

Kan-ed Videoconferencing Helps Rural Hospital Staff Receive Needed Training

Kan-ed — Where Kansans Access the Information Age

Health Innovations Network of Kansas (HINK)

- Consortium of 18 Rural Hospitals in NE Kansas
- Currently seven HINK hospitals utilize Kan-ed videoconferencing
- 45 sessions per month
- 10 to 50 people per session

Phone: 785-296-0843
Email: kan-ed@ksbor.org
<http://www.kan-ed.org>

**Stormont-Vail
HealthCare**

Kan·ed

Stormont-Vail HealthCare currently utilizes videoconferencing capabilities to provide seven rural hospitals with vital training sessions via the Kan-ed 2.0 network. According to Kristi Gosser, Stormont-Vail Relations Director and the Network Operations Director for Health Innovations Network of Kansas (HINK), videoconferencing made available through Kan-ed funding and network support has allowed Stormont-Vail to provide several types of training sessions, such as: H1N1, “nursing grand rounds,” and diabetes education. Gosser shared that the trainings have “changed the life of these rural hospitals. It’s pretty amazing.”

HINK is a consortium of eighteen rural hospitals in North East Kansas. Currently, seven of these hospitals participate in videoconferences through their connection to the Kan-ed network. Gosser says that the “ultimate goal with getting Kan-ed video equipment was to get education out...to nurses and doctors in rural areas that can’t travel.” With long distances between cities, scheduling a full day off for training was impractical. Gosser said that with Kan-ed videoconferencing, “they walk into a room, they get their CEU’s [continuing education units] in, and they walk out and can go back to the floor.” This allows for less downtime at rural hospitals, where every nurse and physician is critical to the overall quality of care. On average Stormont-Vail schedules 45 sessions per month over Kan-ed’s network, with 10-50 people receiving training each time.



The videoconferencing capabilities provided by Kan-ed have allowed rural hospitals in the HINK consortium to connect with Stormont-Vail for valuable training sessions. For example, one session covered treating wounds. A nurse from the Wound Care Center at Stormont-Vail demonstrated how to use certain supplies and showed the results of proper and improper wound treatment. “That was a really good [training] for the rural [hospital nurses] that they never would have been able to have without videoconferencing equipment. It was a very worthwhile presentation,” Gosser said.

Gosser stated that due to videoconferencing, hospitals are “getting this education for their staff and providing better patient care, which they could not do before because of travel time and costs.” Residents of these rural communities also are recognizing the value of having Kan-ed’s network in their hospitals. Gosser said, “I think they can see the pluses of the videoconferencing equipment as benefitting their communities with cost savings as well as quality care. That’s important to these rural people.”

Expanding videoconferencing services to other hospitals would further maximize these benefits. Gosser said, “I really want to be able to have everybody in the HINK consortium on [the network] so they receive the benefits.” It is clear that the service provided through Kan-ed is extremely beneficial, not only to the nurses and doctors receiving the training, but to the communities they serve as well.