



THE HEALTH MONITOR

A MONTHLY HEALTHCARE NEWSLETTER FOR OUR PATIENTS AND FRIENDS



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Janet Stanek, Secretary

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Laura Kelly, Governor

KDHE Awards Nearly \$80M to Strengthen Rural Health Care Across Kansas Through the Kansas Rural Health Transformation Program

Topeka - The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) today announced the recipients of the Regional Partnerships Grant Program (RPGP) and Rural Emergency Hospital Conversion/Transformative Capital Investment Program (REH/CAP) grants through the Kansas Rural Health Transformation Program (RHTP). In total, \$79.1 million is being awarded to 39 organizations across the state, representing a major investment in strengthening access to care across rural Kansas. RHTP is a five-year opportunity created to infuse \$50 billion nationwide into state health care systems and bolster rural communities by improving the access to and quality of care available to them. Kansas received the sixth-highest award and has since been implementing its Year 1 RHTP initiatives in an expeditious and effective manner, which directs targeted resources to high-need areas throughout the state, with a focus on sustaining critical, high-quality health care access and services for rural Kansas.

“These investments reflect the power of collaboration and long-term planning in addressing the unique health care needs of rural Kansas communities,” Governor Laura Kelly said. “By supporting regional partnerships, rural hospitals, and critical infrastructure improvements, the Rural Health Transformation Program is empowering communities to strengthen local health systems, improve access to high-quality care, and build a more sustainable future for rural Kansans.”

KDHE awarded \$50 million in RPGP grants to 22 rural health care organizations across the state, fostering collaborative arrangements between a Kansas-based organization and at least one eligible provider to propose transformative projects that support rural communities. These arrangements will promote preventive health care, address the root causes of disease, enhance rural providers’ efficiency and sustainability, attract and retain a highly skilled health care workforce, spark the growth of value-based care models, and foster the use of innovative technologies.

“The Rural Health Transformation Program is helping communities across Kansas strengthen and sustain access to quality health care through innovative partnerships and strategic investments,” KDHE Secretary Janet Stanek said. “By supporting collaborative solutions and critical hospital infrastructure, these investments equip rural providers to meet the evolving needs of Kansans while improving access to care and building healthier futures across our state.”

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<https://mhsk.org/health-monitor/>

In addition, the REH/CAP grant provides funding to facilities that have been converted to, or are in the process of converting to, REH status, and provides other eligible providers with funds to make capital investments to transform how they serve their communities.

A total of \$29.1 million was awarded to 17 rural health care organizations across the state to support innovative approaches to sustaining rural health care delivery, improving patient outcomes, and ensuring long-term financial stability for critical access facilities.

“Strong rural health systems and community partnerships are essential to ensuring older adults, individuals with disabilities, and families across Kansas can access the care and support they need close to home,” Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Laura Howard said. “These investments strengthen local systems of care, encourage collaborative solutions, and support health care networks that improve quality of life and allow Kansans to remain healthy, connected, and cared for in their communities.”

The 2026 RGP and REH/CAP Awardees are listed below. For project descriptions, please visit: www.kdhe.ks.gov/rhtp

RPGP Awardees

Children’s Mercy Hospital: \$6,096,062
 Stormont Vail Health: \$5,465,969
 Great Plains Health Alliance: \$5,000,000
 Recovery Unlimited: \$4,290,000
 Garden City Community College: \$3,439,901
 Citizens Foundation (Citizens Health): \$2,832,423
 Special Olympics Kansas: \$2,546,981
 Clay County Medical Center: \$2,536,000
 Coffeyville Regional Medical Center: \$2,500,000
 InterHab (StationMD): \$2,028,980
 Iroquois Center for Human Development: \$1,720,957
 High Plains Mental Health Center: \$1,660,879
 Greeley County Health Services: \$1,541,906
 Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities: \$1,460,000
 AdventHealth Ottawa: \$1,395,814
 Labette County Medical Center: \$1,383,289
 Kanza Mental Health & Guidance Center: \$1,354,975
 Salina Regional Health Center: \$932,310
 Mercy Hospital Pittsburg: \$681,711
 Kansas Health Science University: \$677,248
 InterHab (CIDDDH Curriculum): \$196,650
 Grace Team: \$173,355

