

# WYANDOTTE COUNTY HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



"What are we doing differently today to stem the tide of racism?  
It has to be all of us together. As we are together, we make progress."

— Broderick Crawford, HETF co-founder



## The Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force (HETF): 2022 Annual Report and Shared Governance Framework

In 2022, the HETF Core Team was led by:

- Erica Andrade | El Centro, Inc.
- Rev. Tony Carter | Salem Missionary Baptist Church
- Dr. Erin Corriveau | KU Medical Center / UG Public Health Department
- Gordon Criswell | fmr. UG Assistant County Administrator
- Nicole Garner | UG Public Health Department
- Andrea Generaux | LISC KC (fmrly. Livable Neighborhoods)
- Dr. Allen Greiner | KU Medical Center / UG Public Health Department
- Randy Lopez | Wyandotte Health Foundation / KCKPS USD 500 School Board
- DaRon McGee | Swope Health
- Dr. Jerrihlyn McGee | KU Medical Center
- Adrienne Meyer | Midland Care Connection / NBC CDC
- Luz Ortiz | UG Public Health Department
- Andrea Perdomo-Morales | Vibrant Health
- Mariana Ramirez | JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health
- Rev. Mang Sonna | Bethel Neighborhood Center
- Angela Sublett-Knight | UG Public Health Department

The HETF is a collaboration between community and health leaders and the Unified Government of Wyandotte County, Public Health Department (UGPHD). The HETF receives backbone support from UGPHD staff supervised by Nicole Garner, UGPHD Planning & Operations Division Manager.

In 2022, the HETF received backbone support from UGPHD staff:

- Matthew Kleinmann, Program Manager
- Rachel Hostetler, Program Coordinator

In 2022, the HETF was funded in part by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the RADx-UP (Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics - Underserved Populations) Grant. The NBCL (Neighborhood-Based Clinic Locations) Grant was created by the HETF and is reimbursed by the FEMA COVID-19 Emergency Authorization.



## INTRODUCTION

Dear Members of the Wyandotte County community,

I am writing on behalf of the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) to introduce you to the Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force (HETF).

As the Director of the UGPHD, I am proud to collaborate with the HETF in our shared efforts to address systemic racism and improve health equity in Wyandotte County.

The HETF is a group of community and health leaders who come together to identify and address the root causes of health inequities in our county. By working together and engaging with under-resourced communities, we can develop and implement community-led and informed strategies that address the social and economic factors that contribute to health disparities.

The UGPHD is committed to collaborating with the HETF to advance health equity in Wyandotte County. We recognize that health inequities disproportionately affect under-resourced communities and are often the result of systemic racism and other forms of discrimination. By working together, we can address these inequities and create a more equitable and healthy community for all.

We believe that community collaboration is essential to achieving our shared goal of advancing health equity in Wyandotte County. We encourage all members of our community to join us in this important work and be a part of the solution.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Juliann Van Liew'.

Juliann Van Liew  
Director, UGPHD



## **OUR PURPOSE**

The purpose of the HETF is to improve the health of all Wyandotte County community members, especially those who belong to communities that have been historically under-resourced.



## **OUR VISION**

The HETF believes everyone in Wyandotte County should have access to high quality health, regardless of their race, ethnicity, class, social status, or economic factors.



## **OUR MISSION**

The mission of the HETF is to bring together different perspectives that work across Wyandotte County to increase access to the resources and services necessary for living a healthy life.

## **WHY HEALTH EQUITY?**

Healthy Equity is when all people have equal access, free of barriers, to quality healthcare and health resources that are culturally appropriate. To achieve health equity, we must remove obstacles to health. These obstacles include poverty, discrimination and its consequences, and the social and political factors that influence health.

Progress towards health equity is measured by tracking changes to health disparities over time. Achieving health equity would mean that everyone in our community has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

## **THE IMPACT OF COVID-19**

The lingering effects of COVID-19 have had an unfair health impact on under-resourced communities. The pandemic also illustrated that health equity is not a reality for many individuals in Wyandotte County. The impacts of COVID-19 made things worse for communities already experiencing health inequities, such as a lack of housing, food, or healthcare.

