ‘bugs for supper.’ This was not a meal that I had anticipated or preferred during my stay in this small town. As I drove off, I found my mind wondering why those darn bugs fly together in small clouds, and looking forward to when I could return to Marion.
The mission of the Kansas Recruitment Center (KRC) is to assist Kansas’ rural communities in recruiting and retaining physicians and other health care providers.

KRC works with hospitals, private physician practices, community health centers, and other organizations recruiting physicians, nurses, physician assistants or other health care professionals.

KRC is also a health care career service for physicians, physician assistants, nurses, nurse practitioners and other allied health professionals. KRC assists candidates in finding a community and practice or career opportunity that meets their requirements. Services are provided to candidates at no charge. Candidates should refer to a position by number when they are calling about a specific opening. For more information, contact the University of Kansas Medical Center, Rural Health Education and Services, 316-293-3456 or 1-888-503-4221, or visit the Web site at http://ruralhealth.kumc.edu.

NORTH CENTRAL
KRC.0204.1305.01
Hematologist/Oncologist – new cancer center approved by the Commission on Cancer, American College of Surgeons; current staff: 3 physicians and 1 mid-level; patient population is adult thru geriatric; facility amenities include chemotherapy room w/window wall, counseling room, wig room

KRC.0204.1305.03
Pulmonary Medicine/Critical Care – 26-physician multi-specialty clinic; currently 10 specialties; additional services include full-service lab, nuclear medicine, echo and vascular testing, ultrasound, and full x-ray unit; full-service acute facility and surgery hospital nearby

KRC.0204.1305.04
Invasive and Interventional Cardiologist – 26-physician multi-specialty clinic; currently 10 specialties; additional services include a full service lab, nuclear medicine, echo and vascular testing, ultrasound, and full x-ray unit; full-service acute facility and surgery hospital nearby

KRC.0204.1305.05
Internist – 26-physician multi-specialty clinic; currently 10 specialties; additional services include a full service lab, nuclear medicine, echo and vascular testing, ultrasound, and full x-ray unit; full-service acute facility and surgery hospital nearby

KRC.0204.1305.06
Nephrologist – 26-physician multi-specialty clinic; currently 10 specialties; additional services include a full service lab, nuclear medicine, echo and vascular testing, ultrasound, and full x-ray unit; full-service acute facility and surgery hospital nearby

KRC.0604.1804.01
Family Physician – group practice, 25-bed CAH, acute medical, skilled nursing unit, 24-hour emergency, IP & OP surgery, OB, very active rehab department

KRC.0729.0701.02
General Surgeon – group practice affiliated with regional medical center that serves a population of 60K; the medical center’s state-of-the-art technologies include a full laparoscopic system, family birthing rooms, well-equipped intensive care unit, ER, Level II nursery, fixed site MRI and CT; salary: $200,000-$250,000, great benefits, good school system, community college, park/zoo, strong community pride; H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC.0729.0701.03
Orthopedist – group practice affiliated with regional med. center that serves a 60K population; the med. center’s state-of-the-art technologies include full laparoscopic system, family birthing rooms, well-equipped intensive care unit, ER, Level II nursery, fixed site MRI and CT; competitive salary, great benefits, good school system, community college, park/zoo, strong community pride; H1-B Visa opportunity

KRC.1013.1801.03
General Surgeon – hospital-employed, 25-bed CAH with new surgical addition in progress; current staff: 3 family practitioners, 1 surgeon, 1 mid-level; additional hospital facilities include a 30-bed long-term care unit and an outreach clinic that is staffed 3.5 days per week; hospital services include OB, a full lab, diagnostic imaging, physical therapy; H-1B and J-1 Visa opportunity

KRC.1204.0306.01
Family Physician – OB required, prefer ability to do c-section; 25-bed CAH plus 3 satellite facilities; current medical staff: 5 physicians and 2 mid-level practitioners; hospital services include: general surgery, cardiac rehab, cardio pulmonary, radiology, OB, 10 specialties; full benefits

KRC.0605.0806.01
Family Physician – 25-bed CAH; hospital services include: on-site CT, mobile MRI and ultrasound, lab, x-ray, scopes, swing unit, urology clinic, cardiac clinic; salary: $145,000-$155,000 and potential for production bonus; full benefits

KRC.1105.1911.01
Family Physician – with OB for a 25-bed CAH and rural health clinic; the hospital does obstetrics and the family practitioners may perform c-sections; general surgeon, 2 family practitioners, and 2 nurse practitioners on staff; currently, call coverage is 1:4 and they locum Continued
seeks BC/BE Gastroenterologist to join a well established, busy practice; early partnership, surgical hospital ownership, excellent benefits and a large referral area make this an excellent opportunity

KRC.0606.0311.01
Family Physician — for well-established group practice; OB preferred, but not required; 4 ½ days per week schedule; call is 1:5; currently 4 family physicians and 1 mid-level on staff; salary is $130,000; full benefits; H-1B opportunity

KRC.0606.0311.02
Physician Assistant — for well-established group practice covering a full range of family practice services; 4 ½ days per week schedule; call is 1:5; currently 4 family physicians and 1 mid-level on staff; salary is $60,000-$70,000 plus bonus; benefits include liability insurance, 20 vacation days, CME allowance, and relocation

KRC.0606.0311.03
Nurse Practitioner — for well-established group practice covering a full range of family practice services; 4 ½ days per week schedule; call is 1:5; currently 4 family physicians and 1 mid-level on staff; salary is $60,000-$70,000 plus bonus; benefits include liability insurance, 20 vacation days, CME allowance, and relocation

KRC.0906.1305.10
General Surgeon — for multi-specialty clinic that is owned and operated by 25 physicians representing 11 medical specialties; 3 general surgeons on staff; call is 1:4; full service acute care facility nearby as well as a surgery hospital; salary and benefits are negotiable

KRC.1006.1801.01
Family Physician — without OB for 25-bed CAH; currently 3 FPs, 1 surgeon, and 1 mid-level on staff; additional hospital facilities include a 25-bed long term care unit and outreach clinic that is staffed 2 ½ days per week; rotating call schedule; hospital services include lab, diagnostic imaging, rehab services, surgical services, ER, OR, and respiratory therapy; salary is $145,000-$165,000 with a 3 year contract; full benefits

