

## LIMITED-SCOPE AUDIT PROPOSAL

### Wyandotte and Sedgwick County Health Departments: Comparing Department Performance Based on a Couple of Key Measures

#### SOURCE

This audit proposal was requested by Representative Dan Hawkins.

#### BACKGROUND

The Division of Public Health within KDHE administers a variety of public health services and regulatory Programs. Within this division, the Bureau of Disease Control and Prevention works to prevent and control communicable diseases through three sections: Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI), Tuberculosis, and Immunizations.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) uses a combination of state and federal dollars to fund disease intervention specialists. Disease intervention specialists work to curb the spread of sexually transmitted infections in Kansas. Disease intervention specialists intervene in the spread of STIs by contacting individuals who may be infected, identifying and notifying partners of their exposure to these infections, and assisting with treatments. According to KDHE officials, specialists are currently employed by the State of Kansas and the Sedgwick county health department.

KDHE receives multiple STI grants from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), which it uses in combination with other funding sources to employ disease intervention specialists. In 2016, KDHE reported receiving about \$1.8 million in CDC grant funding. Historically, KDHE has provided CDC grant money to Sedgwick and Wyandotte counties to at least partially fund their disease intervention specialists. However, in July 2017, KDHE stopped providing this funding to Wyandotte County because the county no longer met the conditions of the grant.

Legislators have expressed concerns about how the two county health departments compare in terms of the performance of their disease intervention specialists.

#### AUDIT OBJECTIVES AND TENTATIVE METHODOLOGY

*The audit objectives listed below represent the questions that we would answer through our audit work.*

*The proposed steps for each objective are intended to convey the type of work we would do, but are subject to change as we learn more about the audit issues and are able to refine our methodology.*

**Objective 1: How did the Sedgwick and Wyandotte County Health Departments compare on a couple of key performance measures related to disease intervention specialists?** Our tentative methodology would include the following:

- Identify the key metrics KDHE used to measure the performance of Disease Intervention Specialists within the Sedgwick and Wyandotte County Health Departments (these measures could include grant specific requirements, general performance measures, or other relevant KDHE policy requirements).

- Review data from KDHE and from Wyandotte and Sedgwick county health departments related to these performance measures. Based on the data, compare how DIS staff performed at both county health departments and compare the results.
- Review documents from KDHE regarding corrective actions items (formal or informal) that KDHE administered related to poor performance including any corrective action plans, memos, or reprimands.
- Review documents and interview KDHE and health department officials to determine how well each health department responded to any KDHE corrective action items.

#### **ESTIMATED RESOURCES**

We estimate this audit would require **100 staff hours** to complete.