As a result, the HETF was formed to support under-resourced communities in Wyandotte County during the pandemic and is evolving to address health equity through close collaboration with the UGPHD.



## **ORGANIZATION & COLLABORATION**

The HETF is a public health collaboration between Wyandotte County community members and the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD). The HETF is led by the members of its Core Team and coordinates subcommittees which are open to the public.

The UGPHD plays the role of the backbone organization for the HETF and its subcommittees. This includes handling administrative functions; building relationships within the community; advocating for HETF strategic priorities; and providing clear communication between the UGPHD and the HETF.

Decisions made by the HETF Core Team occur through a consensus and consent-based process. These decisions include whether to pursue grant funding, how to coordinate health equity events and activities, which strategic priorities to pursue, which subcommittees and ad-hoc groups to convene, and who should participate in the HETF.

HETF Core Team members are expected to participate in regular meetings and commit to pursuing the strategic priorities of the HETF.



## 2023 STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

In 2022, the HETF prioritized their own strategies for tackling health inequities in Wyandotte County. While specific activities may change over time in response to changing priorities and emerging health inequities, the strategies below define the overarching approach that the HETF has set for itself while they work together to promote health equity in Wyandotte County:

### ① + VACCINE EQUITY

Continue promoting vaccine equity and equitable access to community health resources in response to the lingering effects of COVID-19.

- Convening the Testing Subcommittee
- Neighborhood-Based Clinic Locations
- Distribution of COVID-19 resources

### ② + HEALTH EQUITY

Highlight health equity with community partners, organizations, and government agencies across Wyandotte County.

- Hosting health equity events, panels and forums
- Connecting community with health resources
- Advocating local departments and agencies for more equitable policies and practices

### ③ ENGAGE YOUTH

Create educational and training opportunities for youth and our community to learn about and address health equity together.

- Create tangible opportunities for youth to learn about and address the pandemic and related health equity issues
- Be an educational resource for our schools, programs, and community on health equity

### ④ CHANGE SYSTEMS

Identify health disparities and advocate for changes to the policies, practices and barriers that prevent access to high quality health.

- Increase language access to health resources
- Improve access to healthcare and specialty care regardless of documentation status
- Publicly support community-led initiatives that seek to change policies and practices that address health inequities



## HOW DO WE ADVANCE HEALTH EQUITY?

Based upon our experience of responding to the pandemic, the HETF has advanced health equity by bringing together data around the disparities of COVID-19 and sharing it with the community in a clear and accessible way. Sharing data has helped our community and health leaders develop their own responses that are evidence-based and culturally appropriate for under-resourced communities.

### FIRST

The HETF identifies and highlights the health inequities that our community is most impacted by.

We work with the UGPHD to develop responses that equitably bring health resources and services to our under-resourced communities.

### SECOND

The HETF then advocates for changes that can be made to the policies, practices, laws, and systems that will reduce barriers to high quality health.

### THIRD

The UGPHD & HETF evaluate the key health disparities and their efforts by prioritizing short, medium, and long-term goals.

### WE VALUE:

- Access to high quality health for everyone
- The rich diversity of our community
- Language accessibility in health information
- Equity in outcomes and our process
- Evidence-based & community-led collaboration
- Solidarity with community health plans

### JOIN US

You can join the HETF at [wycotef.org/connect](https://wycotef.org/connect) or by scanning this QR code:

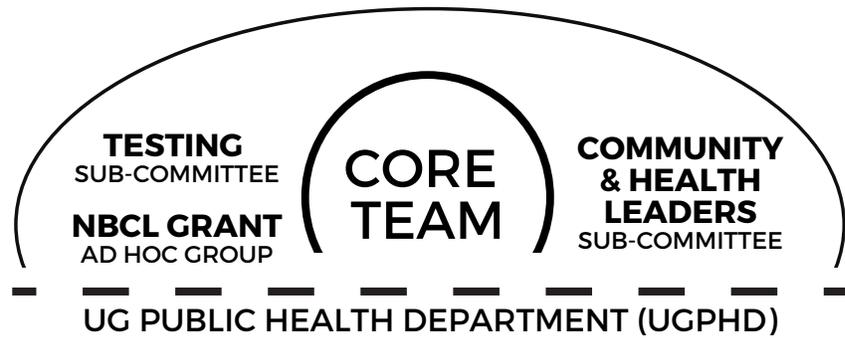




## HOW THE HETF IS ORGANIZED

The HETF is a collaboration between Wyandotte County community members and the UGPHD. The UGPHD supports the HETF as its backbone organization, which includes organizing and facilitating HETF meetings, coordinating with community partners to advance the goals of the HETF; and communicating the priorities of the HETF within the UGPHD.

### DIAGRAM OF THE HETF IN 2022:



## FUNCTIONS OF THE HETF:

### CORE TEAM

The HETF Core Team is responsible for setting strategic priorities and guiding the work of the HETF subcommittees. It also serves as a communication link between the HETF and the UGPHD, which serves as the backbone for the HETF.

### UGPHD

The UGPHD plays the role of backbone organization for the HETF, handling administrative functions and providing clear communication between the two. The UGPHD also provides funding to support the facilitation of the HETF and its relevant expenses.

### SUB-COMMITTEES

The functions of HETF subcommittees are to focus on specific areas of health equity. Subcommittees are open to the public and are led by members of the HETF Core Team, who work together with community stakeholders to identify and address the root causes of health inequities.

### AD HOC GROUPS

HETF ad hoc groups are temporary groups formed to address specific issues or projects within the scope of the HETF's work. These groups may be formed to gather input, conduct research, or develop recommendations on a particular topic or issue, and they typically disband once their work is completed.



## HOW TO ENGAGE WITH THE HETF:

### JOIN THE HETF CORE TEAM

To join the HETF, you should first participate in one of the HETF's subcommittees. If you consistently participate in the subcommittee and express an interest in joining the HETF Core Team, you can apply to be a member.

### ATTEND A SUB-COMMITTEE OR AD HOC GROUP MEETING

To attend a HETF subcommittee or ad hoc meeting, an individual can contact the HETF program coordinator to inquire about current opportunities to participate. Alternatively, they can visit the HETF's website for information on upcoming meetings and how to join.

### CONTACT US TO LEARN MORE

Email Rachel Hostetler at: [rhostetler@wycokck.org](mailto:rhostetler@wycokck.org)  
Email Nicole Garner at: [ngarner@wycokck.org](mailto:ngarner@wycokck.org)



## SHARED GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

Shared governance is an important principle for the Health Equity Task Force (HETF). It is a way for the HETF to work collaboratively with the Unified Government Public Health Department (UGPHD) to address health equity in Wyandotte County.

The HETF is not a legal entity, elected body, or traditional board, but rather a collaborative effort between community and health leaders who are committed to advancing health equity.

The HETF operates with a focus on consensus and consent-based decision-making. This means that all members are invited to participate in building consensus as a group. However, the withholding of consent is reserved for those members whose organizations is represented by less than 3 members on the Core Team.

Collaboration with the UGPHD is crucial in addressing systemic racism and improving health equity in Wyandotte County. However, the HETF recognizes the potential for power imbalances between community members and the organizations they represent. Shared governance helps to ensure that decisions reflect the voice of the community.



## 7 PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE

To ensure that the HETF operates in a transparent, inclusive, and equitable manner, it is important for each member to follow these shared governance principles and prioritize their use in building consensus and unanimous consent for each decision made by the HETF:

### 1 COLLABORATION

The HETF values and prioritizes the input and perspectives of all members in order to make informed and impactful decisions.

### 2 EQUITY

The HETF is committed to advancing health equity and ensuring that under-resourced communities are fairly represented and have a voice in decision-making processes.

### 3 TRANSPARENCY

The HETF operates with transparency and open communication, sharing information and data openly with all members and the community.

