



## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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### **Kansas Hospitals Commit to Healthier Environments**

***75 hospitals pledge to make healthier onsite food and beverage environments a priority***

(June 24, 2015) The Kansas Hospital Association is pleased to announce that the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation has received pledges from 75 Kansas hospitals committed to examining their current food and beverage practices. These hospitals will consider new policies that provide healthier food options in the hospital cafeteria and throughout the facility. This enhanced access to healthy food aims to positively impact hospital employees, patients and visitors, while also helping to establish norms for healthier living for the communities served.

Participating hospitals are working to adopt recommendations made by *Healthy Kansas Hospitals*, a three-year initiative that provides resources and technical assistance to participating facilities. Included in the assistance given to hospitals are on-site visits, webinars, toolkits and a *Healthy Kansas Hospitals* conference this fall.

The 75 participating hospitals represent 34,234 employees and 184,625 patient discharges each year who utilize the on-site amenities at the hospitals. With this initiative, health care settings have the potential to take the lead in creating a roadmap for other worksites to navigate the challenges associated with implementing healthier environments.

Hospitals make their own decisions related to changes to the food and beverage environment based on an individualized assessment. Examples of changes to food and beverage policies being made at some facilities as a result of participation in *Healthy Kansas Hospitals* include increasing the availability of healthy entrees, adding nutrition labeling for meals in the cafeteria, elimination of fried foods, adding healthier snack items to vending machines and increased employee education around the topic of nutrition and diet.

“We are excited that so many hospitals have joined *Healthy Kansas Hospitals*. Each of these hospitals are truly concerned about the health of their employees, patients and their communities,” said Melissa Hungerford, KHERF CEO and KHA Executive Vice President. “Signing on to participate is the first step in a process of considering their current practice, policies and implementing meaningful changes to make healthy food and beverage options an easy choice.”

Those hospitals participating in the initiative are: Allen County Regional Hospital, Iola; Anderson County Hospital, Garnett; Atchison Hospital, Atchison; Cheyenne County Hospital, Saint Francis; Children's Mercy South, Overland Park; Citizens Medical Center, Colby; Clara Barton Hospital, Hoisington; Clay County Medical Center, Clay Center; Cloud County Health Center, Concordia; Coffey County Hospital, Burlington; Comanche County Hospital, Coldwater; Community HealthCare Systems, Inc., Onaga; Community Memorial Healthcare, Inc., Marysville; Edwards County Hospital and Healthcare Center, Kinsley; Fredonia Regional Hospital, Fredonia; Girard Medical Center, Girard; Goodland Regional Medical Center, Goodland; Gove County Medical Center, Quinter; Graham County Hospital, Hill City; Great Bend Regional Hospital, Great Bend; Hamilton County Hospital, Syracuse; Hays Medical Center, Hays; Herington Municipal Hospital, Herington; Hiawatha Community Hospital, Hiawatha; Hillsboro Community Hospital, Hillsboro; Holton Community Hospital, Holton; Hospital District #1 of Rice County, Lyons; Hutchinson Regional Medical Center, Hutchinson; Kearny County Hospital, Lakin; Kiowa County Memorial Hospital, Greensburg; Kiowa District Healthcare, Kiowa; Labette Health, Parsons; Lane County Hospital, Dighton; Lawrence Memorial Hospital, Lawrence; Lindsborg Community Hospital, Lindsborg; Meade District Hospital/Artesian Valley Health System, Meade; Memorial Health System, Abilene; Mercy Hospital Fort Scott, Fort Scott; Mitchell County Hospital Health Systems, Beloit; Morris County Hospital, Council Grove; Neosho Memorial Regional Medical Center, Chanute; Newton Medical Center, Newton; Osborne County Memorial Hospital, Osborne; Phillips County Hospital, Phillipsburg; Providence Medical Center, Kansas City; Rawlins County Health Center Atwood; Republic County Hospital, Belleville; Rooks County Health Center, Plainville; Russell Regional Hospital, Russell; Saint John Hospital, Leavenworth; Saint Luke's Cushing Hospital, Leavenworth; Saint Luke's South Hospital, Overland Park; Salina Regional Health Center, Salina; Scott County Hospital, Scott City; Sedan City Hospital, Sedan; Shawnee Mission Medical Center, Shawnee Mission; Sheridan County Health Complex, Hoxie; Smith County Memorial Hospital, Smith Center; St. Catherine Hospital, Garden City; St. Francis Health, Topeka; St. Luke Hospital and Living Center, Marion; Stanton County Hospital, Johnson; Stevens County Hospital, Hugoton; Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Inc., Topeka; Susan B. Allen Memorial Hospital, El Dorado; Via Christi Hospital, Manhattan, Via Christi Hospital, Pittsburg; Via Christi Hospital St. Francis, Wichita; Via Christi Hospital St. Joseph, Wichita; Via

Christi Hospital St. Teresa, Wichita; Wamego Health Center, Wamego; Washington County Hospital, Washington; Wichita County Health Center, Leoti; William Newton Hospital, Winfield; and Wilson Medical Center, Neodesha.

The Healthy Kansas Hospitals initiative is a project of the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation. Established in 1969, by the Kansas Hospital Association, KHERF's mission is to facilitate collaboration and innovation to improve health delivery for Kansas communities. KHERF leverages grants and other funding to support projects, serving in a leadership role, as a partner in developing projects or simply serves as an administrator for grants and sub-contracts that are consistent with KHERF's vision and values.

The Kansas Hospital Association is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations and individuals that are committed to the health improvement of their communities. KHA membership includes 214 member facilities, of which 127 are full-service community hospitals. Founded in 1910, KHA maintains its vision of "an organization of hospitals working together to improve access, quality and the affordability of health care for all Kansans." For more information, visit [HealthyKansasHospitals.org](http://HealthyKansasHospitals.org).

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