

#### Alydia Offutt

- Insurance navigator, SHICK counselor, and presumptive eligibility specialist for Medicaid.
- Assist people with financial assistance programs for both hospital and clinic.
- Outreach and community engagement person for the facility.
- And, "community resources!"

• Community Resources is technically my job title! In a nutshell, I work for the people, patients, and residents that come into the facility. I find/connect them to area resources/partners to meet basic needs: food, shelter, utilities, transportation, etc.

#### Transportation Challenges

- · Location of our facility/service area
- · Distance to see providers/specialists
- Distance to groceries, pharmacies, medical supplies, etc.
- Lack of available transportation companies. We don't have Uber/Lyft or other public services like railways or bus systems.
- Lack of available drivers/ can't travel out of town

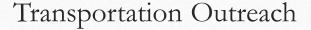


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#### Transportation Outreach

- Specialist from other areas i.e. Kearney and North Platte, Nebraska
- Options for telehealth visits and specialties like endocrinology and rheumatology.
- Mobile outreach services for mammograms and MRIs.
- · Behavioral Health services in area schools.
- Local public transportation serves Sheridan County residents.

- MOU's with surrounding 'touching" counties' transportation programs.
- Provide van vouchers for elderly/disabled/ Medicaid recipients.
- · Provide "Chamber Bucks" to SFS household
- Assist Medicaid patients with reimbursement from their MCO
- Partner with area organizations for gas cards for longer trips i.e. Denver, Wichita, Kansas City



- Building partnerships with many local hospitals, clinics and public health offices in our service area.
- Food pantry at our local Public Health office provides food boxes. I pick up and deliver to the patient. Same with medications at the local pharmacy.
- Home and on-site visits.

- FQHC pays for patients public transportation rides to other facilities when we refer.
- Small satellite clinic is open for very rural patients.

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#### Transportation Outreach

- We purchased a mobile unit. It is equipped to provide medical and dental services.
- Mobile unit is used in schools, independent living facilities, and others.
- Our goal is to meet patients where they are.



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NON-EMERGENT TRANSPORTATION SOLUTIONS FOR A KANSAS RURAL COMMUNITY

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR





#### Dear editor,

Something that bothers me is how older people can get free transportation, but younger people don't have those opportunities.

I have arthritis really bad in my knee and it takes all my energy to walk places. I am only 38 years old, but it's hard.

Sometimes people like me who don't have any means of transportation just don't have the money to pay people to take us places.

I don't know a lot of people in town so if I need to go somewhere to buy groceries or some other errand, I have to pay at least \$10 a trip for someone from out of town to come and take me.

lola needs to establish a means of free transportation for everyone. This morning, I had to walk to Dollar General to get a few things which is about a mile from my house. My arthritis has been acting up a lot recently because of all of the rain. It took all my energy to walk out there and back home and now I am in a lot of pain.

Thank you,

Angela Stanley

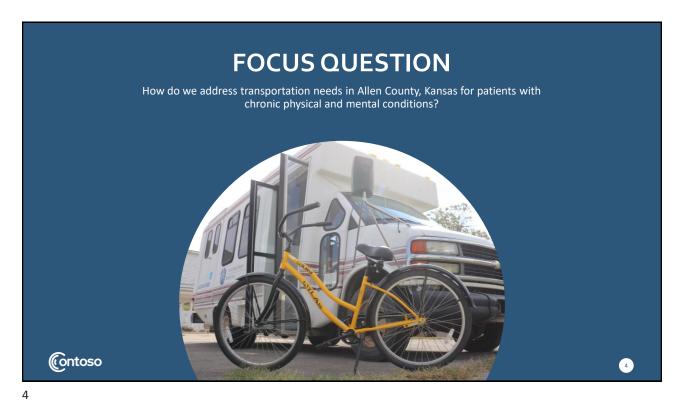
Iola, Kan.

