

7. WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY CHAP: ORGANIZATION AND METHODOLOGY

Organization

First, we appointed a committee of 40 persons to serve on a Steering Committee or Advisory Committee. These individuals were chosen to broadly represent health care throughout the community. They were **NOT** chosen as advocates for their special interest, but chosen to think broadly about community-wide health. Data collection and analysis were done within work groups. These included a Health Status Group, which focused on collecting and analyzing existing data. A Health Resources Group put together an inventory of City/County health care resources. They also performed several provider surveys. The Perceptions Group collected new data related to health and health care perceptions. Most importantly, this group completed a County-wide telephone survey of 1,000 persons and the same survey taken door-to-door in four low income neighborhoods. The Public Education Group served to communicate with the public at large and plan the release of information to the public.

Methodology

Initially, we used a community health assessment process put together by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). Their process was based on the APEX model and PATCH model for carrying out such assessments.

Existing data was collected from the following sources:

KDHE

U.S. Census

Wichita/Sedgwick County Department of Community Health

Wichita/Sedgwick County Police Departments

Local agency reports/surveys (i.e., United Way study, Mental Health study, etc.)

The Dartmouth Atlas of Health Care. The Center for the Evaluative Clinical Sciences, Dartmouth Medical School. In cooperation with the American Hospital Association. 1996.

Urban Social Health by Andrulis DP, Ginsberg C, Shaw-Taylor-Yoku and Martin V. National Public Health and Hospital Institute. Washington, D.C. 1995.

Miller RH, Hillman JM, Marseille E, Miller EE. (editors). Health Care System DATASOURCE. National Institute for Health Care Management. Washington, D.C. 1996.

The following new data was collected:

Town Meetings

9 groups in Wichita

5 groups elsewhere in Sedgwick County: Maize, Garden Plain, Park City, Derby and Haysville

Focus Groups

Elderly (2)

Adolescents (2)

Northeast African-American

Cambodian

Hispanic

Physically Handicapped

General population telephone survey (1,000)

175-item questionnaire (appendix)

Door-to-door survey - random survey of 4 low income neighborhoods using same 175-item questionnaire (400)

Health Clinics

175-item questionnaire randomly done on 200 clinics

Provider/Referral Survey

Capacity Survey of Providers and Health Clinics and Stations

EMS (Emergency Medical System) Study

Health Care Benefits Survey

Sedgwick County Resource Guide

Each work group analyzed their data and presented it to the entire Advisory Committee for comment. This document represents the outcome of our labors. It is a Working Draft. Now it will be taken back to our Advisory Committee and interested groups throughout the County. Several broad conclusions have been reached. The next step is to reach consensus on our conclusions and to expand them as needed. Changes in our local health care system must be made by existing governments, organizations, agencies or other entities. Therefore, we must develop a consensus document which can then be turned over to various groups who can move forward with it. We are now entering that stage of the process.