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SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS
COMMUNICATIONS

NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sedgwick County to Recognize Take a Loved One For a Checkup Day

(Sedgwick County, Kansas) – September 16, 2008, is “Take a Loved One for a Checkup Day.” In acknowledgment of this day, the Sedgwick County Health Department is encouraging residents to take charge of their health by:

- Visiting your medical home to have a physical, if you haven’t had one in the last year, or
- Finding a medical home for yourself or your mother, father, or a friend who doesn’t have one, or
- Learning a new healthy habit and how to provide better “self care.”

A “medical home” is the consistent place one goes to receive care that is managed by a personal health professional, which may be a doctor, nurse, or physician assistant. The health professional has the right tools to lead to better health outcomes for the patient, including up-to-date health records. Medical homes help minor health issues not turn into major health issues. This reduces cost, stress and deterioration to personal health.

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“Everyone can have a medical home in our community,” said Tim Norton, Sedgwick County Commissioner and Chairperson for the Sedgwick County Health Access Steering Team. “There are many community health clinics in our county that serve individuals regardless of insured status or ability to pay. We must connect our residents to this system of professional medical care providers.”

‘Take a Loved One for a Checkup Day’ is part of the national “Closing the Gap” campaign, which is designed to help improve the health of racial and ethnic minority populations, who are affected by serious diseases and health conditions at greater rates.

In Sedgwick County for example, according to data from the Kansas Information for Communities (KIC) database, there were 829.9 deaths of white individuals per 100,000 while there were 1,117.9 deaths per 100,000 black individuals (2005).

For assistance finding a medical home, call 2-1-1. You can also visit www.sedgwickcounty.org/healthdept for a list of community health clinics as well as for information on a variety of health topics.

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