Sept. 3, 2019

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Contoso





#### **KEY INSIGHTS**



County residents currently do not have reliable transportation options

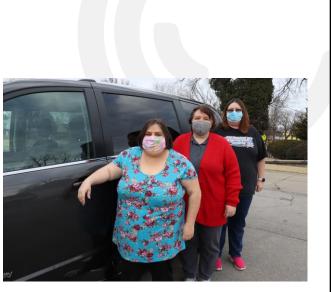
- 19% of Allen County residents are at or below FPL.
- 40% of cancelled outpatient surgeries at the hospital were due to transportation issues.
- Lack of transportation created domino effect in health and safety of residents.
- Health care workers were taking on transportation duties outside of their job.
- Patients experience anxiety and cascading health issues related to missed medical appointments.

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Contoso

#### **DESIGN CRITERIA**

- Reduced missed health care appointments in-county and out-ofcounty
- Affordable
- Flexible
- Easy to Use
- Relieved pressure from current medical staff
- Reduced stress of patients
- Available to all ages, mobilities, insurance types, and locations in county







Private grant funding



#### VALUE

Thrive Allen County's transportation program is changing lives.

"To me it's been a godsend," said Iolan Loren Mitchell, in reference to the local initiative. The 83-year-old said his daughter had been giving him rides to his dialysis treatments in Chanute, but her busy schedule often makes that impossible.

Fortunately for Mitchell, while attending dialysis one day, an employee there told him about Thrive's free, non-emergency transportation program, which is currently being piloted.

In no time, he was getting a lift to Chanute pro bono, sometimes multiple days per week.

"I was driving myself," Mitchell said, "but after I get done with treatment, a lot of the time, I'm weak and I'll fall or something."

"I fell down there [in Chanute] several times, one time, behind my car."

Such incidents, however, are now a thing of the past, and Mitchell can get back to lola from Chanute worry-free following treatment.











### SIX HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

A Mobility Manager Network









## ABOUT ME – MICHELLE COATS

- Mobility Manager for North Central Kansas
- Worked in Public Transit since 2016
- First Full Time Mobility Manager in the state
- Helped to establish 81 Connection, Kansas Rides website, KANcycle regional bike sharing, Mobility Week, Moving Kansas Network, Saline County FACT, Salina Mobility Working Group

### ABOUT PUBLIC TRANSIT IN KANSAS

140ish agencies

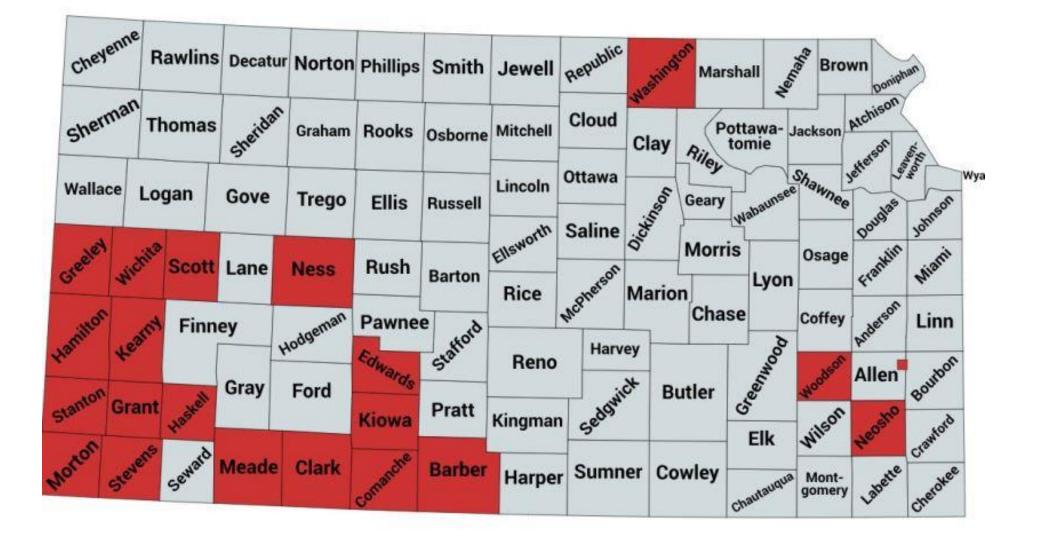
800+ vehicles

10,000,000 rides annually (7.5M urban, 2.5M rural)

