

KEARNY COUNTY HOSPITAL COMMUNITY REPORT

A special update on our vision and leadership in rural health



IMPROVING RURAL HEALTH: BY THE NUMBERS

Under CEO Benjamin Anderson's six years of leadership, Kearny County Hospital developed several successful programs and initiatives for improving the health of our community – and we are well positioned to continue and advance our goals.

Improving Maternal-Child Health

Pregnancy issues can cause serious complications. We partnered with Via Christi Health and the University of Kansas School of Medicine to create Pioneer Baby, which continues to improve the health of mothers and babies in our community.



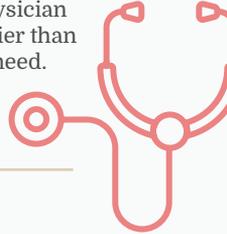
 **8.3%**
higher vaginal birth after c-section (VBAC) average than national average (2016-2017)

 **11%**
decrease in fetal macrosomia (large birth weight) since 2015

Expanded Access to Physicians

Our Mission-Focused Medicine physician recruitment model has made it easier than ever to receive the healthcare you need.

15 medical providers recruited to the region



Enhancing Financial Health

We are solving challenges to create more cost-effective care.

 **35%**
of days
improvement in hospital accounts receivable

 **41%**
of days
improvement in clinic accounts receivable

Good Stewardship of Funds

We have secured millions in grant funding from private, state and federal organizations.

\$2 MILLION+

for population health, quality management, cost control and access to care initiatives.

\$1.5 MILLION

in renovations completed for our surgical suites, hospital registration area and clinic space.

Improving Dementia Care

Psychotropic medications can have serious side effects, particularly for older adults.

 **27%** decrease in psychotropic drug use among our dementia care residents

Expanding Medication Access

We partnered with area pharmacies to introduce the federal 340B Drug Discount Program, making prescription drugs more affordable for our community.

5 local pharmacies now participate in the 340B program



Key Service Line Growth

Volume growth means more care for better health and healthcare utilization within our community.

 **59.7%**
more clinic visits in the last 5 years (since 2014)

 **114.1%**
more new patients in clinics in the last 5 years (since 2014)

 **67.7%**
more surgeries performed since 2017

 **41.6%**
more deliveries performed since 2015

PAVING THE WAY TOGETHER: PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION



Innovating Healthcare Delivery: Our Patient Care Team is focused on improving patient outcomes through better care coordination and case management.



Focusing on Outcomes and Safety: We hold daily leadership meetings to promptly address operational and safety issues that impact patient outcomes.



Advancing Population Health: We partnered with the University of Kansas School of Medicine to survey household awareness of health and wellness services to support new countywide strategies for improving population health. We also partner with the Baylor University Honors College for summer internships to assess population health needs.



Advocating for Children: Together with the Western Kansas Child Advocacy Center, we leverage grant funding to provide assault screenings for children from 30 Kansas counties through a mobile clinic.



Advocating for Refugees: We proudly developed the “Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner?” project that encourages refugee and traditional families to host each other for meals in their homes. With the Kansas Department of Revenue, we co-developed a program to assist with translation for refugees seeking drivers licenses.



Preparing Future Leaders: We developed and implemented the annual Kearny County Hospital Rural Healthcare Leadership Fellowship program to prepare tomorrow’s healthcare leaders through focused mentoring and leadership experiences.