KRC.1106.1801.05
Emergency Medicine — for 25-bed CAH; currently 3 FPs, 1 surgeon, and 1 mid-level on staff; additional hospital facilities include a 25-bed long term care unit and outreach clinic that is staffed 2 ½ days per week; rotating call schedule; hospital services include lab, diagnostic imaging, rehab services, surgical services, ER, OR, and respiratory therapy; salary is $145,000-$165,000 with a 3 year contract; full benefits

KRC.1106.1801.06
Family Physician — for ER in a 25-bed CAH; currently 3 FPs, 1 surgeon, and 1 mid-level on staff; additional hospital facilities include a 25-bed long term care unit and outreach clinic that is staffed 2 ½ days per week; rotating call schedule; hospital services include lab, diagnostic imaging, rehab services, surgical services, ER, OR, and respiratory therapy; salary is $145,000-$165,000 with a 3 year contract; full benefits

KRC.1106.0806.02
Laboratory Supervisor — for 25-bed CAH that supports a health clinic; currently 3 med techs and 1 phlebotomist on staff; average of 30 patients per day; hospital services include cardiac rehab, PT, CT, mobile MRI and ultrasound, lab, x-ray, scopes, swing beds, urology clinic and cardiac clinic; CLIA required; experience preferred, but new graduates encouraged to apply; salary is negotiable

KRC.0305.1401.01
Medical Technologist — 24-bed CAH; experienced and new graduates encouraged to apply; hospital services include inpatient, outpatient, and long term care; caseload includes cardiac rehab, ortho, and neuro; experienced therapists and new graduates encouraged to apply; must have KS licensure or be eligible; hospital services include OB, lab, diagnostic imaging, and PT; salary is $38,000-$50,000; benefits

KRC.0305.1401.04
Occupational Therapist — 24-bed CAH;
experienced and new graduates encouraged to apply; hospital services include inpatient, outpatient, swing bed, OB; salary: $39,500-$56,000 depending on experience; full benefits

**KRC.0505.2304.01**

**Internist** – solo practice; busy hospital and outpatient practice; currently 1 physician and 1.5 mid-levels on staff; 2 hospitals nearby and many specialty services throughout the local area; specialties include radiology, urology, OB/GYN, general surgery, CV, orthopedics, cardiology, ENT, nephrology, and neurology; salary: $110,000-$140,000 with a 1 year contract; full benefits

**KRC.1205.0704.01C**

**Physical Therapy Director** – integrated rural health system including CAH, rural health clinic, home health, and pharmacy; hospital services include acute care, inpatient, outpatient, swing bed, emergency room, and a health clinic; currently 1 PTA on staff; director of PT must be team oriented, self motivated, and have strong intercommunication skills; diverse patient caseload; must be licensed physical therapist; prefer experience; salary is negotiable, competitive, and depends on experience; benefits

**KRC.1205.0704.01C**

**Internist** – private practice in building attached to hospital; this internist would join 3 other internists, all of which are in private practices, in seeing a quickly growing patient population and to share call; clinic office space, practice management services, and a start-up loan to cover initial business expenses are available to the right physician; call is 1:4; family practice physicians perform ER coverage; net income guarantee of $160,000 (negotiable depending on training and experience); benefits

**KRC.0405.0805.06**

**Family Physician** – with OB for a Certified Rural Health Clinic attached to a 12-bed CAH; currently 3 FPs and 2 NPs on staff; call is 1:5 ER rotation; hospital services include acute care, skilled nursing, 24 hour ER, and an outpatient clinic; salary: $120,000-$150,000 with a 1 year contract with multiple 1 year extensions; full benefits; open to Bridging Program participant

**KRC.1205.0704.02C**

**Pediatrician** – for hospital-employed group practice in a rural health clinic; currently 2 Pediatricians and 1 NP on staff; call is 1:2; the community and 92-bed hospital are growing – the service area is 45,000 and 30,000 new residents are expected within the next 6 years; hospital services include bariatric surgery, sleep lab, women’s health center, acute care, lab, diagnostic imaging, rehab center, ER, home health, speech pathology and audiology, senior health center, and occupational health clinic; the hospital is undergoing a 40 million dollar expansion; salary range is $150,000 plus production bonus with a 3 year contract; full benefits; H-1B opportunity

**KRC.1205.0704.03C**

**General Surgeon** – for 92-bed hospital due to growth; hospital services include bariatric surgery, sleep lab, women’s health center, acute care, lab, diagnostic imaging, rehab center, ER, home health, senior health center, and occupational health clinic; the hospital is undergoing a 40 million dollar expansion; currently 2 general surgeons on staff; an interest in bariatric surgery (laproscopic) and vascular surgery as well as general surgery is preferred; salary range is $270,000 plus production bonus with a 3 year contract; full benefits; H-1B opportunity

**KRC.1106.1311.02**

**Family Physician** – group practice located next to a 28-bed CAH; prefer OB, but not required; currently 3 physicians and 1 mid-level on staff; call is 25%; salary and benefits are not predetermined as this is considered an independent practice

**KRC.1106.1311.03**

**General Surgeon** – for group practice; currently 1 general surgeon on staff; limited call coverage; hospital is a 28-bed CAH and supports a satellite clinic; salary is structured on a fee-for-service basis; benefits are negotiable; H-1B opportunity

**KRC.1106.0805.07**

**Physical Therapist** – for 12-bed CAH with satellite clinic; currently 1.5 PTs, 4 CPTAs, 4 physicians, and 2 mid-levels on staff; PT dept. treats average of 50 patients/day; responsibilities: evaluation, establishment of client’s plan of care, ongoing follow-up treatment and supervision of CPTA staff; variety of settings including inpatient, outpatient, home health, nursing homes and contract services; experienced and new graduates encouraged to apply; salary is competitive and negotiable; full benefits

**KRC.0305.1401.05**

**Family Physician** – with OB for 24-bed CAH with 2 satellite clinics; currently 2 family physicians and 2 NPs on staff; call is 1:5; hospital services include inpatient, outpatient, sub acute, surgery, OB, PT and OT, lab, radiology, and outreach clinics; salary is $125,000-$175,000; full benefits

### NORTHWEST

**KRC.0603.0801.01**

**Orthopedist** – 2 positions available for group practice, 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with an in-clinic MRI and wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, 6 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent school systems, university, vo-tech, museums, performing arts center, aquatic park, recreation commission; H1-B and J-1 opportunity