REH/CAP Awardees

Hutchinson Regional Healthcare System: \$3,000,000
 Gove County Medical Center: \$3,000,000
 Clara Barton Medical Center: \$2,933,500
 Pratt Regional Medical Center: \$2,869,082
 Freeman Fort Scott Hospital: \$2,502,999.40
 Hays Medical Center: \$2,478,316
 South Central Kansas Health: \$2,378,188
 Labette Health: \$2,145,677
 PrairieStar Health Center: \$1,987,287
 Wilson Medical Center: \$1,555,143.45

Memorial Health System: \$1,500,000

Hillsboro Community Hospital: \$837,000
 Smith County Memorial Hospital: \$550,000
 Greeley County Health Services: \$458,286
 Mercy Hospital Columbus: \$375,981
 Ashland District Hospital: \$361,478.86
 Compass Behavioral Health: \$165,000

Awardees were selected through a competitive application process that evaluated proposals based on community need, long-term financial sustainability, innovation, and alignment with federal and state rural health priorities. KDHE received 72 applications for REH/CAP and 80 applications for RGP, reflecting strong interest and urgency among rural providers seeking solutions to ongoing workforce, financial, and access challenges.

These grants are part of KDHE’s broader Rural Health Transformation Program, which focuses on supporting long-term, community-driven solutions that ensure rural Kansans have access to high-quality, timely care close to home.

The five Kansas RHTP initiatives were designed to improve the health and sustainability of rural communities statewide:

- Improve rural Kansas’ health outcomes and transform the delivery system by implementing and sustaining initiatives that promote preventive health care and address root causes of diseases.
- Enhance rural health care providers’ efficiency and sustainability.
- Attract and retain a highly skilled health care workforce.
- Spark growth of innovative care models in rural communities that improve the quality of care while reducing costs.
- Spark growth of innovative care models in rural communities that improve the quality of care while reducing costs.
- Foster the use of innovative technologies to increase access to care for rural Kansans.

To learn more about KDHE’s commitment to protecting and improving the health and environment of all Kansans through the RHTP, visit: Rural Health Transformation Program.

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MHS EMPLOYEES DONATE TO PURCHASE DIAPERS FOR COMMUNITY BABY SHOWER EVENT

Employees of Memorial Health System (MHS) in Abilene wore blue jeans at work for another "Jeans Day" fundraiser throughout the month of April. Employees who make a donation of, of at least \$2, are allowed to wear blue jeans at work. A total donation of \$787 was used to purchase diapers for the annual Community Baby Shower event that took place on May 7. The event, organized by the Dickinson County Health Department, invites all Dickinson County women who are pregnant and new moms (up to three months postpartum) to attend. The monthly Jeans Day fundraiser is organized by the MHS Employer of Choice (EOC) Council.



Back row from left: Kristi Meuli, RN and Karysa Reyer, Director of Clinic Operations.
Front row from left: Barb Karraker, LPN and Dr. Brown.



Memorial Health System Hospital Administrator Earns UC Berkeley Master of Public Health Degree

ABILENE, Kan. — Memorial Health System (MHS) is proud to announce that Kimberly Haverly, Hospital Administrator, has graduated from the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, earning a Master of Public Health (MPH) degree with a concentration in Health Policy and Management.

Haverly completed the **nationally recognized program** while serving as Hospital Administrator for Memorial Health System, applying the knowledge and experiences gained through her studies directly to the challenges and opportunities facing rural healthcare organizations. During her graduate studies, **Haverly was selected as one of only 100 Rural Health Innovation Scholars worldwide**, receiving a scholarship through UC Berkeley's Rural Health Innovation Program. The highly competitive initiative was created to develop the next generation of rural healthcare leaders and strengthen healthcare access, quality, and sustainability in underserved communities.