### 4 INCLUSION

The HETF strives to create a diverse and inclusive environment where all members feel welcome and valued.

### 5 ADAPTABILITY

The HETF is flexible and willing to adapt to changing circumstances and needs, in order to best serve the community.

### 6 ACCOUNTABILITY

The HETF holds itself accountable to the community and its own stated values and goals.

### 7 SUSTAINABILITY

The HETF works towards long-term solutions that are sustainable and able to address the root causes of health inequities.



## HOW THE HETF AIMS TO IMPROVE HEALTH OUTCOMES:

The HETF works towards better public health outcomes by focusing on changing systems that contribute to health inequities, measuring the impact of its work, defining what success looks like for the organization, and sustaining its momentum. This includes actively addressing health disparities that are specific to Wyandotte County and its community members, building awareness about health equity, engaging in equitable community engagement, and working in solidarity with other organizations pursuing health equity in the county. Through its efforts, the HETF aims to improve health outcomes and move the needle on county health rankings, with a focus on under-resourced populations and a commitment to transparency and collaboration.

### CHANGING SYSTEMS

The HETF Core Team recognizes that the systems in place have contributed to health inequities and are committed to addressing these issues. The HETF believes in examining the reasons behind the creation of these systems, the intended and actual beneficiaries, and the impacts on different groups. The HETF also emphasizes the importance of policies in holding individuals, elected officials, and institutions accountable and providing a clear target for change. The HETF recognizes that it is the responsibility of the community to bring about change and aim to empower people to understand their own power and how to use it to effect change.

### WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE

Success for the HETF includes making progress in improving the overall health of Wyandotte County as measured by county health rankings. To achieve this, it requires that the HETF include a diverse and active membership that represents the community, particularly under-resourced populations. The HETF aims to build new relationships across the county focused on health equity and to bring together community partners to prioritize this issue. The HETF also strives to transparently share information about health equity in accessible formats and to work collaboratively to achieve their goals.

### MEASURING OUR IMPACT

The HETF Core Team measures impact by considering changes in health disparities over time, as well as community experiences and programmatic changes that improve health equity. They use both quantitative and qualitative data to evaluate their strategies and activities. The team prioritizes their work based on evidence of health disparities, input from the community, and the capacity and expertise of the team. They also consider the efforts of other organizations working on similar issues and how they can support or collaborate with them. The team aims to communicate their progress transparently with the community.

### SUSTAINING MOMENTUM

To sustain momentum, the HETF Core Team must commit to ongoing work on strategies and activities that have been agreed upon, and ensure that these efforts show tangible improvements for the community. It is also important for the HETF to stay engaged and focused on their goals, and to continue working on projects that are timely, necessary, and action-focused. Additionally, the HETF must work to convince those with resources in Wyandotte County that investing in health equity is in the best interests of the community.



## HOW THE HETF WORKS IN PRACTICE:

The HETF is a team of dedicated professionals and community members who work to promote health equity in Wyandotte County. To achieve this goal, the HETF focuses on building awareness on health equity issues, identifying health disparities that affect the community, and engaging in equitable community engagement to address these disparities. This involves collaborating with community partners, sharing data and resources, and advocating for policies that promote health equity. Through its efforts, the HETF works to improve health outcomes for all community members and create a more equitable and just Wyandotte County, Kansas.

## BUILDING AWARENESS ON HEALTH EQUITY

The HETF is actively involved in advocating for health equity in the community. This includes showing up in community spaces, engaging with trusted community leaders, and participating in youth engagement initiatives. The team also engages with neighborhoods and presents information on health equity to elected officials, healthcare providers, and others who have an interest in this issue. To ensure that health information is accessible to all members of the community, the HETF develops health information materials that can be printed and distributed in multiple languages. They also make an effort to share information in culturally appropriate ways and in languages frequently used in Wyandotte County. The HETF Core Team also participates in webinars, panels, and assemblies where they promote health equity in Wyandotte County.

