



Sunflower Foundation

HEALTH CARE FOR KANSANS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Sunflower Foundation Announces New Leader and Initiative

TOPEKA - The Topeka-based Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans is pleased to announce that Melody Martin has joined the statewide health philanthropy to serve as-program officer for the foundation's new Integrated Care Initiative, which will focus on the integration of primary and behavioral health care.

People's minds and bodies are inseparable – except when it comes to health care. All too often, physical and mental health conditions are treated separately from one another. A growing body of research and experience shows that integrating, or systematically coordinating, physical and behavioral health care to treat the whole person can improve health. The Integrated Care Initiative is designed to work in partnership with primary and behavioral health providers. The focus is not on where the patient receives services but how. With integrated care, primary care and behavior health providers coordinate and collaborate closely to provide a seamless continuum of care for the patient.

The Sunflower Foundation has been interested in mental health for several years. After researching issues in access and quality and assessing how to be most helpful, the foundation determined that integrated care was a good match to its long-term interest in access to health care and support of the health care safety net.

During the early stages of the initiative, Martin will meet with organizations and providers across the state as she and the foundation gain a better understanding of integration efforts currently underway in Kansas and existing perspectives on integrating primary and behavioral health care. The foundation intends to take an incremental approach in creating the Integrated Care Initiative to ensure its relevance to Kansans and to the existing and emerging needs of health care delivery systems. As the program develops, the foundation anticipates opportunities for funding, education and technical assistance. Details will be released as the initiative unfolds.

(more)

“The Sunflower Foundation is honored to have Melody join our team and lend her expertise in this area,” Billie Hall, President and CEO of the Sunflower Foundation, said. “Melody has been involved in integrative care for several years through her work with the Maine Primary Care Association. Maine has been at the forefront of integrative care, and her experience will be invaluable to Kansas as we embark on this new adventure.” [[Martin’s bio](#)]

The mission of the Sunflower Foundation is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans, which it supports through a program of grants and related activities. Further details of the foundation’s programs and grants are available at www.sunflowerfoundation.org.

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