The program's innovative "training-in-place" model allowed participants to remain in their rural communities while pursuing graduate education, enabling them to immediately apply new ideas, research, and leadership strategies within their organizations.

In addition to being selected as a Rural Health Innovation Scholar, Haverly was chosen as **one of only nine** fellows in the inaugural Rural Health Innovation Fellowship focused on Health Policy and Management. The fellowship brought together rural healthcare leaders from across the United States to address some of the most pressing issues facing rural communities through research, policy development, and advocacy.

As part of the fellowship, Haverly collaborated with fellow rural health leaders on a nationwide qualitative research initiative designed to better understand barriers to healthcare access in rural America. Through interviews and thematic analysis, the research explored common challenges facing rural residents and healthcare organizations, including workforce shortages, access to specialty care, transportation barriers, affordability, and other factors influencing health outcomes.

Haverly continued on next page...

Haverly continued...

The project sought to elevate the voices of rural communities and identify shared themes that can inform future healthcare policy, leadership strategies, and solutions to improve access to care across the country.

The fellowship also included advocacy work in Washington, D.C., where Haverly and her fellow participants met with federal policymakers and congressional staff to discuss rural healthcare priorities and advocate for policies that support access to care in underserved communities. "The opportunity to learn alongside rural healthcare leaders from across the nation was truly transformative," said Haverly. "While every rural community has its own unique strengths and challenges, our research revealed many common barriers to healthcare access. The experience reinforced the critical role rural hospitals play, not only as healthcare providers, but as economic anchors and essential community resources."

Haverly noted that the fellowship's focus on research, policy, and advocacy has strengthened her ability to lead Memorial Health System and advocate for the needs of rural Kansans. "Healthcare leaders today must be prepared to do more than manage operations," she said. "We must also understand how policy decisions impact patients, providers, and communities. My experience at Berkeley provided invaluable tools to help ensure that rural voices are represented in conversations about the future of healthcare."

Since joining Memorial Health System in 2025, Haverly has focused on strengthening the organization's long-term sustainability, expanding access to care, supporting workforce development, and advancing strategic initiatives that improve healthcare services for residents of Dickinson County and surrounding communities.

"Kim's accomplishments reflect an extraordinary commitment to lifelong learning, rural healthcare, and public service," said Dr. Steve Schwarting, Chair of the Memorial Health System Board of Directors. "Her selection for these highly competitive programs and her successful completion of a graduate degree from one of the nation's premier public health institutions demonstrate the caliber of leadership she brings to Memorial Health System and the communities we serve."

Memorial Health System serves as Dickinson County's only hospital and the region's largest nonprofit employer, providing hospital, primary care, long-term care, home health, and hospice services, a full-service fitness center to communities throughout central Kansas.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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- Pressure-relieving devices
- Nutritional evaluation



MEMORIAL HEALTH SYSTEM
Memorial Hospital Wound Center

ABILENE Salina Regional Health Center
511 NE 10th St. Abilene, KS 67410
P: 785-571-1070

www.mhsk.org/wound-healing-center/

WHAT PATIENTS ARE SAYING...



Response times to call light requests for help were very timely. Impressive. Room was very nice and very clean. Food was good. Deann (ER) is amazing! Hope she never retires! All staff were kind and helpful - both ER and nursing unit staff

I have always been treated with total respect and kindness at Abilene hospital!!

Dr Holmes is the BEST! He listens carefully, asks if I have any questions!

The Entire Health System Staff was very informative and compassionate Todd Smith explains medical procedures in descriptive details so it's understood... Outstanding Nursing Staff with humorous social skills that displayed a soul full of happiness and experience...

We are lucky to have the hospital available to us in DK County

Dr. Ziegler and his nurse were wonderful. He told it like it is, and I'm so glad he did! The front desk staff were good as well. The lab nurse was a hoot, and I'd come see her every day!