**KRC.0603.0801.05**

**Plastic Surgeon** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, 5 weeks vacation, benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, recreation commission, aquatic park, performing arts center

**KRC.0603.0801.12**

**Cardiologist** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission; H1-B and J-1 opportunity

**KRC.0603.0801.18**

**Gastroenterologist** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, full benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, aquatic parks, performing arts center, recreation commission; H1-B and J-1 opportunity

**KRC.0603.0801.19**

**Nephrologist** – 190+ bed state-of-the-art medical center with new wellness facility, currently 90 physicians on active medical staff, salary negotiable, full benefits, excellent public and parochial schools, university, vo-tech, museums, recreation commission, aquatic park, performing arts center, recreation commission; H1-B and J-1 opportunity

**KRC.0505.0703.01**

**Family Physician** – with OB, prefer c-section

Continued
certified; 25-bed CAH; currently 3 physicians and 1 mid-level; call is 1:4 as secondary to ARNP (primary ER call); full service hospital including med/surg acute care, obstetrics/nursery, ER, outpatient, surgery/recovery, diagnostic imaging, lab, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, inpatient pharmacy, ambulance, specialty clinic, primary care clinic; salary includes base plus productivity incentive, approximately $150,000+ depending on OB and procedures with a 3 year contract; full benefits; H-1B opportunity

KRC.0805.0101.05
Respiratory Therapist – 25-bed CAH that includes a 2 physician hospital-based clinic and a 68-bed long term care facility; hospital services include acute care, swing bed, OB, diagnostic, lab, respiratory, specialty clinic, ER, and ICU; staff includes 2 full time therapists and 3 prn therapists; there is a daily average of 15 patients; rotating call; open to experienced therapists and new graduates and CRTT or RRT

KRC.1205.0801.21
General Surgeon – 190+ bed, state of the art medical center and wellness facility; currently 90 physicians on staff; call time is 1:3; salary is negotiable; benefits

KRC.0603.0801.22
Hematologist/Oncologist – cancer center that is an affiliation of a 190+ bed, state-of-the-art medical center and wellness facility; due to growth; currently 90 physicians on staff; salary is negotiable; full benefits; H-1B and J-1 opportunity

KRC.0306.0807.01C
Psychiatric Director – progressive outpatient community mental health center; looking for board eligible or certified general psychiatrist to work in center and 5 branch locations; caseload will be approximately 25% youth and 75% adult cases; call will rotate with 2 other center psychiatrists; center provides outpatient services for adults, children, and substance abusers, screening and referral services available 24-7, case management services, community support services for SPMI adults, Respite Center services, and alternative school forSED youth; salary base is $144,000 but depends on experience; excellent benefits

KRC.1205.0801.23
Internist – 190+ bed, state of the art medical center and wellness facility; currently 90 physicians on staff; call is 1:5; salary is negotiable; benefits include paid vacation, CME allowance, and relocation costs; an outstanding hospital in a positive and progressive environment; H-1B and J-1 opportunity

KRC.1205.0801.24
Pediatrician – 190+ bed, state-of-the-art medical center and wellness facility; currently 90 physicians on staff; call is 1:4; salary is negotiable; benefits include paid vacation, CME allowance, and relocation costs; an outstanding hospital in a positive and progressive environment

KRC.0506.2001.01C
Family Physician – 25-bed CAH and family health care center; this physician will provide primary health care services in a new clinic attached to the hospital; this clinic serves the whole county; satellite clinic located 19 miles east; acute care and swing beds, 37-bed long term care unit and 6-bed assisted living unit; currently 3 physicians and 1 mid-level on staff; call is 1:6; salary is negotiable; benefits include paid vacation, CME allowance, and relocation costs; an outstanding hospital in a positive and progressive environment

KRC.0506.2001.02C
Internist – 25-bed CAH and family health care center; this physician will provide primary health care services in a new clinic attached to the hospital; this clinic serves the whole county; satellite clinic located 19 miles east; acute care and swing beds, 37-bed long term care unit and 6-bed assisted living unit; currently 3 physicians and 1 mid-level on staff; call is 1:4; hospital will provide coverage every 5th weekend of the month; hospital services include acute care, swing bed, x-ray, CT, mobile sonography, lab, ER, home health, hospice outpatient clinics, surgery, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and cardiac rehab; salary range: $130,000-$150,000 with incentives; full benefits; J-1 and H-1B opportunity

KRC.0606.1404.01C
Family Physician – for 25-bed CAH; OB preferred; rural health clinic on-site (4-day schedule); currently 3 family physicians, 1 general surgeon, 1 mid-level on staff; call is 1:5 ER and 1:3 OB; hospital services include acute care, intermediate care, ER, lab, x-ray, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, specialty clinics, cardiac rehab, skilled nursing, and chemotherapy administration; salary range: $140,000-$150,000 plus incentives; full benefits; J-1 and H-1B opportunity

KRC.0806.0706.01
Family Physician – for hospital-based group practice; position is a combo of outpatient services in a new rural health clinic and inpatient services in the 25-bed CAH; 2 physicians will be part of group practice; call is 1:4; hospital will provide coverage every 5th weekend of the month; hospital services include acute care, swing bed, x-ray, CT, mobile sonography, lab, ER, home health, hospice outpatient clinics, surgery, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and cardiac rehab; salary range: $130,000-$150,000 with incentives; full benefits; J-1 and H-1B opportunity

KRC.0806.0706.02
Physician Assistant – for a hospital-based group practice; position is a combo of outpatient services in a new rural health clinic and inpatient services in the 25-bed CAH; 2 physicians will be part of group practice; call is 1:4; hospital will provide coverage every 5th weekend of the month; hospital services include acute care, swing bed, x-ray, CT, mobile sonography, lab, ER, home health, hospice outpatient clinics, surgery, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and cardiac rehab; salary range is competitive; full benefits

KRC.0806.0706.03
Nurse Practitioner – for a hospital-based group practice; position is a combo of outpatient services in a new rural health clinic and inpatient services in the 25-bed CAH; 2 physicians will be part of group practice; call is 1:4; hospital will provide coverage every 5th weekend of the month; hospital services include acute care, swing bed, x-ray, CT, mobile sonography, lab, ER, home health, hospice outpatient clinics, surgery, physical therapy, respiratory therapy, and cardiac rehab; salary range is competitive; full benefits
KRC.0906.1602.01C

