**The Greater Kansas City Health Care Economy Forum**

**The Economic Benefits of Community Health Workers**

**FEATURED SPEAKERS**

**Liz Cessor**

Vice President of Mission and Community Service, Saint Luke’s Health System

Liz Cessor joined Saint Luke’s Health System in 1998 and is currently the System Vice President for Mission and Community Service. From 2005 to November 2013 she was also the CEO/Executive Director for Cabot Westside Health Center.

Since joining Saint Luke’s, Liz’s history in healthcare has always had a major focus on charity care. Her responsibilities are in developing policies and procedures that apply to the provision of charity care while integrating the mission, philosophy and core values of hospitals. Her association with Saint Luke’s Health System began after a fifteen year career in healthcare and was formally the Administrator for the Internal Medicine Midwest Medical Group (formerly Columbia HCA). Liz grew up in Kansas City, Missouri, and holds a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration.

**Jeff Pinkerton**

Senior Researcher, Mid-America Regional Council

Jeff has served as the Senior Researcher for the Mid-America Regional Council for 13 years. In that capacity, he tracks economic and demographic trends in the Kansas City area. His duties include the bi-annual Greater Kansas City Economic Forecast, providing data and analysis on the Kansas City area workforce for the Regional Workforce Intelligence Network and managing MARC’s economy website, KCeconomy.com.

In analyzing the Kansas City area workforce, Jeff has studied the area labor shed, labor market information, workforce supply gaps and the region’s industrial strengths and weaknesses.

Prior to coming to MARC, Jeff was the Chief Economist at the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, and a Researcher for the Downtown Council of Kansas City, Missouri. Jeff has a B.A. degree in economics and a master’s in urban economics from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. Jeff and his wife Andrea have two children.

**Joan Cleary**Executive Director-Interim, Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance

Joan Cleary provides consulting and transitional leadership services to nonprofits, foundations, healthcare and government. She is currently serving as interim executive director of the Minnesota Community Health Worker Alliance. Prior to starting her consulting practice in 2010, Joan led grantmaking, policy support and leadership development initiatives for the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota Foundation including its community health worker field-building efforts and upstream focus on social determinants of health.

In a health and human services career spanning 30 years, Joan has worked in community, nonprofit, clinical, think tank, government and philanthropy settings. She is a graduate of Oberlin College and the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University

**Dennis Dunmyer**

Vice-President of Behavioral Health and Community Programs, Kansas City CARE Clinic

Dennis Dunmyer, BBA, MSW, JD, graduated from Widener University School of Law in 2003 with his Juris Doctor degree and from the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice in 2005 with a Master’s degree in Social Work. Dennis also holds a Bachelor’s in Business Administration from James Madison University. He has over fifteen years of experience working in the non-profit sector. Prior to joining the Clinic in 2009, Dennis was the Manager of Admissions for Marillac Children’s Psychiatric Hospital and Residential Center. Mr. Dunmyer is responsible for all community services at the Clinic – including behavioral health, case management, education and prevention services and evaluation services. Dennis is especially interested in models of care that incorporate community health workers and ways to improve the delivery of health literate services.

**Jeannine Midgett**

St. Sabina Wellness Program Manager,First Hand Foundation

The overall goal of the St. Sabina Wellness Center is to provide health navigation, health assessments and condition management to improve the health of the parishioners. Jeannine Midgett St. Sabina Wellness Center program manager brings together community stakeholders to explore and execute solutions.  The St. Sabina Wellness Center provides exceptional parishioner care and advance health care delivery through the transfer of knowledge and information to inform, inspire, motivate and empower participants while leveraging the latest technology.

Jeannine joined First Hand Healthe Communities in July 2013 after nine years with Truman Medical Center in leadership roles as Director of Community Outreach, Associate Director TMC Charitable Foundation and Director of Volunteer and Auxiliary Services. Before returning to Kansas City Jeannine served as President/CEO of ACCESS Inc., an IT consulting firm headquartered in Roswell Georgia.

A dance major at the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance performing with the Kansas City Ballet, Jeannine is deeply committed to the arts and service in the community. She serves of the boards of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department Office of Community Complaints and the UMKC Conservatory of Music and Dance Advisory Board. She is a member of the Greater Kansas City Chapter of LINKS Inc., and Lyric Opera Circle.

**Cristina Ramirez**

Team Leader of Health Care Innovation Challenge Award, Truman Medical Centers

Cristina has worked for Truman Medical Center for the past 8 years. She has prior experience working in mental health, addictions, domestic violence, children welfare and families. Cristina graduated with her Bachelors of Social Work from University of Central Missouri and her Masters in Social Work from University of Kansas. She is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in the state of Missouri.