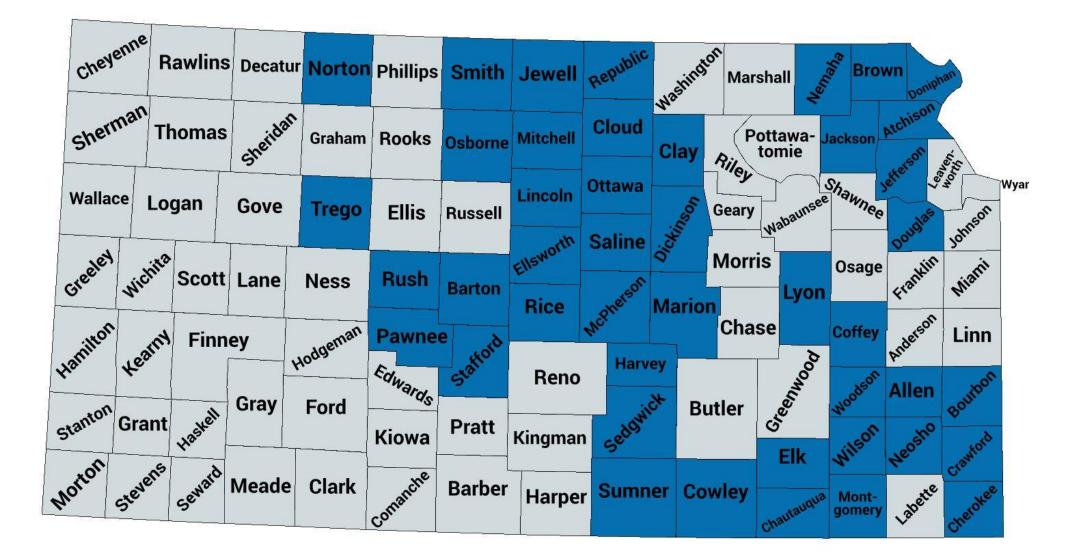
Transit service is relatively new across the state

Not all counties have transit service

More evolution needed

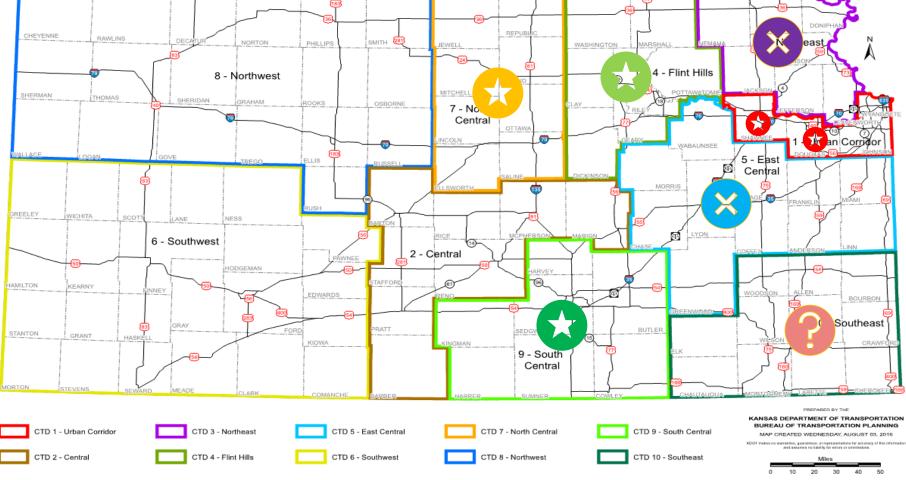


Kansas counties that need public transit as of 9/23/23



Kansas counties that have Medicaid (NEMT) public transportation as of 7/1/24

Coordinated Transit Districts - Beginning July 1, 2015



CTDs with Mobility Managers as of 7/25/24

# KDOT REGIONAL TRANSIT Kansas BUSINESS MODEL IMPLEMENTATION PLAN Kansas Ride ONOLSSON .

### MM STRUCTURE

- Host Agency Fiscal Agent
  - MM is not an employee
  - Benefits
  - No employees
  - Supervision differs
- Reporting
  - To CTD and to KDOT
- Rural vs. Urban
- Funding & Budget
  - KDOT pays 100% up to \$115,000
- Branding

### WHAT DO WE DOS



#### MOBILITY MANAGER WORK PLAN

2023-2024 EDITION

www.ksrides.org

- It depends . . .
- Each CTD is different.
- Each MM is different.
- Agencies are different.
- Regional goals are different.
- No two days are ever the same.