Family Physician – opportunity available in a 25-bed CAH with a 33-bed long term care unit attached; there are 2 clinics -one in town, and one 15 miles away; the out of town clinic has a physician half-day/week and FT NP; new physician will work in the clinic 4.5 days from 9:00am-12:00pm and 2:00pm-5:00pm; new physician will also perform rounds on the long term care patients in the facility and several others as well as with their patients in the hospital; OB preferred, but not required; high-risk OB; currently 1 physician (does OB), 1 NP, and 2 PAs on staff; call is 1:4 with second call backup for the PAs; hospital services include acute care, ER, minor surgery, OB, EECG, physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech; salary is $150,000-$165,000 with additional pay for ER coverage and production bonus; prefer a 3-5 year contract; full benefits; H-1B and J-1 opportunity

KRC.1106.1805.02

Physical Therapist – for 25-bed CAH; will be breaking ground to build a new hospital by 2007; currently 1 PT and 1 PTA on staff; responsibilities include evaluation, planning and administering therapy treatment to an average of 20 patients per day; hospital services include lab, OB, PT, stress testing, cardiac rehab, diagnostic imaging, CT, MRI, EKG, nuclear medicine, ER, ultrasound, and general surgery; there are 4 satellite clinics; experienced and new graduates encouraged to apply; must have KS licensure or be eligible; salary is negotiable; full benefits

KRC.1106.0801.26

Anesthesiologist – to join group of 4 anesthesiologists; group has exclusive agreement with hospital to provide services; currently 4 physicians and 6 CRNA’s; office located in a 100+ bed hospital, salary $350,000, plus; benefits

KRC.0405.0105.04

Registered Nurse – hospital based rural health clinic connected to a 25-bed CAH; prefer acute care or surgery experience in a hospital setting; will consider new graduates; day shift (7:00am-3:00pm); currently 2.2 FPs and 1 PA on staff; hospital services include x-ray, CT, ultrasound, lab, surgery, specialty clinics, mobile MRI, and telerad; salary: $33,800-$44,000; benefits

KRC.0405.0105.05

Family Physician – without OB for 25-bed CAH; hospital services include acute care, swing bed, lab, x-ray, physical therapy, occupational therapy, 24-hour ER, mobile CT scan, ultrasound, mammogram, and bone density screening; call is 1 evening/week and 1:5 weekends; salary: $150,000-$160,000 with up to a 2 year contract; full benefits; H-1B and J-1 opportunity

KRC.0206.1914.01C

Pediatrician – group practice in a clinic and 82-bed hospital; includes covering a secondary level nursery; electronic medical records utilized; currently 1 full time pediatrician, 1 part-time pediatrician, and 1 NP on staff; call is 1:4; salary range: $110,000-$115,000 full time or $55,000-$60,000 part-time; benefits

SOUTHEAST

KRC.0603.0102.01

Family Physician – with OB; 25-bed CAH; call rotates with groups of 5; hospital services include OB, ICU Level I, general surgery, orthopedics, ENT, urology, CT, lab; salary is negotiable; benefits

KRC.0901.1201.03

Orthopedist – group practice, 2 orthopedic surgeons looking for a 3rd partner; additional staff includes 1 mid-level, office manager, 2 radiology techs, 1 orthopedic nurse; office located in a 100+ bed hospital, salary $350,000, benefits; culturally active community, superb schools, lakes with activities available

KRC.0901.1201.04

Anesthesiologist with Pain Management – office located in hospital, 3 orthopods on staff want to open a pain management clinic, option to work as a solo physician or be hospital-employed, salary is negotiable, benefits, culturally active community, superb schools, lakes with activities available

KRC.0901.1201.06

Non-Invasive Cardiologist – 100+ bed hospital, option to work as an independent practitioner or be hospital-employed, salary is negotiable, benefits, culturally active community, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC.0901.1201.07

Psychiatrist – 100+ bed hospital, opening a Geriatric Psychiatric Unit, option to work as an independent practitioner or be hospital-employed, salary negotiable, benefits, culturally active community, minimal traffic, low crime rate, superb schools, quick access to metropolitan areas, beautiful lakes with activities available

KRC.0901.0103.05

Internist – multi-speciality group with main clinic and 4 satellite clinics; the clinic also spon-Continued
sor a surgical outreach clinic and a urological outreach clinic; current staff includes: 6 family practice physicians, 1 pediatrician, 2 internists, 2 general surgeons, 1 urologist; the clinic offers a full spectrum of care such as family medicine including obstetrics, physical exams and sports physicals, on-site laboratory and x-ray, on-site EKG testing and bone density studies, minor surgery, wellness exams and preventative medicine, osteopathic manipulations, physical therapy, diabetic education, cancer center; salary is negotiable; full benefits

KRC.1205.1201.08C
Obstetrician/Gynecologist – with choice of being an independent practitioner or employed by the 109-bed hospital; the medical center has 37 physicians representing over 15 medical specialties; currently 1 OB/GYN and 2 family practitioners that perform OB on staff; salary range: $ 250,000; relocation and loan repayment available; benefits and vacation offered if employed by the hospital

SOUTHWEST

KRC.0304.2101.01
Family Physician – federally qualified community health center, 3 satellites; current staff includes 1 physician and 8 mid-levels; no call coverage, no weekends, salary negotiable, benefits; H-1B and J-1 opportunity

KRC.1004.2302.01
Interventional Cardiologist – multi-specialty group affiliated with a 100+ bed medical complex; the complex consists of an acute care, outpatient surgical facility, women’s center, rehab center, transitional care unit, outpatient services; the medical complex has approx. 70 physicians on staff that represent more than 20 specialties; salary is negotiable, benefits; H-I-B Visa opportunity

KRC.1004.2302.02
Orthopedist – multi-specialty group affiliated with a 100+ bed medical complex; the complex consists of an acute care, outpatient surgical facility, women’s center, rehab center, transitional care unit, outpatient services; the medical complex has approx. 70 physicians on staff that represent more than 20 specialties; salary is negotiable, benefits; H-1-B and J1 Visa opportunity