Dr. Hicks shows genuine care and concern for patients and takes time to really listen and also to fully answer questions. I always appreciate that she never makes me feel rushed and truly cares about her patients!

Sheena was wonderful!! She wrapped me up like a burrito in warm blankets!! It's the extra little things like that, that kept me driving from Manhattan to Memorial Health in Abilene for my care!! Thank you all for always making me feel so taken care of!! You are all such a blessing to my family and !!!

MATILDA AND JENNY WERE GREAT. THEY HELPED ME GET WHAT I NEEDED DONE QUICKLY AND EFFICIENTLY.

Dr Brown and all the staff are absolutely tremendous! In travels elsewhere none even compare to their attention, wisdom, coordinating efforts and Godly discernment of how to best help. I'm really thankful for my local excellent home town healthcare team!

Nicole was awesome! She explained everything very well and helped to comfort my child when she was in pain and nervous about a procedure.

I used the walk-in clinic, and was surprised that when my provider came in it was my actual physician. She said they do try to take care of their own patients if possible in their schedule. So I definitely would use the lock-in again if in doubt about going to the doctor.

Everyone was extremely nice, professional, and caring. They are good at what they do. They paid constant attention to any pain I might be having. They did not rush to complete the procedure, and double checked the actions to be taken. Great people.

I went in for a camp physical. So not a lot of in depth treatment however Dr. Hinman is always open to listening to me and allowing me to be a part of my healthcare.

EVENT THIS WEEKEND!



Village Manor STEPS of SUPPORT

Relay Walk

Saturday, June 6

8:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Village Manor Walking Trail
705 N Brady St., Abilene

Supporting Awareness For

MS • Alzheimer's/Dementia • Parkinson's • COPD

Registration and Sponsorship

- Participation Fee: \$10
- Event T-Shirt (optional): \$20-22
(T-shirt order will be placed on May 1 - please register by April 30 if you want a t-shirt.)
- Become a sponsor and help support this event.

Scan the code for all event information or visit www.mhsk.org



Event Activities

Several stops along the walk will provide information, yummy treats, and interactive fun:

- COPD ~ MS ~ Parkinson's ~ Alzheimer's
- Goat YOGA
- VM Community Garden
- Buy a Brick Program
- Resident Raffle
- Mental Health Services
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Caregiver and Grievance Support

All Proceeds Benefit Village Manor Resident Fund

Thank you for your support!



THE COLLMAN'S



DR. MARK SHEERN

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LOW-IMPACT STRENGTH TRAINING
BUILD STRENGTH | IMPROVE MOBILITY | GROW IN FAITH

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ALL FITNESS LEVELS WELCOME!

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Cost: Members \$5 Non-members \$10

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Hours of Operation

Monday.....	4am - 9pm
Tuesday.....	4am - 9pm
Wednesday.....	4am - 9pm
Thursday.....	4am - 9pm
Friday.....	4am - 7pm
Saturday.....	7am - noon
Sunday.....	closed

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Seeking hospice volunteers

- Share stories and conversation
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- Give caregivers a much-needed break
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If you have a caring heart and a few hours to share each month,

consider becoming a HOSPICE Volunteer

Flexible opportunities available

No medical experience is required. Training is provided.



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mhsks.org/hospicevolunteers/

"Being a hospice volunteer has been one of the most meaningful experiences of my life."

SCRUB SALE

Memorial Health System
Thursday, June 4
7:00 am - 5:00 pm

SCRUB HUB Mobile Unit
East Entrance Parking Lot



Payroll deduct, Apple Pay, Credit Cards, Checks & Cash Accepted

Proceeds benefit

Memorial Health System Volunteer Corps Project



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 A partnership between Abilene Public Library and Memorial Health Foundation

Free and open to the public year-round!

Memorial Health System awarded \$43,000 KDHE grant to enhance emergency training through virtual reality simulation

Memorial Health System has been awarded a \$43,000 Healthcare Upskilling and Training Grant through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to strengthen emergency preparedness training for clinical staff through the use of virtual reality simulation technology. The competitive grant program supports Kansas health care organizations that are investing in workforce development, specialized training and improved access to care.

