

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Care Network of Kansas Provides Mental, Behavioral Health Solutions

TOPEKA, KS — Community Care Network of Kansas joins the nation in mourning the losses and recovering from the trauma left in the wake of the seemingly relentless gun violence. Following each crisis, the national conversation quickly pivots toward mental illness. “As a network of statewide providers of whole-person health care, we know that people with mental illness are much more likely to be victims of violence than perpetrators of violence. Stigma and stereotypes distract from the ability to seek real, comprehensive solutions and live in recovery from these serious illnesses,” said Denise Cyzman, Chief Executive Officer, Community Care Network of Kansas.

Community Care applauds recent legislative efforts to strengthen the state’s mental health infrastructure while seeking increased collaboration amongst community mental health centers and other community-based mental health providers. Community care clinics are an essential part of the solution to the mental health crisis in Kansas. “Together, as educators, advocates, and innovators, we must unite across industries and platforms in the interest of bringing comprehensive health care to all Kansans. Healthy people make healthy communities. The more partners and resources Kansas has, the stronger our voice and our impact can be,” Cyzman said.

One in ten Kansans relies on a community care clinic for whole-person health care, which can include medical, dental and behavioral health services. “The community health center model provides an opportunity for affordable access to mental health services for all individuals, regardless of insurance status or ability to pay,” said Amy Falk, Community Care Board President and CEO of Health Partnership Clinic. “For example, at Health Partnership Clinic we offer an integrated model of care. This means our providers and support staff collaborate to provide the best quality of care. With the recent surge of violent tragedies, it’s vital that the primary care team includes mental health. We screen every patient for mental health related concerns, and our licensed mental health team is available to address these concerns and provide resources to all of our patients.”

“Health care focused on the entire body – including the mind – is the future of health care, and community care clinics have been ahead of the curve for years,” Cyzman said.

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Community Care Network of Kansas exists to achieve equitable access to high quality health care for all Kansans. As the Primary Care Association (PCA) for Kansas, Community Care supports and strengthens its members through advocacy, education and communication. Community Care’s diverse membership includes public and private nonprofit primary care clinics, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), local health departments and rural health clinics. For more information, visit CommunityCareKS.org. Follow us on Facebook & Twitter: @CommunityCareKS