KRC.0717.0401.02
Urologist – for multi-specialty group with 27 physicians and 11 specialties; large service area with many referrals; this group also supports 3 satellite facilities including an urgent care clinic; the local 100-bed hospital’s services include ER, lab, x-ray, CT, MRI, OB, pediatrics, new cardio and ICU services; salary is competitive and negotiable; full benefits

KRC.1204.0804.01
Registered Nurse – 25-bed acute care setting including swing bed unit and ER; experienced nurses and new graduates encouraged to apply; ASN or BSN acceptable; 12-hour evening shift 3 days a week; salary depends on experience; benefits

KRC.1204.0804.02
Registered Nurse – nursing home unit; responsible for supervising staff of approx. 30 employees; must be RN with long-term care experience, long-term care management experience preferred but not required, ASN or BSN acceptable, salary is negotiable, benefits

KRC.1204.0804.03
Extended Care Facility Manager – 48-bed nursing home unit; responsible for supervising staff of approx. 30 employees; must be RN with long-term care experience, long-term care management experience preferred but not required, ASN or BSN acceptable, salary is negotiable, benefits

KRC.1204.0804.04
Lab Tech – 25-bed acute care setting with swing bed unit and ER, first shift, will also cross train into radiology with training provided if needed, salary is negotiable, benefits

KRC.0305.0702.01
Family Physician – with OB; CAH; current staff: 3 physicians; progressive, energetic practice seeking medical professional interested in satisfying career in family-oriented community; hospital recently remodeled, has state-of-the-art computer system; First Frontier National Community Center of Excellence in Women’s Health; great salary and benefits

KRC.0305.0702.02
Physician Assistant – CAH; current staff: 3 physicians; progressive, energetic practice seeking medical professional interested in satisfying career in family-oriented community; hospital recently remodeled, has state-of-the-art computer system; First Frontier National Community Center of Excellence in Women’s Health; great salary and benefits

KRC.0905.0201.03
Physical Therapy Manager – 45-bed county owned, not-for-profit, rural hospital; department treats an average of 5-10 patients per day; minimum of 1 year experience and hold KS licensure, or eligible; hospital services include radiology, lab, obstetrical care, ER, mobile MRI, CT, swing bed, acute care, general surgery, pediatric care, respiratory therapy, ICU, home health, and PT; salary is negotiable

KRC.0905.0201.04
General Surgeon – 45-bed county owned, not-for-profit, rural hospital; currently 2 physicians and 1 PA on staff; call coverage is negotiable; hospital services include radiology, lab, obstetrical care, ER, mobile MRI, CT, swing bed, acute care, general surgery, pediatric care, respiratory therapy, ICU, home health, and PT; salary and benefits are negotiable

KRC.1105.0804.05
Family Physician – 25-bed hospital; patient care is also provided at the clinic and extended care facility; hospital services include general medical-surgical care, skilled nursing care, emergency room, obstetrics, geriatrics, inpatient, outpatient, and long term care; currently 1 family practitioner, 1 part-time general surgeon, and 1 NP on staff; call is one week every 3-4 weeks; salary range: $150,000-$170,000; benefits

KRC.1105.0804.06
Physician Assistant – position available for a 25-bed hospital; patient care is also provided at the clinic and extended care facility; patient caseload includes women’s health, child health, diabetic care, and ER; currently 1 family practitioner, 1 part-time general surgeon, and 1 NP; salary range: $70,000-$95,000; benefits

KRC.1105.0804.07
Nurse Practitioner – position available for a 25-bed hospital; patient care is also provided at the clinic and extended care facility; patient caseload includes women’s health, child health, diabetic care, and ER; currently 1 family practitioner, 1 part-time general surgeon, and 1 NP; salary range: $70,000-$95,000; benefits

KRC.0106.2101.05
Nurse Practitioner – community health center with 3 satellite facilities; currently 1 physician, 6 NPs, 2 PAs, and 1 volunteer physician on staff; no call coverage or weekends; salary range is $58,000, negotiable; full benefits

KRC.0106.2101.06
Physician Assistant – community health center with 3 satellite facilities; currently 1 phys...
cian, 6 NPs, 2 PAs, and 1 volunteer physician on staff; no call coverage or weekends; salary range is $58,000, negotiable; full benefits

KRC.0706.1915.01C
Family Physician – without OB for multispecialty group practice; this position is strictly outpatient, clinic-based; currently 2 family physicians, 5 internists, and 3 pediatricians on staff; call is shared with the family physicians and internists; the family physicians are responsible for answering questions over the telephone (1:3) and the internists provide all call coverage to the hospital (inpatient); the 132-bed admitting hospital’s services include acute care, OB, emergency medicine, surgery, oncology, rehab, wound care, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology; salary is $150,000; full benefits

KRC.0706.1915.02
Neurologist – several options for this practice – physician may choose to be hospital employed, an independent practitioner that contracts the administrative functions to the hospital, or a solely independent practice; the admitting 132-bed hospital provides acute care, OB, emergency medicine, surgery, oncology, rehab, wound care, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology; currently 1 physician doing outreach 1 day a week; salary is $220,000 plus sign-on bonus; full benefits; J-1 and H-1B opportunity

KRC.0706.1915.03
Otolaryngologist – several options for this practice – physician may choose to be hospital employed, an independent practitioner that contracts the administrative functions to the hospital, or a solely independent practice; the admitting 132-bed hospital provides acute care, OB, emergency medicine, surgery, oncology, rehab, wound care, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology; currently 1 hospital-employed ENT on staff; salary is $200,000 plus sign-on bonus; full benefits; J-1 and H-1B opportunity

KRC.0706.1915.04
Orthopedic Surgeon – the hospital is looking for a second Orthopedic Surgeon to join hospital-based practice; patient caseload is full service general orthopedics including sports medicine; the admitting 132-bed hospital provides acute care, OB, emergency medicine, surgery, oncology, rehab, wound care, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology; currently 2 orthopedists in the community; salary is $400,000 and negotiable; full benefits; H-1B opportunity

KRC.0706.1915.05
Emergency Medicine – opportunity available to join a 3 emergency medicine physician group; volume is 12,000-14,000 visits annually; the admitting 132-bed hospital provides acute care, OB, emergency medicine, surgery, oncology, rehab, wound care, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology; salary is $125-130 per hour plus a sign-on bonus; benefits include one month vacation and relocation; H-1B opportunity

