

County Health Rankings: Addressing Food Insecurity

AGENDA

November 4, 2021

- 9:00 a.m.** **Welcome**
Robert F. St. Peter, M.D., President and CEO, Kansas Health Institute
- 9:05 a.m.** **Keynote Speaker**
Gita Rampersad, J.D., M.H.A., Vice President of Health Systems Innovation, Feeding America
- 9:30 a.m.** **2021 County Health Rankings: Leveraging Data and Tools**
Tatiana Lin, M.A., Team Leader for Population Health, Kansas Health Institute
- 9:45 a.m.** **Lightning Talks: Leveraging Community Networks to Improve Affordability, Accessibility and Availability of Food**
Introductions: *Chad Austin, M.H.S.A.*, President and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association
Jessica Kejr, M.S.W., Director of Programs and Client Collaboration Initiatives, Harvesters - The Community Food Network
Lacey Mollel, C.R.H.C.P., Clinic Operations Manager, Kearny County Hospital
Matt O'Malley, Director of Outreach and Development, Eat Well Food Policy Council Chair, Live Well Crawford County
Geovannie Gone, L.M.A.C., M.S., Chief Administrative Officer, Genesis Family Health, Finney County
Andrea Clark, A.I.C.P., Policy and Planning Manager, KC Healthy Kids
- 10:25 a.m.** **Panel Discussion: The Role of Philanthropy, Business and the Farming Community in Addressing Food Insecurity in Kansas**
Moderator: *Kim Gasper*, Director of Fund Development, Harvesters - The Community Food Network
Teresa Miller, J.D., President and CEO, Kansas Health Foundation
Qiana Thomason, M.S.W., President and CEO, Health Forward Foundation
Virginia Barnes, M.P.H., Director of Blue Health Initiatives, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas
Scott Thellman, Owner, Juniper Hill Farms, Sunflower Provisions
- 10:55 a.m.** **Closing Remarks**
Brian Walker, President and CEO, Kansas Food Bank
- 11:00 a.m.** **Adjourn**



KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Title: Ending Hunger Together

Gita Rampersad, J.D., M.H.A., Vice President of Health Systems Innovation, Feeding America. Rampersad is a passionate population health professional and seasoned healthcare transactional attorney with a successful history of accelerating efforts to tackle health and health care disparities; diversity, equity and inclusion; the social determinants of health and care coordination. She manages national health partnerships and leads all major health equity projects for the second largest charity organization in the US. A native of Chicago and expert in place-based initiatives, partnerships and community engagement, she is a thought leader for organizations involved in the development of cross-sector efforts to improve health and wellbeing, promote health equity and advance policy. Rampersad holds a JD from Loyola University Chicago School of Law with a certificate in health law, and a Master of Healthcare Administration from the University of Illinois School of Public Health.

2021 COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS: Leveraging Data and Tools



Tatiana Lin, M.A., Team Leader for Population Health, Kansas Health Institute. Lin directs KHI work in population health. She provides research, analysis, technical assistance, facilitation services and education about evidence-based practices and data resources to communities, state-level task forces, coalitions and other groups interested in improving health. Lin also assists hospitals and health systems working on population health initiatives. She spearheads efforts on Health Impact Assessments, which assess the potential health effects of policies not usually associated with health – such as transportation, agriculture or housing.

Lin serves on multiple state and national advisory boards and is past president of international Society of Practitioners of Health Impact Assessment (SOPHIA). Prior to joining KHI, she worked for the Kansas Legislative Research Department.

Lin earned a master's degree in political science with a certificate in international service from Kansas State University. She also earned degrees in linguistics and law from Chuvash State University in Cheboksary, Russia.

INTRODUCTION of LIGHTNING TALKS



Chad Austin, M.H.S.A., President and CEO, Kansas Hospital Association. Austin became president and CEO of the Kansas Hospital Association in September 2020. He began his career at KHA in 1999 as the director of data services. Throughout Austin's tenure at the hospital association, he has held responsibilities for managing the association's data related activities, rural health and Critical Access Hospital issues, and the oversight of the Kansas Rural Health Options Project. Prior to becoming president and CEO, Austin was the primary government relations representative overseeing all state and federal advocacy initiatives for the association.

