

Partnership Between Silver City Health Center and KC Agencies Providing Education on the HPV Vaccination

A unique partnership has been formed between KAMU and two Kansas City agencies that exist to address the primary care, health education, and health prevention needs of residents in Wyandotte and Johnson counties in Kansas. Silver City Health Center, a KAMU member, makes high-quality and culturally-sensitive medical services available to the medically indigent and underserved. With a similar focus, El Centro staff and volunteers have worked to improve the lives of families in Wyandotte County for over thirty years through the provision of educational, social and economic opportunities. Now, these organizations have banded together with KAMU to provide enhanced access and education about important health and wellness issues. Specifically, the purpose of this partnership is develop and deliver a community program to inform and improve human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination rates in the Argentine Community of Kansas City, Kansas.

KAMU has sponsored the Kansas Community HealthCorps program for the last eight years. Through this program, KAMU places AmeriCorps members in safety net clinics across the state in order to create a strong health care workforce that is sensitive to the needs of the medically underserved. Further, this program works to increase healthcare access and reduce health disparities among medically underserved Kansans. Through this current collaboration, KAMU has placed an AmeriCorps worker at El Centro who will identify women seeking access to the HPV vaccination and provide education to women and their families about the benefits of the vaccination. Subsequently, the AmeriCorps worker will assist interested women in the completion of the HPV vaccination series at Silver City Health Center, which has been recognized for being one of the top two private clinics in the state for administration of this vaccine.