THE NATION IS TAKING NOTE

Many successes outlined here have garnered national interest, including feature coverage and recognition from the following publications, media outlets and industry leaders:

- ✓ American Academy of Family Physicians
- ✓ American Hospital Association
- ✓ Associated Press
- ✓ *Becker's Hospital Review*
- ✓ CBS News Sunday Morning
- ✓ 2019 CMS Rural Health Strategy
- ✓ *GOVERNING* magazine
- ✓ *HealthLeaders*
- ✓ *The Hutchinson News*
- ✓ *The Kansas City Star*
- ✓ *The Wichita Eagle*
- ✓ Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- ✓ *LeadingAge Kansas*
- ✓ National Public Radio
- ✓ *New York Magazine*
- ✓ *The New York Times*
- ✓ *Politico* magazine
- ✓ *Rural Health Monitor*
- ✓ *U.S. News & World Report*
- ✓ *USA Today*
- ✓ *Hospital and Health Networks Magazine*
- ✓ *Modern Healthcare*

A LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

As you may know, Chief Executive Officer Benjamin Anderson has accepted a leadership position in rural health with the Colorado Hospital Association. On behalf of Kearny County Hospital's Board of Directors, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for his exceptional leadership here in Lakin for the past six years. Our achievements in program innovation, physician recruitment, financial growth and quality of care have made our hospital a national model for rural health and provided outstanding service to our community.

The advancements we have made and the recognition we have received – due in no small part to the tireless work of Benjamin and his team – have placed Kearny County Hospital in an excellent position to continue our successful path forward. Benjamin will consult with us through October in a transitional role, and we have launched a nationwide search for our next CEO, which may take up to 12 months. Meanwhile, we are fully confident in the continuing progress and positive direction of Kearny County Hospital under the interim leadership of Chief Operations Officer and acting CEO David Hofmeister.



Benjamin Anderson, CEO

As we take steps to identify the leadership of our future, we look forward to continuing our mission and fulfilling our vision for the health of Kearny County and beyond. Please join me in wishing the Anderson family the very best in this new chapter in their lives. The Colorado Hospital Association has gained a true leader, and we know Benjamin will continue to amplify his vision of rural health across Colorado and the nation. We are proud, honored and grateful to have been part of his professional and personal journey.

To your health,

Dan Patterson
Chair, Board of Directors
Kearny County Hospital



FIRST, DO THE RIGHT THING

Kearny County Hospital Establishes Itself as a Beacon for Better Rural Health

Health challenges exist everywhere, but they are magnified in rural America. Too often, people in small towns have less access to medical care, wellness programs and healthy lifestyle options. Mothers and babies experience more complications during pregnancy and childbirth because comprehensive prenatal care can be too far from home. People of all ages, but especially the elderly, struggle to find specialized support to overcome feelings of social isolation or mental health issues. Often, the standard of care may be compromised because patients are underinsured or face other financial challenges.

Kearny County Hospital has refused to accept that rural health cannot offer the care people need to live healthy, happy lives. The work involved is complex, but our driving force is simple: First, do the right thing.

That means pursuing optimal health outcomes for every person. Everyone receives the specific care they need, regardless of race, religion, gender or economic status – even if it requires finding creative ways to provide care that is not currently reimbursed. It means developing innovative solutions to complex problems with isolation, finances, staffing and quality of care. It even means inviting people to dinner and welcoming them into your family.

“We refuse to pave a path to better health that overlooks the poor and underserved – one that makes care decisions based solely on a patient’s form of payment,” Benjamin Anderson says. “That form of discrimination causes real harm to real people. We need creativity to survive, and even more to thrive.”

Over the past six years, Kearny County Hospital secured millions in funding to create new programs that in turn create a healthier community. We partner with other Kansas health systems for specialty care. To make quality care more accessible, we recruit physicians who are interested in mission-based medicine. We share our enthusiasm with the community, our recruitment approach with the region, and our strategies with the nation.

As a result, Kearny County Hospital has set a new standard for advancing rural health. Although Anderson is leaving Lakin for a leadership position at the Colorado Hospital Association to oversee Rural Health and Hospitals, he feels only optimism about Kearny County’s future.

“The seeds of the current culture, mission and values were in place long before I ever came here,” Anderson says. “I didn’t develop our culture of compassion. I’ve simply served as part of a team that



The experience and success Ben has had at Kearny County Hospital will leave healthcare in rural Kansas forever improved. Ben’s energy, passion and experience can have a similar impact as we work to transform access to healthcare in rural Colorado communities. We look forward to Ben joining our team and are excited to work with him to further strengthen the healthcare system in Colorado.