## IDENTIFYING HEALTH DISPARITIES

The HETF focuses on addressing health disparities in Wyandotte County that have an inequitable impact upon its under-resourced community members. These priorities may change over time and the team works to identify persistent and potential public health crises. The HETF works to coordinate partnerships, share data, and leverage resources to address health disparities and improve health outcomes. Examples of the HETF's work include responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, addressing food insecurity, raising health equity awareness around affordable housing, supporting those advocating to reduce energy and utility burdens, and illustrating barriers to healthcare access among community members without proper identification documents.

## EQUITABLE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The HETF prioritizes including the voices of the Wyandotte County community in their work on health disparities, and works to make sure those voices are equitably represented. The HETF engages with the community through storytelling, and make sure that those who share their stories are compensated for their time and participation. They also work to involve the community in the decision-making process and avoid "parachuting in" to any community. The HETF focuses on building relationships with the community, and presenting information rather than solutions. They also prioritize learning from the community and making sure people feel valued.



## HOW THE HETF WORKS IN SOLIDARITY:

The HETF works in solidarity with other organizations pursuing health equity in Wyandotte County by building capacity within its own collaboration, developing partnerships with individuals and organizations in the community, and supporting other community partners in their efforts to address health disparities. Through collaboration with the UGPHD, the HETF shares data and works to make it publicly available in order to better identify health disparities and improve health outcomes. The HETF also engages in regular meetings and training opportunities to build its own capacity and works to promote health equity initiatives across organizations that are aligned with its goals and mission. Additionally, the HETF coordinates an equitable distribution of health resources and co-develops planning efforts with other health equity organizations in order to address persistent and potential public health crises in Wyandotte County.

### BUILDING CAPACITY

The HETF aims to build capacity to address health equity in several ways. This includes collaborating with the UGPHD to share data and make it publicly available, as well as offering training opportunities and sharing information with the community through presentations and panel discussions. The HETF Core Team also works to build the capacity of the Wyandotte County community as a whole through their strategic priorities.

## DEVELOPING HEALTH EQUITY PARTNERSHIPS

The HETF values partnerships with both individuals and organizations in the community and works to build meaningful and effective relationships through open and vulnerable communication. The HETF Core Team actively seeks out individuals and organizations to work with, identifying those who can contribute valuable skills and perspectives to their work. The HETF Core Team also considers the return on investment for their partners' time and resources, planning for how these partnerships will benefit the mission of the organizations involved. They approach these partnerships with respect for historic trauma and a lack of trust due to past broken promises, and show a genuine commitment to collaboration.

### SUPPORTING OTHER COMMUNITY PARTNERS

The HETF looks to support other community organizations engaged in health equity by promoting initiatives and coordinating resources in collaboration with the UGPHD. The team also works to co-develop planning efforts with other health equity organizations. An example of this is the NBCL Grant, in which the HETF Core Team shared grant resources, developed their own grant process in collaboration with UGPHD staff, and allocated federal funding to support community health efforts and health equity efforts across Wyandotte County to address COVID-19 and other health disparities.



# SHARING EXPERIENCES AND DOCUMENTING THE WORK

The HETF shares its work and experiences through videos to raise awareness and build support for health equity issues, document progress and impact, inform future strategies, demonstrate the value of our work to stakeholders and funders, and provide a deeper understanding of their challenges and successes. This helps the HETF to further its mission of improving health equity across Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Below are a few examples from the last year that the HETF has been engaged in:

Click on each thumbnail below to play the video. Alternatively, you can watch these videos on the [HETF's YouTube Channel](#).

## POP-UP EVENTS:

The HETF ended 2021 and began 2022 with multiple COVID-19 pop-up vaccine and testing events to combat the rising surge of the Omicron variant.



## YOUTH ENGAGEMENT:

Through Clean Air Boxes and the JUNTOS Soccer Nation vaccination program, the HETF expanded its focus to support more youth and community initiatives.



## DISTRIBUTING RESOURCES:

The UGPHD staff worked with the HETF and other community partners to distribute tens of thousands of at-home tests and KN-95 masks throughout Wyandotte County.



