KANSAS HEALTH IMPACT CONFERENCE

Bridging Gaps, Building Impact

Thursday, October 29, 2026 | Maner Conference Center | Topeka, KS

HOSTED BY kfmc Health Improvement Partners

All sessions & lunch are held in the Sunflower Ballroom, unless otherwise noted.

8:00 AM **Registration and Continental Breakfast**

8:30 AM **Welcome and Introductions**
Sarah Irsik-Good, MHA, President & CEO, KFMC Health Improvement Partners

8:45 AM **Opening Keynote**

Meeting People Where They Are:
Building Trust to Improve Community Health and Safety
Eric Kirsch, Sheriff, Wabaunsee County, Kansas

Sheriff Eric Kirsch shares how a people-centered, trust-based approach to public safety can drive meaningful change in rural communities. Drawing from real-world law enforcement experience, he highlights the role of empathy, collaboration, and consistency in improving connections between public systems and the individuals they serve. Attendees will gain practical strategies to strengthen partnerships, enhance community responsiveness, and advance health equity.

9:45 AM **Break | Networking & Visit Exhibitor Booths**

10:15 AM **Breakout Sessions**

Location: Pioneer Room
Reimagining Health Delivery with AI
James Joseph, Jr., MD, FAAOS, Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine

As healthcare systems face growing workforce shortages and rising demands, this session highlights how prescribed AI tools can support patients beyond traditional settings, shaping the future of care delivery while navigating regulatory and clinical considerations.

Location: River Room - Shawnee A
Building the Health Information Infrastructure that Rural Patients and Providers Actually Need
Kemper Tell, MS, MA, CEO, Lewis and Clark Information Exchange
Emily Brown, Senior Project Manager, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment

Learn how stronger health information infrastructure can improve care coordination in rural communities, with practical strategies for connecting providers and closing critical data gaps.

Location: Homestead Room - Shawnee B
Healthcare Happens Between Visits
Rachael Rivero, MSN, APRN, AGACNP-BC, Founder & CEO, Kansas Care Connect

This session explores gaps in care that occur outside the exam room and shares practical strategies to improve coordination, communication, and patient support between visits. Attendees will gain actionable ideas to strengthen continuity of care and better support individuals with complex health needs.

11:15 AM **Break | Networking & Visit Exhibitor Booths**

11:30 AM **Lunch & Health Equity Innovation Award**

12:30 PM **Data Walk**

Co-Creating Community Storytelling:
Using Data Walks to Bridge Gaps and Spark Community Action
Samiyah Para-Cremer Moore, Senior Analyst & Portfolio Strategist, Kansas Health Institute
Yazmin Wood, CEO, Legacy Regional Community Foundation
Sarah Johnson, Director of Marketing, Strategy, and Communications, William Newton Hospital
Erika Debrick Kelly, CEO, Hunger Free Kansas
Brett Martin, Vice President Community Impact, United Way of Kaw Valley

Explore hunger through an interactive Data Walk, where storytelling and conversation bring data to life. Engage with data, discuss solutions, and gain strategies to strengthen partnerships and drive lasting, equitable impact.

2:00 PM **Snacks & Visit Exhibitor Booths**

2:30 PM **Full Group Session**

Relationships Are Community Infrastructure:
Connecting Health, Business, and Community to Build Rural Opportunity
Jody Love, MBA, President & CEO, Healthy Bourbon County Action Team and Rural Community Partners

Participants will explore how trusted relationships can function as community infrastructure, why economic opportunity is essential to improving health, and how organizations can develop meaningful value propositions for nontraditional partners. The session will offer practical strategies for connecting existing community assets, building collaborations across sectors, and sustaining collective work beyond a single grant or program.

3:30 PM **Break | Networking & Visit Exhibitor Booths**

3:45 PM **Closing Session & Exhibitor Door Prizes**

Bridging Gaps, Building Impact

Together, attendees will identify promising strategies, strengthen connections across sectors, and generate practical actions that can be carried forward after the conference. This engaging session provides an opportunity to share perspectives, learn from peers, and leave inspired with new ideas and renewed commitment to creating meaningful community impact.

4:30 PM **Conference Adjourns**



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