- Steven Summer,
CHA president and CEO

cultivated it, so it can reach its true potential. I am confident the progress and commitment to mission will continue under the leadership of David Hofmeister and with the support of the board, county commission, medical providers and support staff.”

Innovative programs for better outcomes

As CEO, Anderson has led the design and implementation of several patient-focused, health-centered accomplishments. Among the most significant is the Pioneer Baby program, a partnership with area clinics, the Kansas state government and The University of Kansas School of Medicine for better maternal-child health. Created with the support of grant funds from Children’s Miracle Network, Pioneer Baby has significantly improved prenatal care for women with gestational diabetes in Kearny County. The rate of gestational diabetes at KCH previously was twice the national average. Pioneer Baby also reduces other pregnancy complications and emphasizes overall family health and nutrition.

“A special investment in mothers is a special investment in our community because mothers care for everyone around them,” Anderson says.

Kearny County Hospital became nationally recognized for recruiting full-spectrum, family medicine doctors, who have specialized training in surgical care and obstetrics and can treat any patient. The hospital attracts mission-focused physicians to care for the unique needs of every individual, including the large number of immigrants in southwest Kansas’ culturally diverse area. They offer medical providers a generous time-off benefit each year, which allows them to do mission work with underserved patient populations in developing countries.

Kearny County Hospital also is making mental and emotional health a high priority. Many patients with depression or anxiety don’t have healthy support systems in place. “In rural areas, there are no purchasable replacements for the function of families,” Anderson says, so beyond the professional assistance the hospital provides (which is growing – see “Coming Soon”), he advocates for simple ways to build personal connections. He encourages community members to invite each other into their homes and spend time together at the dinner table – in short, to do the right thing by befriending one another.



Small, rural hospitals nationwide are struggling to serve their communities due to workforce shortages and financial challenges. Kearny County Hospital has been a bright light illuminating a path of mission-focused healthcare to a diverse frontier western Kansas community. This approach has drawn providers to not only Kearny County, but all over western Kansas. The impact will be felt in the lives of thousands of people in western Kansas who have felt the healing touch of providers drawn to this frontier mission field.

- Brock Slabach, Senior Vice President of Member Services, National Rural Health Association



The future remains bright

Kearny County Hospital has uncovered sustainable solutions and attracted national attention for rural health innovation. State and federal government agencies are working to replicate our programs in rural communities everywhere. Kearny County Hospital is now the most requested rural health training site by up-and-coming healthcare professionals at the University of Kansas Medical School, Kansas City.

As he continues to be part of the conversation for better rural health, Anderson says he will deeply miss the people of Kearny County. But he says he'll never stop being a champion from afar.

"As long as this organization maintains its soul and its relentless commitment to value every person equally, progress will continue here," Anderson says. "And that's good, because our patients, our community and our country need Kearny County Hospital to succeed, to prove there are effective ways to erase the health disparities between rural and non-rural America. That's the impact of the vision."

"Through quality, value and collaboration, Kearny County Hospital has become an exemplary leader in compassionate healthcare and community wellness," says David Hofmeister. "We have many great accomplishments on the horizon."

COMING SOON

Enhanced Care for Mental & Behavioral Health

To address issues of social isolation and access to behavioral healthcare in our community, Kearny County Hospital is expanding our mental and behavioral health services this fall. The program integrates behavioral health into our primary care model, with masters-level social workers on hand to offer mental health and wellness screenings for patients who report or exhibit signs of depression, anxiety or social difficulties.

"I am excited that this program will soon be available to the entire Kearny County community," Hofmeister says. "It is a major step in the right direction for overcoming the stigma of mental health issues, with the ultimate goal of helping people keep themselves safe."



500 E Thorpe St
Lakin, KS 67860

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