



# Exploring Medicaid Benefits: *How KanCare Addresses Health-Related Social Needs*

## 1 p.m. **Welcome**

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**Kari M. Bruffett**, President and CEO, Kansas Health Institute

## 1:05 p.m. **KanCare and Health-Related Social Needs Overview**

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**Sheena L. Schmidt, M.P.P.**, Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader,  
Kansas Health Institute

## 1:25 p.m. **KanCare Conversations**

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**Moderator: Sheena L. Schmidt, M.P.P.**, Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Leader,  
Kansas Health Institute

**Lucia Jones Herrera, M.S.N., R.N.**, Associate Director for SDOH and Maternal  
Program, United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas

**Stephanie Jerguson, B.S.N., R.N., C.C.M.**, Maternal and Child Health Program  
Coordinator, United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas

**Thamara Subramanian, M.P.H.**, Health Equity Director, Healthy Blue Kansas

## 2 p.m. **Community Perspective**

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**Moderator: Emma Uridge, M.P.H.**, Analyst, Kansas Health Institute

**Angela Scott**, CHW Field Supervisor, Communities Organizing to Promote Equity  
(COPE), University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Family Medicine and  
Community Health

## 2:25 p.m. **Closing Remarks**

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## 2:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

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**Lucia Jones Herrera, R.N., M.S.N., Associate Director for SDOH and Maternal Program, United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas**

Jones Herrera is a nurse with a master’s degree in education. She worked in clinical care for about 11 years, and in 2014, she joined a local nonprofit to run programs related to health care access, health literacy and disease management. Since 2014, she has been involved in multiple coalitions and collaboratives that aim to improve health outcomes and decrease disparities. In 2019, Jones Herrera joined UHC to support the development on social determinants of health and maternal strategies.



**Stephanie Jerguson, B.S.N., R.N., C.C.M., Maternal and Child Health Program Coordinator, United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas**

Jerguson is a dedicated registered nurse with experience in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU), maternal health, health care quality, and case management. She leverages this experience in her current role as Program Coordinator for the Maternal and Child Program with United Healthcare Community Plan of Kansas to help address social determinants of health needs. Jerguson’s passion for health care and dedication to improving health outcomes have driven her to diligently address the needs of families across Kansas. She firmly believes that addressing needs is crucial to enhancing overall health and has contributed to the betterment of health care services and the lives of countless families across the state.



**Angela Scott, CHW Field Supervisor, Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE), University of Kansas Medical Center, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health**

Scott, a CHW Field Supervisor for the COPE project at the University of Kansas Medical Center, has more than eight years of experience supervising Community Health Workers (CHWs). She has been instrumental in developing a statewide CHW program across 20 counties in Kansas. As a CHW consultant, she provides job readiness training for CHWs and guides organizations in CHW program implementation. Scott is the Co-President of the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition, championing CHW recognition, sustainability and education.



**Thamara Subramanian, M.P.H., Health Equity Director,  
Healthy Blue Kansas**

Subramanian is a born and raised Kansan with a passion for the intersection between health and justice. She currently serves as the Health Equity Director for a KanCare Managed Care Organization, Healthy Blue Kansas, where she is responsible for overseeing and implementing a whole health strategy to reducing disparities and improve cultural competence, and foster health and wellness across programs, policies, and initiatives for Medicaid members across Kansas.

Thamara shares her insights and leadership throughout the community through volunteerism, including involvement in Girls on the Run and Big Brothers Big Sisters Kansas City. Previously, Thamara worked in both health education and equity and inclusion consulting and co-authored a book, *Racial Justice at Work: Practical Solutions to Systemic Change*. Thamara has a bachelor's in science in Psychology and Medical Anthropology from University of Michigan, and a master's in public health from Harvard School of Public Health.