



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Kansas hospitals test new models of health care delivery in rural areas

(May 18, 2015) – The Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation, established by the Kansas Hospital Association, has received a grant from the United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Hutchinson, KS, to test the potential of two different models of health care delivery in rural Kansas. The models were developed by a KHA sponsored group of interested hospital executives that began meeting in 2012 in response to the ever changing health care needs of rural communities in Kansas.

Five Kansas hospitals have been chosen to participate in the “paper test” of this project. Those hospital are Edwards County Hospital in Kinsley, Ellinwood District Hospital in Ellinwood, Wilson Medical Center in Neodesha, Fredonia Regional Hospital in Fredonia and Washington County Hospital in Washington. This testing is the next step prior to a demonstration project of the models.

“This project is a way to start thinking beyond the traditional hospital model to see what is actually needed to provide health care services at the highest standards of quality and patient safety while promoting cost and operational efficiencies,” said Dennis Shelby, Chair of the KHA Rural Health Visioning Technical Advisory Group.

KHERF commends these organizations for their willingness to seek rural health strategies that recognize the realities of rural communities and ensure all Kansans have access to care. Participation in the project is completely voluntary and does not commit the organization to change its current delivery method or status.

The ultimate goal of the project is to identify a financially sustainable model that can provide access to essential health services within a reasonable distance, while encouraging collaboration between local and regional providers.

The models could provide rural communities an alternative in health care delivery beyond just Critical Access Hospital status. Testing of these two models will include financial modeling and clinical analysis of hospital services to determine financial resources needed to fulfill local needs.

Established in 1969 by the Kansas Hospital Association, the Kansas Hospital Education and Research Foundation’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.

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