In his role as president and CEO of KHA, he serves on several boards, including the Health Alliance of Mid-America, KAMMCO, Kansas Healthcare Collaborative, and the Regional Policy Board of the American Hospital Association. Austin is a member of the American College of Healthcare Executives and the Kansas Association of Health Care Executives.

Austin is a native Kansan, and received his bachelor of science from Kansas State University, Manhattan, and his master's in health services administration from the University of Kansas, Lawrence. Austin and his wife, Dani, live in Topeka. They are the parents of three boys, Brandon, Alex and Ryan.

LIGHTNING TALKS: Leveraging Community Networks to Improve Affordability, Accessibility and Availability of Food



Title: Resource Connections: SNAP Outreach and Application Assistance in Kansas

Jessica Kejr, M.S.W., Director of Programs and Client Collaboration Initiatives, Harvesters - The Community Food Network. Kejr is responsible for oversight, supervision, and strategic planning for BackSnack, School Pantry, Kids' Café, USDA commodity

programs and SNAP Outreach. She is also actively engaging new partners across various fields to develop programs and partnerships that promote stability and contribute to ending hunger in our communities. This includes emerging work within Harvesters' Food+ initiative, which engages non-traditional partners in the mission to end hunger.



Title: Leveraging Rural Relationships to Make Change

Lacey Mollel, C.R.H.C.P., Clinic Operations Manager, Kearny County Hospital. As a Certified Rural Health Clinic Professional, Mollel oversees all aspects of Kearny County Hospital's rural health, specialty and outreach clinics. Her passion is addressing barriers to care, and she

has been instrumental in implementing several grants and initiatives at KCH surrounding maternal/child health outcomes, access to mental health services, and initiatives to encourage engagement in the healthcare system among people of diverse backgrounds. Mollel has been with Kearny County Hospital since 2014. A graduate of Anderson University, she uses her social sciences background to look at systems analytically and find implementable changes to address the needs of the most vulnerable in the community. When Mollel is not working, she enjoys family time with her four children and her husband.



Title: Gardeners Grow Food, Gardens Grow Communities

Matt O'Malley, Director of Outreach & Development, Eat Well Food Policy Council Chair. O'Malley currently focuses on grants for food pantry sustainability, tobacco free parks and youth addiction prevention. His previous grant work was focused on improving the health of Arma, KS, residents

through healthy food access projects. O'Malley is an active community volunteer, a 3-year chair of the Eat Well Crawford County food policy council, the secretary for the county's Addiction Prevention Taskforce and a candidate for the 2021 Pittsburg City Commission race.



Title: Addressing Food Access: Mobile Food Distribution

Geovannie Gone, L.M.A.C., M.S., Chief Administrative Officer, Genesis Family Health (Finney County). Gone oversees the development and implementation of organizational and business strategies, new business initiatives, addresses Health Equity, Diversity, and

related objectives. She provides oversight to Government and Foundations' grant programs and other enabling services of the corporation. Gone manages the marketing, communications, SDoH department and the Public and Private relationships.



Title: Greetings from Kansas: Postcards for Policy Change

Andrea Clark, A.I.C.P., Policy & Planning Manager, KC Healthy Kids. As a member of the policy team at KC Healthy Kids, Clark focuses on the connections between active living, food security, and the built environment through the lens of social justice.

Her work also supports initiatives of the Greater KC Food Policy Coalition, including leading the Urban Farm Zoning and Planning Task Force. She is actively involved in the Food Systems Division of the American Planning Association.

She is a graduate of Fort Hays Graduate School and has a master's degree in Public Health. Gone is also a licensed Nutritionist, and a licensed Addictions Counselor. She currently serves as a member of the State of Kansas Nursing Board and is an advisor for the Kansas Hispanic Latino Commission. Gone also serves her community as a board member of the Garden City Police Department and Ethnic Empowerment group Network.

PANEL MODERATOR



Kim Gasper, Director of Fund Development, Harvesters - The Community Food Network. Gasper oversees and manages all fundraising programs, including planning, goal setting, implementing and evaluating all fundraising activities to secure financial support and meet Harvesters' fundraising goals. She has nearly 20 years of experience in fundraising and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Communications from Missouri State University.