## NEIGHBORHOOD CLINICS:

As the UGPHD closed down the K-Mart mass vaccination site, the HETF focused on increasing access in under-resourced and harder to reach communities.



## SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

The work of the HETF cannot exist in siloes. By coordinating with groups like COPE and Churches United for Justice, the HETF aligns efforts to better serve our community.





**2021 - 2022: RADX-UP**  
Rapid Acceleration of Diagnostics  
Underserved Populations

The RADx-Up grant was a program funded by the National Institutes of Health that aimed to improve access to COVID-19 testing and reduce the impact of the pandemic on underserved communities in Kansas.

The RADx-Up Kansas project was a collaboration between the University of Kansas Medical Center and community partners in 10 Kansas counties, and aimed to increase access to COVID-19 testing resources, reduce barriers to following best practices, reduce the spread of the virus, and increase accurate COVID-19 messaging. The project also aimed to mobilize communities to prepare for widespread vaccination once it became available. The participating counties in Kansas are Crawford, Douglas, Finney, Johnson, Lyon, Riley, Saline, Sedgwick, Seward, and Wyandotte.



**2022: NBCL GRANT**  
Neighborhood-Based Clinic  
Locations Grant

The NBCL Grant is a program that aims to improve access to COVID-19 resources in underserved communities in Wyandotte County. The grant involves a partnership between the UGPHD, community organizations, and clinical partners. The NBCL partners work together to provide COVID-19 testing, vaccines, and other health resources at NBCL events.

These events are held in neighborhoods with a high density of unvaccinated individuals and are held at times that are convenient for the public. The partners also use culturally competent messaging and translations to ensure that all residents can access COVID-19 resources. NBCL partners attend monthly coordination meetings, submit monthly reports, and are reimbursed by the UGPHD through FEMA's COVID-19 Emergency Declaration.

**138**

**RADX-UP EVENTS**  
Between January, 2021 - June, 2022

**208**

**NBCL EVENTS**  
Between June, 2022 - December, 2022

**22,668+**

**COVID-19 TESTS**  
Including: PCR and Rapid Antigen,  
and At-Home Tests

**5,710+**

**COVID-19 VACCINATIONS**  
Including: Moderna, Pfizer, J&J,  
updated Bivalent, and Pediatric doses

**76,333+**

**DISTRIBUTED MATERIALS**  
Including: Signage, printed  
calendars, and printed flyers

**7**

**LANGUAGES DISTRIBUTED**  
Including: English, Spanish, Burmese,  
Nepali, Swahili, Hindi, and Portugese



## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

None of this work is done alone. In the words of Broderick Crawford: "It has to be all of us together. As we are together, we make progress." The following organizations helped the HETF make progress on health equity in 2022:

- Argentine Community Center (NBCL site)
- Bethel Neighborhood Center (Core Team, Testing, Clean Air Boxes, Community & Health Leaders, RADx-UP)
- Care Beyond the Boulevard (Testing & NBCL Partner)
- Catholic Charities (Community & Health Leaders)
- Caring Connection Collaborative (NBCL site)
- Casa de Alabanza (NBCL site)
- Clean Air Now KC (Clean Air Boxes)
- Community Health Council of Wyandotte County (Community Health Leaders & NBCL Partner)
- COPE (Community Health Leaders)
- Communities Concerned for Immigrants & Refugees (Testing)
- Cross-Lines Community Outreach (NBCL site)
- Donnelly College Nursing (NBCL subgrantee)
- El Torito, Inc (NBCL site)
- El Centro, Inc (Core Team, Community and Health Leaders, NBCL Partner)
- Elevate Bar and Grill (NBCL site)
- Family Counts & Consultants (Testing & NBCL Partner)
- First Baptist Church (NBCL site)
- Frontiers Clinical and Translational Science Institute (Community Health Leaders)
- Frank Williams Outreach Center (NBCL site)
- Gerardo Robles Fitness Gym (NBCL site)
- Groundwork NRG (Community Health Leaders)
- Greater Kansas City Black Nurses Association (Testing)
- Havenside COGIC (NBCL Partner)
- Heart to Heart International (Testing & NBCL Partner)
- Henson Memorial COGIC (NBCL Partner)
- Jegna Klub (Clean Air Boxes)
- Jerry Lee Jarrett Life Center (NBCL Partner)
- John's Java and Jazz (NBCL site)
- JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health (Core Team, Testing Co-Chair, NBCL Partner, RADx-UP)
- Kansas East Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (Community Health Leaders & NBCL Partner)
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment (RADx-UP)
- Kansas Black Farmers Association (Testing & NBCL)
- KCKPS USD 500 (Core Team, Community Health Leaders, NBCL sites)
- KCK Public Library (NBCL site)
- Kore Lab Solutions (Testing)
- KU Medical Center (Core Team, Community Health Leaders Co-Chair, Testing, RADx-UP)
- Lakeside Church (NBCL site)

