



NEWS RELEASE
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LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH ANNOUNCES A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH THE MOBILE INTEGRATED HEALTH (MIH) AND HOMELESS RESPONSE TEAM (HRT) WITH LAWRENCE-DOUGLAS COUNTY FIRE AND MEDICAL AND THE CITY OF LAWRENCE.

DOUGLAS COUNTY, Kansas (November 19, 2024) – Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health is pleased to announce a new partnership with the Mobile Integrated Health and Homeless Response Team with Lawrence-Douglas County Fire and Medical and the City of Lawrence.

“This partnership highlights the power of collaboration in addressing critical gaps in health care and social support. By uniting resources and delivering innovative, community-focused solutions that meet people where they are, we are working together to create abundant and equitable opportunities for good health for the residents of Douglas County.” Said Christine Ebert, Director of Clinic Services for Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health.

The Mobile Integrated Health program was launched by Lawrence-Douglas County Fire and Medical in December 2023 to provide in-home preventative and treatment services for high-risk patients who frequently use emergency services. The program also works closely with the Homeless Response Team through the City of Lawrence, and both are key players in the A Place for Everyone Plan.

Misty Bosch-Hastings, the Director of the Homeless Solutions Division at the City of Lawrence, also shared her thoughts on the partnership. “The City of Lawrence is proud to partner with the Mobile Integrated Health on our Homeless Response Team initiative. By meeting people where they are, we’re able to reach community members who may not have the ability to access needed services. This partnership exemplifies our commitment to ensuring that all residents receive the support and care they deserve, regardless of their circumstances.”

The program is currently staffed by two paramedics, and this new partnership will allow Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health to hire an APRN to enhance services such as medication prescriptions and minor medical procedures. This expansion aims to further address the social determinants of health and reduce EMS overutilization.

“This APRN position will be a force multiplier for the ongoing efforts of both LDCFM’s Mobile Integrated Health team and the HRT. We are excited to see the benefits she will bring to public health in Lawrence and Douglas County.” Said John Darling, Interim Division Chief for the EMS Division at Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical.

The new Outreach APRN for Lawrence-Douglas County Public Health, Becky Lagger-Dyar, will begin work at the health department on December 2. For more information, you can visit the health department’s website, www.ldchealth.org

