

Facts & DETAILS

Community Health Advocates

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What is a community health advocate?

Community health advocates are volunteers who provide access to affordable health care information to Sedgwick County residents. Advocates go into the community at the neighborhood, church and other civic organization levels with health access information and health education materials.

What are the goals of the community health advocate program?

- Educate residents about the importance of having a medical home for seeking primary care and preventive care.
- Promote positive help-seeking primary care and preventive care
- Provide health access education information and materials to community residents through one-on-one conversations or in group settings.
- Collect demographic data for evaluation purposes of the health access project.
- Collaborate with county residents, public and private agencies, non-profits and academic institutions to improve health status, healthcare access, and reduce health disparities.
- Increase the proportion of persons who have a medical home.

Why did the program start?

The community health advocate program was started to improve the impact of the local public health system's limited resources. Advocates help residents access appropriate health care. It is clear that there are some Sedgwick County residents who are not aware of the many local health resources available, including affordable, quality medical homes. Education is needed on the appropriate usage of health service resources, such as when to go to the emergency room.

When did the program start?

The community health advocate program was launched in March 2009, during National Cover the Uninsured Week. The advocates are part of the Sedgwick County Division of Health's access efforts.

What is the vision for the Division of Health's access efforts?

The vision is to achieve fairness in **health status, healthcare access, and social well-being** for all residents of Sedgwick County.

How do I become a community health advocate?

To be considered, applicants must click the [Volunteer Opportunities](#) link on the Sedgwick County Division of Health's webpage. Complete the *Application* and *Release for a Criminal (KBI) Background Check*. If selected, the Volunteer Coordinator will schedule a training session with you. Should you have any questions about becoming a community health advocate, call 316-660-7402 or email Pamaline King-Burns at pamaline.king-burns@sedgwick.gov.

How do I schedule a group presentation?

Email pamaline.king-burns@sedgwick.gov to schedule a presentation about affordable health access options in our community.

For More Information:
Sedgwick County Division of Health
Public Health Performance Program
1900 E. 9th St.
Wichita, KS 67214
(316) 660-7300



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working for you

Sedgwick County Corporate Communications Office

316-660-9370 525 N. Main Suite 315 Wichita KS 67203 www.sedgwickcounty.org