



Sunflower Foundation
HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

Wamego clinic awarded grant to expand efforts to integrate physical and behavioral health care

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The Sunflower Foundation Board of Trustees has awarded \$60,000 to the Community Health Ministry Clinic (CHM) in Wamego to expand its efforts to integrate behavioral and physical health care.

The two-year grant will allow CHM to hire a full-time licensed social worker and extend hours for advanced practice registered nurse availability. The grant is part of Sunflower's Integrated Care Initiative, which supports primary care and behavioral health safety net systems that are working to deliver health care for the whole person.

Media inquiries:
Phil Cauthon, Director
of Communications
(785) 232-3000,
ext. 101 or [email](mailto:pcauthon@sunflowerfoundation.org)

"We've treated mental health and physical health care separately for decades. But thanks to the work of dozens of partners like those in Wamego, more and more Kansans are getting the benefits of integrated care," said Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation.

"Health outcomes are improved when we treat a patient's whole being in a single clinical setting — instead of expecting patients to coordinate their own care in a complicated network of providers," Hall said.

This is the second grant awarded to CHM to help the clinic expand its physical and behavioral health services. The first grant in 2013 allowed the clinic to expand staffing hours, add consulting services and train staff.

"The first grant taught our staff that integration is a great deal more than coordinating services," said CHM Executive Director Ben Meek. "This second grant will provide the expertise to refine the process and increase both effectiveness and professionalism."

Since its inception in 2012, the Integrated Care Initiative has awarded 19 grants totaling more than \$2.2 million. It also founded the Learning Collaborative, where more than 100 participants from grantee organizations and other partners have worked to learn from each other's efforts.

For more information, please contact Phil Cauthon, Sunflower's Director of Communications: pcauthon@sunflowerfoundation.org or (785) 232-3000.