## CORE TEAM

<b>14</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>16</b>
Meetings	Attendees	Members

## TESTING SUBCOMMITTEE

<b>29</b>	<b>35</b>
Meetings	Attendees

## COMMUNITY & HEALTH LEADERS SUBCOMMITTEE

<b>29</b>	<b>45</b>
Meetings	Attendees

## NBCL GRANT

<b>7</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>11</b>
Meetings	Attendees	Partners

- Leah's Laundromat (NBCL site)
- LISC KC (Core Team)
- Livable Neighborhoods (Core Team)
- Mercado Fresco (NBCL site)
- Midland Care Connection (Core Team)
- La Mega Radio (Testing)
- The Merc Co+op (NBCL site)
- New Bethel Church CDC (Core Team, Community Health Leaders, NBCL site, RADx-UP)
- RADx-UP Learning Collaborative (RADx-UP)
- Sacred Heart Church / Our Lady of Unity (NBCL site)
- Salem Missionary Baptist Church (Core Team, Community Health Leaders Co-Chair, NBCL site, RADx-UP)
- Swope Health (Core Team)
- Telemundo Kansas City (Testing)
- Univision Kansas City (Testing)
- Vibrant Health (Core Team, Testing Co-Chair, Community & Health Leaders, NBCL Partner)
- Village Initiative (NBCL site)
- Wilhelmina Gill Center (NBCL site)
- WYCO Mutual Aid (Community Health Leaders & NBCL subgrantee)
- Wyandotte Health Foundation (Core Team, Community Health Leaders)
- Young Memorial COGIC (NBCL site)



## HOW THE HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE WAS FORMED

Our task force came together because of a need that we saw in our community. The first death that happened in our area, it happened in Wyandotte County, and we have seven counties that make up our metropolitan areas. So, we brought together leadership from the health department, from our community groups, from our faith community, and we came together in April (2020) to say, "How could we have a response to COVID? What could we do to address the disparities that were happening in our minority communities?"

We created a mission that we wanted to work specifically with our Wyandotte County Public Health Department and other agencies. We brought together a very diverse group of folks to come together for this task force. We have neighborhood leaders, we have civic and grassroots organizations, we have FQHCs, we have faith leaders. And then, we also wanted to identify folks from our minority community, So African American, Latinx, immigrant and refugee communities.

One of the things that's unique about Wyandotte County is that we have greater than 25% of our population from three groups. So, it's greater than 25% African American, greater than 25% Latinx, and greater than 25% Caucasian. So, we have a very diverse county, and we needed to be able to address the needs of all of those communities.

So, as we developed this task force, it was like, "Okay, what do we need to address? What areas do we need to focus on? And how can we bring that into fruition? So, we created some working groups, and we wanted these working groups to be able to respond and coordinate efforts and then be able to disseminate the information because it's one thing to create it, but now how are we being able to put it to our community? How are we able to let the community know? And then, how can we get bidirectional information from our community as we're dealing with COVID-19.

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Collaboration amongst all of our groups was so key for us to be successful. Literally, when we would have our meetings -- and I will share with you there were times we had some very spirited meetings. But in all of those times, we always came together at the end of the meeting to be able to move ourselves forward.

