

A Collective Force for a Healthier Kansas City

*Systems of Care in Community
Emergent Events and Disasters
April 21, 2026*



KC HEALTH
COLLABORATIVE





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Optimism is its own
form of resistance.

- Nikki Giovanni

The KC Health Collaborative (KCHC) is a multi-sector, regional health improvement organization.

Our focus is on addressing healthcare issues that no one member can achieve on their own.

Put simply, KCHC represents *collective action* directed at:

- Better care
- Healthier people
- Smarter spending



Sobering Statistics

- Housing
 - KCMO is 65,000 units short on affordable housing
- Food Deserts
 - Limited access to fresh, quality food in urban core of KCMO and Wyandotte County, KS
- Transportation
 - Lack of reliable, affordable transportation a barrier to accessing physical, emotional, and social health services
- Life Expectancy in KCMO
 - 86.3 years – 64113 - 93% white
 - 68.1 years – 64128 - 86 % Black

Multi-sector Membership



Purchasers

IBEW Local 124, JE Dunn

Providers

KC CARE Health Center, Kansas City Medical Society, HealthTeamWorks

Hospitals & Health Systems

Children's Mercy Hospital, The University of KS Health System, North Kansas City Hospital, KC Metropolitan Healthcare Council

Health Plans

Aetna CVS, BlueKC

Community at Large

AcruxKC, BioNexus KC, Clay County Public Health, First Call, Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Center for Practical Bioethics, Greater Kansas City Coalition to End Homelessness, Harvesters, HI-IQ, Jewish Family Services, KC Digital Drive, KC Medical Society, KC Medical Society Foundation, Lewis and Clark Information Exchange (LACIE), MOHAKCA (Metropolitan Public Health Agencies), Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), Midwest Health Connection, QVIC, Samuel L. Rodgers Health Center, Screen Sanity, Swope Health, United Way of Greater Kansas City, Vibrant Health, Wyandotte Community Health Council

KC Health Collaborative Officers



Chair
Jill Watson

SelectQuote



Vice Chair
Chris Wilson

KU Health System



Secretary
Cecilia Saffold

HealthTeamWorks



Treasurer
Steve Salanski, MD

KC Medical Society

KCHC creates a trusted common *Community Table* to promote collaboration among members and community partners in support of access to high-quality, affordable, and equitable healthcare for all.

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“[To] become a national leader in bringing a broad and diverse set of stakeholders to a common table that improves the health and well-being of our communities. To accomplish this, we need coordinated action, aligned investment, and strong communication and advocacy for our most vulnerable populations and the agencies supporting them.”

KC Health Collaborative Strategic Direction

Amplification
Elevation
Collaboration

Data

Advocacy
Policy

PATIENT-CENTERED/COMMUNITY-FOCUSED



Healthcare that is more equitable, more accessible, and yields better outcomes for everyone

Initiatives Supporting Strategic Direction



1 Health Equity Learning & Action Network (LAN)


2 Business Roundtable on Health


3 Health Equity Data Index

Our collective power and shared commitment to the community is creating real and lasting change in the Kansas City region's healthcare ecosystem.


Centering Health and Racial Equity

Formed in 2022, The Health Equity Learning and Action Network (LAN) is one of the key initiatives of the KC Health Collaborative. In partnership with Health Forward Foundation and with support from the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI), this unique group brings together key players in the region's healthcare ecosystem to address inequalities in health access, treatment and outcomes. **Together, we're building the foundations for a better, culturally responsive health ecosystem that meets our whole community's needs.**

 Our anti-racism work shifts power within systems so that it is used responsibly

 Our 50 member organization identifies and addresses health injustices

 We motivate and inspire community change-makers

 We're equity-centered and focused on creating antiracist health ecosystems

Business Roundtable on Health

- 50 % of US population obtains health insurance through employment
- Employer-sponsored insurance covers approximately 70 % of working adults
- Business has a role to play in addressing social drivers of health

- Employer-Led Innovation
- Policy and Advocacy Alignment
- Research, Data & Accountability

Health Equity Data Index

KC Health Collaborative is committed to advancing transparency in healthcare delivery and improving health outcomes through data sharing. Through our 2024 Kansas City Health Stats Scorecard and other planned data-backed reports, **we plan to spotlight inequities and provide a clearer understanding of how local healthcare organizations, businesses, and providers can collaborate to improve regional health outcomes.**



KCHC Membership

Our membership works together to impact the health outcomes of all Kansas Citians.



Reputation

- Chamber of Commerce for Health Equity
- Respected network of partners



Aspiration

- Advance health equity
- Increase access by underserved communities to quality healthcare
- Address SDOH through collective impact

What's Next

CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

Goals:

Reboot Mid – America Coalition on Health Care

Highlight important economic influence on advancing quality improvement

Support community programming that helps address SDOH

CBO ENGAGEMENT

Goals:

CBOs essential to value - based, patient – centered care

Value-based market developing around them instead of with them

Explore ways to beneficially organize to ensure their efforts are adequately compensated in future value – based systems

Support for Essential Providers

Goals:

All four regional clinics are now members

Drive discussion about how we as a community can support these essential institutions as federal dollars continued to be cut

Included in discussion – University Health and NKC Health

Team Expansion

Goals:

Get to work

THANK YOU

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