



**COMMUNITY CARE  
NETWORK OF KANSAS**  
Health. Equity. Justice.

## Communities Count on Quality Kansas Health Centers

*For Immediate Release*

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TOPEKA – Accountability is a critical component of healthcare – both from the patient and provider’s perspective. After all, taking responsibility for all aspects of an individual’s health literally can be a matter of life or death.

For the 19 Federally Qualified Health Centers – all members of the Community Care Network of Kansas – accountability comes in the form of performance measures. Health officials and elected leaders in Washington and Topeka want to know how well the investments of federal and state taxpayer dollars into the one of the largest networks of care for the state’s most vulnerable pay off.

Kansas health centers provided whole-person care to approximately 270,000 individuals in 2019. Whether patients were seeking primary, dental mental health, substance use disorder, or pharmacy services – or any of the enabling services such as providing transportation – all 845,000-plus visits result in meticulous documentation. Measurements of diabetes, high blood pressure, body mass index, colorectal cancer screenings, depression, fluoride treatments, substance use disorder screenings, and costs per patient and per visit are just a sampling.

Health centers that excel in improving patient outcomes are recognized – and rewarded. Recently, 19 Kansas health centers received Quality Improvement Grant awards totaling almost \$1.6 million from the Health Resources Services Administration (HRSA) Health Center Program. The federal grants recognize clinics that are improving health outcomes at levels superior to most of the nearly 1,400 community health centers nationwide.

“This is yet another example of how Kansas health centers are ahead of the curve in providing whole-person, high-quality care that results in the best outcomes,” said Community Care CEO Denise Cyzman.

Among the more notable achievements:

- **Hunter Health in Sedgwick County** was given a Value Enhancer Award, one of only 37 nationally to achieve it. The Value Enhancer Award recognizes increasing quality of care and improving patient access to comprehensive services while improving cost-efficient care delivery.
- **First Care Clinic, Konza Prairie Community Health & Dental Center and PrairieStar Health Center** each were named as National Quality Leaders. These three clinics were ranked in the top 1-2% of all health centers in one or more of the clinical quality measures that promote behavioral health, diabetes health and heart health in 2019.
- **First Care Clinic, Heart of Kansas Family Health Care, Heartland Community Health Center, Konza Prairie Community Health & Dental Center, PrairieStar Health Center and Salina Family Healthcare Center** each were named as Health Center Quality Leaders. These six clinic achieved the best overall clinical performance among all health centers.

Many of the health centers earn the recognition regularly, including Heart of Kansas, Konza Prairie and PrairieStar which have been named Quality Leaders for five straight years.

“We are very proud of the recognition we received from HRSA,” said Hunter Health CEO Amy Feimer. “Our team works tirelessly to provide a high level of care and access to our patients. This year in particular they have been on the front-lines responding to COVID-19, again ensuring we are helping to protect our patients’ health and well-being.”

Community Care’s Cyzman was not surprised so many health centers received high accolades from the federal government. She said innovation and efficiency go hand-in-hand at all of the state’s health centers.

“They’re shaping the future of healthcare delivery by the outstanding work being done today,” Cyzman said.

A complete list of Kansas awardees can be found [here](#).

– 30 –

*About Community Care Clinic of Kansas: Community Care exists to achieve equitable access to high-quality, whole-person care for all Kansans, regardless of ability to pay. As the Primary Care Association (PCA) for Kansas, Community Care supports and strengthens its members through advocacy, education and communication. Community Care’s diverse membership includes Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), and Look-Alikes (LALs), as well as public and private nonprofit Community-Based Primary Care Clinics (CBPCCs) and Rural Health Clinics (RHCs).*