And so, we knew that hosting pop-up sites in key zip codes would be key. We organized town hall meetings where in those town hall meetings, we brought together health professionals, we brought together faith professionals, we brought together all -- a diverse group of folks that allowed us to be able to speak to the multiple groups that we wanted to reach. Communications was very robust.

And again, as I shared, we had radio stations that would come out to our sites. Literally, at all of our many pop-up events, TV stations would come out. The outreach through the faith community was huge. It was so important for us to be able to create synergy amongst our churches. And guess what? It was ecumenical. So, it wasn't just Baptist. It wasn't just Pentecostal. It wasn't just Catholic. It wasn't just Muslim. It wasn't just Presbyterian and Methodist. It was all of them together, coming together for a common cause.

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We want to be able to share this information. We are very proud of the work that we've done. We're very proud of how we have collaborated. Again, as Pastor Tony Carter says, "It's the synergy," and as my pastor says, "We are all in it together."

*An excerpt from Broderick Crawford's presentation with Nicole Garner on September 1st, 2021, to the CDC's Preventive Medicine Grand Rounds about how Wyandotte County engaged our community in its response to COVID-19. A recording of the presentation and the entire transcript are on the HETF website: [wycohetf.org/advocacy](http://wycohetf.org/advocacy)*



## IN MEMORIAM: BRODERICK CRAWFORD (1961 - 2022)



Broderick Crawford was a co-founder of the Health Equity Task Force (HETF) and a dedicated community volunteer who worked to improve the lives and health of the Wyandotte County, Kansas, community.

With over 30 years of experience in the healthcare industry, Broderick held various roles in community health and academic healthcare institutions and served as a nationally sought speaker. He received numerous awards, including the 2018 U.S. News and World Report Community Health Leadership Award and the 2018 LISC Kansas City Award. In addition to his work with the HETF, Broderick also served as a leader and mentor in numerous community organizations, academic institutions, and medical boards, commissions, and committees throughout the Kansas City metropolitan area. He will be remembered as a dedicated leader and champion of his community.



- Co-Founded the Wyandotte County Health Equity Task Force
- President and former executive director of New Bethel Church Community Development Corporation in KCK
- Co-Principal Investigator, NIH-funded RadX-UP award, a COVID research project awarded to study disparities in COVID response among underserved populations in 10 Kansas counties
- Co-Investigator on the Communities Organizing to Promote Equity (COPE) grant, a CDC to KDHE funded grant award, testing a model for enhancing equitable COVID response in 20 Kansas counties
- Co-Chair of the Frontiers Patient and Community Partner Group (PCPG)
- A consultant to organizations including Every Baby to 1, Diabetic Watchers, the University of Kansas Alzheimer’s Research Disease Center, KU Cancer Center and more
- Served on the National Advisory Board for the Recruitment Innovation Center program, the Trial Innovation Network and the National Center for the Advancement of Translational Science and the National Clinical and Translational Science Award program
- A member of several organizations, including the Health Equity Action Transformation Community Advisory Board (HEAT CAB), Healthy KS 2030, Faith Works, Post-Partum Equity Group, Fetal and Infant Mortality Review WyCo and many more advisory and executive boards that impacted the health of the community

“Broderick Crawford was a wonderful colleague and dear friend. He worked tirelessly to improve the health and wellbeing of his local Kansas City, Kansas community and teach others the importance of community engagement and partnership. His strong voice and infectious energy motivated all of us to do more for the disenfranchised and underserved.” - Dr. Allen Greiner

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A collage of four items: 1) A poster for 'Self-Test At Home Results in 15 Mins' from covidtests.gov. 2) A poster for a virtual panel titled 'APARTA LA FECHA Superando COVID-19 JUNTOS' on May 12th. 3) A photograph of a building entrance with a sign. 4) A small portrait of a man in a suit.



"We want to be able to share this information. We are very proud of the work that we've done. We're very proud of how we have collaborated. Again, as Pastor Tony Carter says, "It's the synergy," and as my pastor says, "We are all in it together."

— Broderick Crawford, HETF co-founder