Grant funding will allow Memorial Health System to implement a virtual reality medical simulation training program using the SimX VR platform. The technology will provide hands-on, immersive training experiences for emergency department staff, physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, respiratory therapists and other clinical team members involved in emergency response. Training scenarios will focus on high-risk, low-frequency emergencies commonly encountered in rural health care settings, including obstetric emergencies, pediatric respiratory failure, pediatric cardiac arrest, stroke response and critical emergency stabilization.

The grant application and implementation planning efforts were led by Angie Johnson, Chief Nursing Officer at Memorial Hospital, with support from internal team members during the review process. "As a rural health care organization, it is essential that our teams are prepared to respond quickly and confidently during critical situations," Johnson said. "This technology will allow our staff to practice complex emergency scenarios in a safe, realistic environment, while strengthening teamwork, communication and clinical decision-making skills."

The project is expected to train approximately 30 to 60 clinical staff members through ongoing simulation sessions over the next year. The program also will support long-term workforce development efforts by integrating virtual reality simulation into the organization's continuing education and competency training programs. "This grant represents an important investment in both our workforce and the patients we serve," Johnson said. "Rural health care teams must be prepared for emergencies that may occur infrequently, but require immediate, highly-coordinated care. Virtual reality simulation gives us the opportunity to strengthen those skills in a meaningful and sustainable way."

According to the KDHE, the Healthcare Upskilling and Training Grant Program was created to support initiatives that improve staff capacity, expand local training opportunities and strengthen employee retention within health care organizations across Kansas. As the only hospital serving Dickinson County, Memorial Health System provides care for more than 18,000 residents throughout the region. "The new training technology will further strengthen patient safety, emergency response efficiency and access to high-quality care, close to home," said Kimberly Haverly, Memorial Health System administrator.



Employee of the Month!

Wendy Stegner, RN



Wendy Stegner is our June Employee of the Month. With more than five years at Memorial Health System's long-term-care affiliate, Village Manor, Wendy exemplifies leadership, teamwork, professionalism, dedication, innovation, and customer service. Wendy is a trusted and dependable member of the Village Manor Nursing team. Residents and their families value her knowledge, experience, and commitment to providing exceptional care. They know that when Wendy is on duty, tasks will be handled thoroughly and with attention to detail. Even while managing a demanding workload, including caring for hospice residents who often require frequent and specialized attention, Wendy consistently balances multiple responsibilities with professionalism and compassion. She has remained dedicated through challenging times and continues to be a steady presence for both her coworkers and those she serves. Wendy's leadership, reliability, and "get it done" attitude make her an invaluable part of Village Manor. Her dedication has earned the respect of residents, families, and colleagues alike, and her positive impact is felt throughout the organization.

Congratulations, Wendy, and thank you for your continued dedication to Village Manor and Memorial Health System!



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MISSION

ENHANCE THE HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF ALL

VISION

BE THE HEALTHCARE PROVIDER AND EMPLOYER OF CHOICE.

CORE VALUES

- COMPASSION FOR ALL
- APPRECIATION FOR OTHERS
- RESPECT FOR EVERYONE
- EXCELLENCE THAT EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS



Cheers to
RETIREMENT!

After almost 20 years of service with MHS, Steve Cairns said goodbye to staff on May 28. A small celebration was held to honor Steve in the hospital cafeteria where he has worked for the last several years, before transferring from the maintenance department, where he held a Groundskeeper position for many years as well.

Pictured above is Steve with his wife, Mary on the right, who also works in the Food and Nutrition Service department at MHS, and Andra Cunningham, Director on the left.



JOIN OUR
TEAM

<https://mhsk.org/careers/>



CARES
 Co[♥]alition
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Looking for resources available in Dickinson County? Visit the CARES Coalition website and find what you are looking for with the online resources guide.

Memorial Health System is a proud member, and sponsor, of the CARES Coalition of Dickinson County.