### FUN FACTS



- Michelle Griffin North Central
- Michelle (2016) Planning, project management, organization, marketing, networking, social media, public relations, graphic design, websites, multimodal, travel training, coalitions, rural



Mike Wilson Flint Hills • Mike Wilson (2018) – Tech guy, apps, cameras, equipment, digital signage, real time, refugees, travel training, community partnerships



### FUN FACTS



- Mike Spadafore Topeka/Shawnee Co.
- Mike Spadafore (2019) Rules, funding, policies, 5310s, nationwide connections, grant writing



Jessica Warren South Central  Jessica (2021) – Social work background, building relationships, community events



#### FUN FACTS



Dre Taylor Lawrence/Douglas Co  Dre (2022) – Planning background, mapping, GIS, volunteer drivers, relationship building, consensus building, travel training



# WHAT DO WE DO?

- Individual CTD work
  - Increase awareness of public transit options
    - Marketing, brochures, websites, social media, presentations
  - Help build ridership in services
    - Education and outreach
    - Travel Training
    - Amenities
  - Plan and develop projects and services
    - Project facilitation
    - Needs assessments
  - Act as a community resource
    - Transit experts
    - Resource for rides
    - Education for agencies
  - Connect people

# CONNECTING PEOPLE

Mobility Managers can be an important partner when engaging hospitals and other medical providers

- Initiate conversations between agencies
  - Community Health Needs Assessment
    planning and development
  - Community roundtables
  - Meetings, introductions, etc. between agencies and providers



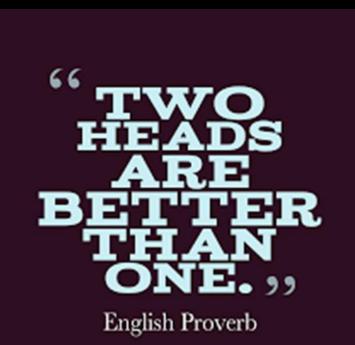
## CONNECTING PEOPLE

- Assist with new projects or service development
  - Find partnerships for free rides to medical facilities
  - Work towards solutions for solving late night trips, emergency room trips, hospital dismissals, etc.
- Share information about existing services
  - Travel training to hospital staff about options
  - Act as a community resource
  - Act as a trip planner for specific medical trips



#### HOW WE WORK TOGETHER:

- Shared Projects
  - Kansas Rides
  - Shared Platforms
  - Kansas Mobility Week
  - Bike Month
  - National Transportation Week
  - Moving Kansas Network
  - K-CART
  - Kansas Tech Summit
  - Food Access
  - Other Events





A Project of

- Statewide Public Transportation Resource
  - Organized by County
  - Find a Ride
  - News and Events
  - Multimodal
  - www.ksrides.org



### KANSAS MOBILITY WEEK

- Based on Florida
- 2021 17 events, 10 counties
- 2022 54 events, 37 counties
- 2023
  - 57 events
  - 38 counties
  - Two statewide events
- November 3-9, 2024









# FOOD ACCESS

#### DO YOU ACCEPT THE ASSIGNMENT?

- 1. Does your region have a MM? If not, help to get one.
- 2. Does your county have public transit? If not, help to get it.
- 3. Do you include transit professionals in your community needs assessments/projects? If not, start.
- 4. Do you participate in Kansas state events? If not, try this year.
- 5. Bookmark the Kansas Rides website.
- 6. Follow Kansas Rides on Facebook.



### WHAT QUESTIONS DO YOU HAVE?

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www.ksrides.org

www.salinacitygo.com

www.kancycle.org