



Catalyst for positive community
change in Johnson County, Kansas



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HUMAN SERVICE SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS CONSIDER COMMUNITY TRENDS
THAT WILL IMPACT THE FUTURE OF JOHNSON COUNTY**

OVERLAND PARK, Kans. (June 8, 2010) Elected officials and representatives from government agencies, nonprofit, for-profit, community-based organizations, and community members gathered today to address and share ideas relating to trends that will influence the human service infrastructure in Johnson County. More than 150 participants met for the half-day summit hosted by United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County, a research-based community planning and action leadership group.

Karen Wulfkuhle, UCS executive director presented an update on current demographic trends in Johnson County including a fast-growing population and an increasing poverty rate that nearly doubles the national average of suburban poverty.

Insight from panel members helped stimulate conversations by participants on how they can work together to ensure the human service delivery system is prepared to address needs and embrace Johnson County's new ethnic diversity. Panel members included:

- **Robert Clark, PhD**, Vice Chancellor, **University of Kansas Edwards Campus**
- **Janice Ellis, PhD**, Publisher & Executive Editor, **USARiseUp.com**
- **Kim Kimminau, PhD**, Assoc. Prof., **KU School of Medicine**, Dept. of Family Medicine
- **Frank Lenk**, Director of Research Services, **MARC**

“Rather than siloed planning, there is a great need and opportunity for us to go across sectors in our planning efforts,” said Dr. Kimminau. “We need to try and imagine what new trends might look like and weave the needs of all groups together.”

Participants used small group discussions to share ideas on how to address the top 20 trends that UCS has identified in Johnson County. The findings will be shared with the Johnson County Citizens Visioning Committee. The [Visioning Committee](#) is charged with developing a future vision for the community through the year 2030.

Demographic data and trend information is available at www.ucsjoco.org.

About United Community Services of Johnson County (UCS)

Since 1967, UCS has been the catalyst and resource to ensure that the human service system meets the needs of Johnson County, Kansas residents. UCS provides information, trends analysis and documentation to enhance community-wide planning and decision making. When this information suggests the need for closer examination of specific issues, UCS responds by providing leadership for community action in the following ways:

- Convening people to focus cooperatively on the common good;
- Mobilizing community partners to improve human service delivery;
- Partnering with local governments to support allocation of funds to address human needs;
- Advocating for policy choices that effectively promote positive outcomes for people; and
- Leveraging resources to increase service capacity.

UCS is a 501(c)3 organization. Contributions are deductible for tax purposes. To learn more, visit www.ucsjoco.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Karen Wulfkuhle

Executive Director

913-438-4764 x 105

karenw@ucsjoco.org