KRC.0706.1915.06
Interventional Cardiologist – for group practice; this position will join 8 Cardiologists in an outreach clinic; admitting hospital is 132-beds and provides a full range of services including acute care, OB, emergency medicine, surgery, oncology, rehab, wound care, cardiology, orthopedics, and neurology; salary is $450,000 negotiable

KRC.0906.0201.06C
Respiratory Therapist – position available for 45-bed, county owned, not-for-profit, rural hospital; must be a graduate of an accredited respiratory therapy program and have CRT or RRT; required certifications – NBRC, CPER, ACLS; currently 2 FT, 1PT, 2 prn respiratory therapists on staff; hospital services include radiology, lab, OB, ER, MRI (mobile), CT, acute care, swing bed, general surgery, pediatric care, respiratory therapy, ICU, home health, and physical therapy; salary range – CRT: $26,500-$34,000, RRT: $29,000-$39,500; full benefits

KRC.0906.0201.05C
Obstetric Nurse – position available for 45-bed, county owned, not-for-profit, rural hospital; candidates should have at least 2 years of experience and be eligible for KS licensure; required certifications – ACLS, NRP, BCLS, PAL; currently 3 FT nurses and 2 prn nurses; hospital services include radiology, lab, OB, ER, MRI (mobile), CT, acute care, swing bed, general surgery, pediatric care, respiratory therapy, ICU, home health, and physical therapy; salary is $37,000-$48,000; full benefits

KRC.0906.0201.04
Family Physician – with or without OB to treat patients in an inpatient or outpatient setting; currently 2 PA’s and 2 part-time physicians on staff; call is 1:3; outpatient clinics have a podiatrist, cardiologist, and chiropractor on staff; hospital consists of 12 beds, 35-bed long-term care unit, and a rural health clinic; hospital services include PT, lab, x-ray, ER, acute care, home health; contracted services: speech therapy, sonograms, and bone densitometry; salary is negotiable and competitive; full benefits

Candidates looking for job opportunities in Kansas can access those listed by the KRC by visiting ruralhealth.kumc.edu on the Web.
Marc Penner’s book, The Kansas Guidebook for Explorers, reveals much of the hidden culture and history of some of Kansas’ smallest communities. Kansas is home to the geographical center of the contiguous United States and has proven to be the center of many other things as well. South central Kansas is the highlight of this six-part series exploring the attractions, history, and unique attributes throughout the state.

Ellinwood, Kan., is unique in that the town’s German heritage is reflected through the architecture of the Main Street building as well as the town’s “underworld.” Tour guides lead visitors through the underground tunnels, and share stories about the dirt-floor harness shop, barber-shop, cowboy bath-house, coal chutes, and antique hallways. Adding to the unique architecture, the town’s light poles are enhanced with bright golden wheat shocks tied to the poles through downtown.

Visitors to McPherson, Kan., will find buffalo roaming through the prairies at the Smoky Hill Bison Company. McPherson, Kan. named for General James Birdseye McPherson, a Union General in the Civil War, has nearly 14,000 residents. A town “small enough to know your neighbors, but big enough that your neighbors don’t know every thing about you, unless you want them to,” as stated by McPherson residents Cyril and Teri Russell.

Visitors to McPherson, Kan., will find buffalo roaming through the prairies at the Smoky Hill Bison Company, a bison ranch, where owners Verne and Linda Hubalek raise and utilize buffalo for meat and products.

The Lindsborg, Kan., Web site explains that the community of Lindsborg was settled in 1869 by nearly one-hundred Swedish immigrant pioneers. While the trades of many of the Swedish immigrants helped to found the community, the culture and tradition helped shape what the town is today.

Wild dala horses, four-foot-tall painted, wooden horses can be found all over the small town of Lindsborg, Kan. Brightly painted and affectionately named, two dozen small horses adorn the corners of downtown. The Hemslojd, The Dala Horse Factory, can also be found in Lindsborg, Kan. “Hemslöjd” is Swedish for handicraft. According to the factory Web site, small hemslöjd shops can be found through Sweden, where all sorts of Swedish crafts are made and sold. In the workshop in Lindsborg, visitors can watch craftsmen at work in the workshop or browse through a selection of Scandinavian gifts in the gift shop.
Visitors to the town may learn more about the town’s history at the McPherson Museum. Another attraction, the McPherson Opera House, is as stated in Penner’s book, “a three-story architectural showpiece.” The building was erected in 1888 with a seating capacity of 900. “McPherson is a wonderful place for our family to call home. It’s small enough and it’s big enough, and there’s always a welcome for a new neighbor,” stated Russell.

Buffalo roam east of McPherson, as well, in a small town of Canton, Kan. The Maxwell Wildlife Refuge, a 2800 acre preserve, is home to 200 buffalo and 50 elk. Visitors to the Refuge are encouraged to ride the tram and join the herd on a prairie tour.

South central Kansas is rich in history, as a variety of settlers began to call Kansas “home.” West Marion and East-central McPherson counties in central Kansas played a unique role in the European settlers movement across the country. In Marion, Kan., starting in 1874, Russian and Polish Mennonites built some fourteen settlement villages. In Hillsboro, Kan., a Mennonite Settlement Museum celebrates the rich history created by the Russian and Polish refugee Mennonites from eastern Europe who settled in the area in the early 1870’s.

Butler County Historical Society Museum and Kansas Oil Museum can be found in El Dorado, Kan. The Kansas Oil Museum is dedicated to the discovery and development of the oil industry in Kansas. Ten acres of outdoor exhibits include more than 20 pieces of oil field equipment. In addition, eight historic buildings are incorporated to interpret the social history of Butler county and Kansas Oil.

In Augusta, Kan., visitors might find the last remaining Frisco wooden water tower of its kind. According the Penner’s book, the wooden water tower provided water for steam locomotives and for the cattle stockyards.

South central Kansas is the center of the state for many things. Winfield, Kan., is the Mural Capital of Kansas. Cowley County is the Stone Bridge Capital of Kansas. In addition to being the capital of the state for wheat, Wellington, Kan., withholds the title Wheat Capital of the World.

Kaye Kuhn, Medicine Lodge, Kan., resident, recounts what makes her town unique to the state. “Every three years, the history comes alive and right out of the history books onto the Kansas prairie at the natural amphitheater where Medicine Lodge Indian Peace Treaty is held, a re-enactment of the Signing of the Treaty of 1867 between the United States Government and the Five Southern Plains tribes (Cheyenne, Arapaho, Kiowa, Apache, and Comanche).”

