



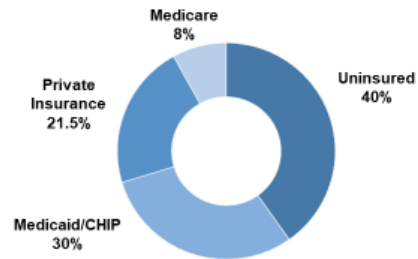
**HB 2395 – Appropriations for the Department of Education
House K-12 Education Budget Committee
March 14, 2019**

Chairwoman Williams and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2395 and ask that you include funding for School-Based Health Clinics. Through this model, a partnership between schools and community care clinics can help address the broad range of concerns and adverse experiences that affect students’ healthy development. My name is Denise Cyzman, and I have the honor to serve as the CEO of Community Care Network of Kansas (formerly the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved (KAMU)). We believe that Kansas should be a state where all individuals have access to affordable, quality health care. This could not be more true than for Kansas children.

Community Care Network of Kansas (Community Care) represents 37 community care clinics with 100 sites. This network is one of the largest primary care providers in the state. While the clinics are diverse in many ways, they all have a common mission: to provide quality health care to all Kansans regardless of their ability to pay. Collaboratively, the clinics use a person-centered approach to simultaneously meet health care and community needs. In 2018, community care clinics served more than 301,000 patients during almost 900,000 visits.¹ The clinics welcome all Kansans; yet, they specialize in serving our most vulnerable individuals and families. More than 90% of patients with reported income live at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level. Seventy percent are uninsured or on Medicaid. For more than 28 years, the Kansas Legislature has invested in this network of clinics. Your investment has paid off. Since 2008, the clinics have increased the number of Kansans served by 59%, and they had a 58% increase in visits.



Who we serve



Patients by Service Type

Medical: 190,156	Dental: 100,676	Behavioral Health: 16,117	Pharmacy: 77,019
Vision: 3,745		Enabling: 15,527	
COMMUNITY CARE NETWORK OF KANSAS			

Support Funding for School-Based Health Clinics

We must expand our vision of where primary care can be provided. The good news is we are not starting from scratch. We have successful models to replicate. Beginning in the mid-1990’s community care clinics have provided health care in Kansas schools. This education-health care partnership has grown to 15 clinics serving 28 school districts. In 2017, the clinics provided medical, dental, and behavioral health services to 37,000 students. School-based health care is a powerful tool for achieving health equity among children and adolescents by placing critically needed services like medical, behavioral, dental, and vision care directly in schools so that all young people, no matter their zip code, have equal opportunity to learn and grow.

¹ Preliminary data for CY 2018 reported to Community Care Network of Kansas Quality Reporting System, 2019

With a new state investment, this model can be expanded. We project that a \$5 million annual investment for four years would result in at least 40 school districts being able to partner with a community care clinic to offer school-based health services. The business model used by clinics is self-sustaining, allowing for the state investment to cover start-up costs only.

We have taken a coalition approach to planning, involving state agencies, key education and health stakeholder groups, and legislators. Here is how the plan would work. The state would issue \$5 million each year to the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE). Working together, KSDE and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) would issue a Request for Proposal (RFP). Through a competitive grant process, school districts and clinics will submit a proposal together – this would include start-up costs, including capital improvement, equipment, supplies, and provider(s), for a school-based health clinic. Some sites may have a designated room(s) inside the school to provide care, a brick and mortar clinic on the campus, or a mobile clinic to reach multiple schools or school districts. The plan to offer school-based services will be locally driven, determined by the school district and the clinic. Following the community care unique model of whole-person care, the school and clinic must offer primary care AND behavioral health or oral health services. The school district will contract with the clinic, and the clinic will employ all providers and staff. Parents must consent to the clinic providing services. No matter the configuration, the team brings its expertise, resources and authority to improve the physical, social, emotional, and behavioral health of students. This funding will be issued as a two-year grant. However, new two-year grants will be awarded every year. We expect about 8-10 school districts to be awarded each grant cycle. Project administration and training costs, as well as evaluation will be included in the \$5 million allocation.

Successful school-health partnerships share a common vision — that of young citizens thriving in the classroom and beyond. By integrating into the education environment, school-based health care contributes directly to the school's mission and delivers outcomes that matter to educators — such as reduced student absenteeism. Recent evaluation results demonstrated an 84% reduction in unexcused absences, a 47% reduction in behavioral referrals, and a 55% reduction in tardiness.² You will hear more from the superintendent of the Coffeyville school district and the Director of Health Services from Shawnee Mission school district about the benefits they have seen in their schools.

We aren't the only ones sharing this vision - We have gathered support from KDHE, KSDE, School Mental Health Advisory Council, Special Education Advisory Council, Kansas Association of School Boards, Association of School Superintendents – and it is a recommendation of the state Mental Health Task Force (Rec. 3.1.a Provide opportunities for community service organizations to increase behavioral health services in schools (e.g., the integrated primary and behavioral health care model.) Together with the Mental Health Pilot, the state's investment in the health of Kansas students would yield significant health and educational outcomes.

On behalf of the Community Clinic Network of Kansas and its member clinics, we ask that you choose to fund school-based health clinics. We stand ready with you to ensure that Kansas students reach their maximum potential, which starts from a foundation of health and well-being.

Thank you.

² Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas / USD 445 Coffeyville Public Schools partnership; 2012/13 - 2018/19 School Years