Sunflower Foundation Announces Board and Community Advisory Committee Appointments

May 30, 2014

The Sunflower Foundation: Health Care for Kansans announces the appointment of four members to its Board of Trustees. Three trustees were appointed by Kansas Attorney General Derek Schmidt: Krista Postai of Pittsburg; Martie Ross of Kansas City; and Don Sherman of Wichita. The fourth trustee, Beryl Lowery-Born of Topeka, was appointed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas.

All four trustees were appointed to their first three-year term, which will begin in June.

Two members of the Sunflower Foundation’s Community Advisory Committee were also re-appointed by General Schmidt. Dr. Kent Bradley of Valley Center and Francie Currie of Neodesha will start their second three-year terms in June.

Krista Postai is President and Chief Executive Officer of the Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas, the only federally qualified health center serving the poorest region in the state. Previously she was a Vice President at Mt. Carmel Regional Medical Center in Pittsburg, where she worked for 23 years.

Ms. Postai is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Journalism. She is a board member of the Kansas Health Information Network and is the immediate past President of the Kansas Association for the Medically Underserved.

Martie Ross is a Principal at Pershing Yoakley & Associates healthcare consultants, where she advises doctors and hospitals nationwide in navigating the ever-expanding maze of healthcare regulations. She is an expert in new payment and delivery systems and public payer initiatives, and advises clients on health information technology, health reform, patient privacy and security, and rural health strategies. Previously Ms. Ross was Partner at several Kansas-based firms: Spencer Fane Britt & Browne; Lathrop & Gage; and Foulston Siefkin.

Ms. Ross is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a Juris Doctor degree and Bachelor of Arts degrees in Sociology and Philosophy.

Don Sherman is Vice President of Community Relations and Strategic Partnerships at Westar Energy, Kansas’ largest electric utility. Prior to joining Westar in 2007, Mr.
Sherman was for two decades a successful entrepreneur, founding the first and only African-American-owned radio station group in Kansas, as well as building from scratch Wichita’s largest private security and investigation firm.

Mr. Sherman is a graduate of Baker University in Baldwin City with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He also has an Associates degree in Administration of Justice from Butler Community College in El Dorado.

**Beryl “Bebo” Lowery-Born** retired from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas as the company’s Chief Financial Officer in 2013. Previously, she was the company’s Vice President of Finance. Ms. Lowery-Born oversaw its operating division, which included actuarial research, accounting, underwriting and management engineering departments.

Ms. Lowery-Born is a graduate of Washburn University with a Master of Business Administration degree and a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting. She also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biological Science from Kansas State University.

**Dr. Kent Bradley** is a Valley Center physician in obstetrics and gynecology. He was initially appointed to the Community Advisory Committee in 2011 by General Schmidt.

**Francie Currie** is an office manager for a family practice clinic in Neodesha. She was initially appointed to the committee by General Schmidt in 2011.

The Sunflower Foundation appreciates the years of service by the four outgoing trustees: Marty Beezley, Chris Ruder, Howard Shuler and Caroline Williams.

The Sunflower Foundation is governed by a nine-member Board of Trustees. Eight trustees are appointed through a process overseen by the Kansas Attorney General and the ninth member is appointed by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas. Trustees are limited to serving three three-year terms. The nine-member Community Advisory Committee nominates candidates for the foundation’s Board of Trustees. The committee also acts in an advisory role to the foundation.

The foundation was established in 2000. Its mission is to serve as a catalyst for improving the health of Kansans, which it supports through a program of grants, special initiatives and related activities. More information about the foundation’s programs and grants is available at SunflowerFoundation.org.