The discovery, exploration and settlement of the Central Plains, from the 1600’s to the 1867 treaty are exemplified in the pageant. Kuhn states, “Nearly everyone in town is a part of the Pageant.”

Kuhn explains, “The heritage [in Medicine Lodge] is strong, and the good folks that live here work hard to keep it alive! One thing about this part of the state, you know you are getting close to Barber County, because you get warm friendly waves from nearly everyone you meet on the roads and highways.”

A community whose motto is “large enough to accommodate - small enough to appreciate,” South Hutchinson is located in Reno County, and has more than 2,500 residents.

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Salt is an important part of the town’s history and is recognized with a Salt Marker that tells the story of salt in the community. The South Hutchinson Web site indicates that at one time 17 salt companies did business in the community and Morton Salt still maintains a plant in the community.

Yoder, Kan., is the center of an Amish community and derived its name from its Amish founder. The community’s Web site lists a number of reasons to visit: the smoked hams, bacon, sausage, jerky and Amish Swiss cheese at Yoder Meats. The meat is butchered and processed and purchased from local farmers, making the meat all-natural. Horse and carriage rides are also available at Yoder Meats on select Saturdays. A number of businesses are located in the community and residents welcome visitors to see the “horse and buggy community” and experience the warmth and hospitality of their residents.

South central Kansas is home to the largest city in the state, Wichita, Kan., population 354,617, as well as the “smallest incorporated town” in the state, Freeport, Kan., population six residents. Freeport, Kan., is nearly a ghost town, but the Freeport State Bank, chartered Jan. 7, 1902, and the grain elevator across the street are still in business.

Each person interprets the culture and quality of life throughout Kansas differently. Regardless of how life in rural Kansas is interpreted, however, it is certain that south central Kansas has contributed to the state’s history, economy and culture. Vickie Hornbuckle, director, Greenwood County Economic Development explains her interpretation of rural, by stating, “in Greenwood County, rural means hard working with the care and concern for others, rural is the quality of life, the community pulling together for common good and a place to raise children with wholesome values.”

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In Greenwood County, rural means hard working with the care and concern for others, rural is the quality of life, the community pulling together for common good and a place to raise children with wholesome values.

Vickie Hornbuckle, director, Greenwood County Economic Development

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Journey CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The Caldwell Historic Opera House, Caldwell, Kan., was renovated and dedicated in 2006, and is now home to the Caldwell Historic Society and numerous community events.
The impact health care organizations make within rural Kansas communities is significant. Aside from the day to day operations, diagnosing an illness, or performing a routine physical, rural health care providers have increased the impact of the care delivered through unique programming and partnerships throughout the state.

The Coffeyville Regional Medical Center (CRMC), Coffeyville, Kan., is committed to caring for patients in southeast Kansas. The medical center is equipped with 100 beds and is a citizen-owned, not-for-profit organization. The medical center offers numerous services including acute care, pacemaker clinic, home health, and cardiac rehab. Among these services, however, is a unique emphasis on patient education and understanding.

“Dinner with the Doctor,” is a program established by the CRMC to address the needs of community, through education and awareness. “The ‘Dinner with the Doctor’ events allow our community members the opportunity to do the “research” on a particular topic through the monthly presentations,” stated Lynette Blevins, supervisor, Physician Hospital Organization, CRMC.

The program, featured in Kansas Hospital Association’s “Community Connection,” is serving the needs of health care in Coffeyville and surrounding areas through hands-on communication of a particular topic.

The program was developed more than 10 years ago as an opportunity to not only build understanding of particular health topics, but to increase exposure of CRMC physicians, as the events are presented by area physicians affiliated with CRMC and held at the hospital. The event is free to the community, includes dinner provided by the CRMC food services, and is typically once a month, except for summer months and holidays. Participants of the monthly events gain insight into health related topics, or a service offered through the medical center.

It is common for the presentation topic to originate from a physician’s experience or interests; however, topics are also derived from monthly observations of a wellness issue or related to a particular service offered at the medical center; for instance, Alzheimer’s Disease Month, Diabetic Eye Disease Month, American Heart Month, etc. Topics at the events have included Alzheimer’s research, breast cancer awareness, podiatry, diabetes, women’s health, osteoporosis, heart disease, cancer, orthopedic surgery, etc.

“The events are a huge success,” states Susan Correll, community relations coordinator, CRMC. “The average attendance to the events is between 40-75 people and has proven to be very popular in the community.” CRMC has been sponsoring the program for several years and while many community members are aware of the program, promotion is ongoing. Correll indicates promotion of the events occurs in the local newspaper, posters are displayed throughout the medical center, and physicians may even promote their event on a local radio show in Coffeyville.

“While participants of the event are not necessarily receiving a second opinion from the presenting physician, they are however, receiving a second point of view,” states Blevins. Oftentimes a physician will stay nearly an hour after the presentation to answer questions and concerns. This allows community members the opportunity to learn more and become better acquainted with the physician presenting.

For this reason, Blevins would encourage communities to implement a similar program in their community. “The event is little cost to host, (as the food services within the organization prepares and delivers the food), and the exposure of physicians is such a benefit,” states Blevins.
A ccording to 2006 census data, 46.6 million Americans are currently uninsured. In 2004, the Institute of Medicine listed “lack of insurance” as the 6th leading cause of death among 19 to 64 year olds. While rural Kansas is certainly not an exception to the statistics, 33 primary care safety net clinics seek to address the staggering reality that Kansans may do without health care, if not provided through their assistance in communities across Kansas.

According to the 2007 Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU) Directory of Kansas Community Health Centers and Primary Care Clinics, a total of 346,323 patient visits occurred at Kansas primary care safety net clinics in 2005; 63 percent of those patients were 100 percent below the federal poverty level and 63 percent were uninsured.

According to Val Renault, director of resource development and communications, KAMU, the mission of a primary care safety net provider is to provide comprehensive health care for uninsured and underserved populations, regardless of their ability to pay. While these providers differ in funding source and organizational structure, all share the same values.