PANEL: The Role of Philanthropy, Business and the Farming Community in Addressing Food Insecurity in Kansas



Teresa Miller, J.D., President and CEO of Kansas Health Foundation. Miller joined the Kansas Health Foundation (KHF) as President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in May 2021. She comes to KHF following more than six years serving in state government in Pennsylvania, most recently as Secretary for the Department of Human Services. In this role, Miller led a department working to address health disparities and racial inequities, finding innovative ways to address social determinants of health like food insecurity, housing and employment, connecting Medicaid enrollees to work supports, redesigning employment and training programs for Pennsylvania's lowest income residents and supporting Pennsylvania's most vulnerable residents through the pandemic. As the leader of the department, Miller oversaw a staff of approximately 16,000 and a total budget of more than \$45 billion. A native of Oregon, she received a juris doctor from Willamette University College of Law and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Psychology from Pacific Lutheran University.



Qiana Thomason, M.S.W., President and CEO, Health Forward Foundation. Thomason is a life-long Kansas Citian who has dedicated her career to the improvement of health and wellness across the region, with a special focus on communities experiencing significant health injustices. She serves as president and CEO of Health Forward Foundation. By focusing on people most in need, Health Forward works through partnership and advocacy to transform communities so everyone has a fair and just opportunity for better health. Thomason currently serves on the board of Grantmakers in Health, a national organization dedicated to helping foundations improve the health of all people. She also serves on the City of Kansas City, MO, Health Commission. She received her undergraduate degree in Social Work from Florida A&M University and has a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Kansas. Qiana's most gratifying "gigs" are wife to Cedric Thomason and mother to two daughters, Zoe and Kai.

PANEL: continued



Scott Thellman, Owner, Juniper Hill Farms, Sunflower Provisions. Thellman is a first generation farmer and owner of Juniper Hill Farms, LLC, a diversified farm producing organic and conventional vegetables, row crops and hay located in Douglas County, Kansas. He has a passion for organic and sustainable agricultural production, post-harvest handling, food systems and the economics of growing. A graduate of Iowa State University, Thellman returned to Kansas in 2014 to continue growing his agricultural operation while also working to strengthen the region's food systems to better serve his local and regional communities with fresh and affordable locally grown produce. In March of 2020, during the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, he and a local meat distributor launched Sunflower Provisions, an online local grocery marketplace for quality produce, proteins and provisions to help deliver food to their local community and beyond. Thellman's farm also served as a USDA contractor for the Farmers to Families Food Box Feeding Program, sourcing, packing and distributing over 25,000 boxes of fresh produce to food banks during the USDA's first and second contract periods for the program. He

has been recognized as Kansas Farm Bureau's Young Farmer of the Year in 2019, and was recognized nationally as a top ten Young Farmer and Rancher by the American Farm Bureau in 2020.



Virginia Barnes, M.P.H., Director of Blue Health Initiatives, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas. Barnes joined Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas in October of 2015 as director of Blue Health Initiatives. Blue Health Initiatives formalized the company's long-time efforts to improve the health and quality of life of all Kansans. As director, Barnes is responsible for investing in communities to create sustainable, healthy places where Kansans live, work, and play in ways that improve the quality of their lives. Barnes brings to her role at Blue Cross a strong background in public health, having spent more than eight years at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) in a variety of roles. She earned a bachelor's in biology from Washburn University and a master's in public health from the University of Kansas. Barnes currently serves on the Kansas Public Health Association Board and numerous advisory committees focused on improving health in Kansas. She is a lifelong Kansan and lives in Topeka with her husband and two children.

CLOSING REMARKS



Brian Walker, President and CEO, Kansas Food Bank. Walker is the President and CEO of the Kansas Food Bank which covers 85 Kansas counties. He has spent the last 23 years working to ensure hungry Kansans have food on their table. The Food Bank has instituted numerous programs to reach the most rural areas of Kansas. Food 4 Kids, Bob Box senior boxes and Mobile Pantries are all designed to meet the needs of the most at risk population whether that be in an urban or rural setting.



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