**Flint Hills Community Health Center**

The Flint Hills Community Health Center (FHCHC) is one such organization, seeking to address the needs of underserved residents in eastern Kansas. FHCHC maintains two full-time family physicians, one pediatrician, and three mid-level health professionals. FHCHC provides a full-range of primary care and public health services to individuals residing in Lyon, Chase, Greenwood, and Osage counties. Services through the health center include public health, family planning, health screenings, maternal/infant care, and the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

Without the services offered through FHCHC, there would be a very large hole in health care delivery in Lyon County, states Lougene Marsh, CEO, FHCHC. While FHCHC is designated to serve the four defined counties, Marsh indicates, “We will serve anyone needing primary care.”

One very beneficial aspect of the health delivered at FHCHC is the organization’s participation in the 340B drug pricing program, offered in partnership with a local contract pharmacy. The 340B drug pricing program was established by the federal government, to provide discounted pharmaceutical drugs through health centers. The discounted rate for prescription drugs is significantly lower, and can be as much as 50 percent less than the average retail price.

FHCHC contracts with a local pharmacy to offer patients the discounted prescription drug costs. Grave Drug pharmacy, Emporia, Kan., dispensed nearly 11,000 prescriptions to FHCHC health center patients last year. Within the 340B pricing guidelines, patients pay the cost of the drug, in addition to a dispensing and administrative fee. FHCHC assists in covering some of the costs for patients who are below the 100 percent federal poverty level. “We have found that it has allowed patients to receive significant savings,” states Marsh. “In Dec. 2006, patients within the lowest income level paid, on average $2.85 for their prescription drugs. For those paying the full fee for the prescription drugs, the average cost was $11.49. As a result, this program has been very successful for our health center, and very beneficial to our patients.”

An additional health care service offered through FHCHC, somewhat unique to health centers, is an integrated mental health service within the primary care clinic. Therefore, if a patient is giving indication of mental distress, immediate care can be delivered to the patient. FHCHC employs a behavioral health consultant (a clinical social worker), with specialty training who can provide solution-focused counseling.

Marsh indicates there is a need for behavioral health services, as 481 patients at FCHCH seek care for depression. “It is difficult for patients to get into a mental health center, and there is still stigma related to mental health needs, although many patients are seeking de facto mental health care,” states Marsh.

The services provided through the FCHCH are beneficial to patients in eastern Kansas. The ease patients experience in moving from one type of service...
to another is invaluable in providing a full-spectrum of care to all patients.

United Methodist Mexican-American Ministry

In addition to providing affordable health care, safety net clinics contribute in other ways to their communities, promoting economic development in some of the state’s highest need areas. They employ community residents and support the local economy by keeping their clients healthy and on the job. United Methodist Mexican-American Ministry (MAM) is no exception to this statement.

United Methodist Mexican-American Ministries (MAM) was chartered as a 501c3 organization, to provide services to primarily Hispanic migrant workers. Since 1974, MAM has been serving people of all races, colors, and faiths. The original services were social, educational, and spiritual, and grew out of the expressed needs of various constituent groups.

MAM serves a diverse and large geographical region, including Finney, Ford, Seward, Grand, and surrounding counties. MAM has centers in Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal, Ulysses. All services are provided in English and Spanish, and MAM has a German translator in Garden City on Wednesdays and other times as needed. MAM clinics served 6,068 unduplicated patients last year; 3,433 of those patients from household incomes below 100 percent of the federal poverty line. Seventy-eight percent of the patients visiting MAM were Hispanic, fifteen percent Anglo, seven percent Asian, undetermined/unknown.

Community partnerships have enabled MAM to enhance the level of care and support offered to community members in rural western Kansas. Penney Schwab, executive director, MAM, states, “Community partnerships are essential, since several different organizations may be involved in providing services for an individual.” MAM partners with a wide range of community and social services agencies to provide employment application assistance, interpretation services, citizenship counseling, and immigration/naturalization documentation assistance, as well as food, clothing, and emergency services.

A valuable partnership is one with the Garden City school system. MAM staff conducts visual oral screenings for all children in certain grades and contacts parents if their children are identified as needing dental care. An additional school partnership is through Parents as Teachers program, where MAM has the opportunity to host Parents as Teachers programs.

Jorge Guillen, MD, feels as though MAM makes a great impact in the community, through these partnerships, and in the service that is provided as a result. “There is no doubt about it. MAM serves people that need health services who don’t have access, due to the lack of health insurance, poverty or legal status. MAM cares not only about medical issues but also about social problems, and that is a big service for a good part of the population here in rural Kansas.

MAM provides a spectrum of care to community members in western Kansas. Schwab indicates that many patients visit MAM for prenatal care, contraceptive management, diabetes, and hypertension (although this varies by clinic site). While the number of services, types of funding, and community partnerships assist in the amount of care that can be provided, simply having access to the care is the primary role safety net clinics play in the Kansas.

Marjorie, a patient at the MAM clinic, emphasizes this point by saying, “The MAM Health Center is the only clinic that I and a lot of others in western Kansas can afford to go to. As well as excellent doctors and staff and services they have also giving me training on how I can take care of my diabetes…it is the best clinic and health education I know…”

Consuelo Sandoval, Garden City community developer, MAM, distributes food to clients at the Garden City Food Pantry.

Shelly Nelson, RN, Early Detection Works, MAM, holds a client’s new baby at the Parent As Teachers Christmas Party.
Ryan Spaulding, PhD, director, University of Kansas Center for Telemedicine and Telehealth, attended the World Healthcare Innovation and Technology Congress meeting, Nov. 1-3, 2006, in Washington, DC, as a special guest evaluator of the three-day gathering, per invitation of the Executive Director.

The conference featured health, technology, and innovation experts who presented views on topics ranging from nanotechnology to personal health records, and home telehealth to pay-for-performance initiatives. Ryan will have the opportunity to share his feedback regarding the meeting with organizers and may be involved in planning future meetings later this spring. Thanks to Ryan for utilizing his insight into telemedicine and representing Kansas in this meeting.

**Publication Schedule**

If you have an idea for an article in *Kansas Connections*, we welcome your input. Please send information to the KU School of Medicine-Wichita, 1010 N. Kansas, Wichita, KS 67214-3199. Ideas are also welcomed by telephone at 316-293-2649; fax, 316-293-2671; or e-mail, lvalenti@kumc.edu. Deadline for submission of ideas for the next issue is March 2, 2007. If you know of someone who is not receiving the newsletter, but might enjoy reading it, please let us know.