# **Northeast Kansas Healthcare Coalition (NEKSHCC)**

# **Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA)**

# **Budget Period 5 (7/1/23 – 6/30/24)**

The following summary of the NEKSHCC Hazard Vulnerability Assessment (HVA) includes an overview of the process that was used in 2023 to identify and prioritize the likely hazards that Northeast Kansas Healthcare Coalition (NEKSHCC) could encounter and a summary of those outcomes.

The Northeast Kansas Healthcare Coalition Region is comprised of the following twenty-three counties: Anderson, Atchison, Brown, Chase, Coffey, Doniphan, Douglas, Franklin, Geary, Jackson, Jefferson, Linn, Lyon, Marshall, Miami, Morris, Nemaha, Osage, Pottawatomie, Riley, Shawnee, Wabaunsee, and Washington

The goal in this comprehensive HVA is to identify and prioritize the likely hazards that the regional healthcare coalition could face; to further identify the factors that are most impactful to the region and then assess considerations for mitigation as appropriate. It is understood that each community is unique and may have specific patient population, geography, and healthcare needs to consider. (These unique hazards are often confronted by others in the coalition and are typically identified using historical and current data from multiple sources.)

Note: The HVA process is iterative and is therefore reviewed on an annual basis. Coalition members are given the opportunity to participate in and/or review the regional coalition HVA efforts prior to its adoption by the region. Coalition members have provided vital information related to hazards and vulnerabilities as well as guidance on risk interventions for healthcare organizations. The outputs of the regional healthcare coalition HVA are used by the NEKSHCC membership to structure and prioritize its efforts.

# Overview:

A regional HVA was developed for the NEKSHCC to better understand the events and conditions that threaten the NEKSHCC’s ability to continue the provision of healthcare at the regional level. Each member facility is encouraged to regularly conduct an HVA focused on the potential impacts to that facility’s operations. Hospitals, ancillary healthcare providers, public health agencies, and local emergency management agencies are encouraged to assess hazards and vulnerabilities that may impact the ability of their agency to continue normal operations. The HVA is the initial step in understanding the events and circumstances that may reduce the capability and capacity of healthcare provision throughout the NEKSHCC.

The initial step in developing the NEKSHCC HVA began by reviewing the Budget Period 4 HVA and determining whether the probable top ten hazards are still probable. After review by both the Executive Committee and membership, it was determined the top ten hazards identified in the Budget Period 4 HVA should be revised for Budget Period 5. Specifically, Staffing should be removed as staffing is independently represented in each of the other listed hazards. In addition, with the rise in human trafficking, substance misuse, electrically dependent members of the population, ability to transfer all patients with bariatric concerns, and other vulnerable populations, the NEKSHCC voted to add a “Humanitarian Concerns and Substance Misuse” category. Mitigation of this hazard may call for specialized training, equipment or supplies that are not needed in a medical surge planning or response efforts otherwise listed in the HVA. In addition, it was determined the rank of each hazard should be removed as the ranking does not serve a purpose for the HCC Region itself. The BP5 hazards were identified as follows:

# BP5 NEKSHCC Regional HVA Summary

Weather Related Disruption

Humanitarian Concerns and Substance Misuse

Highly Infectious Disease

Supply Chain Disruption

Communication Failure

Workplace Violence

Cyber-Security Breach

Mass Casualty Incident

Chemical Exposure, External

Emerging Threat

# Recommendations and Next Steps

Based on the review, analysis, and discussion, the following items are recommended to continue utilization of this assessment. These recommendations will assist the NEKSHCC develop a long-term strategy to address the mitigation strategies found within the assessment.

1. **Establish mitigation strategies and develop timelines for completion**: The information developed during this project can provide direction for coalition preparedness activities and expenditures. The list of hazards named above that impact healthcare may provide guidance as the coalition works to understand the membership’s perception of risk. Similarly, establishing a timeline to implement mitigation strategies will assist the coalition in preparedness and response efforts.
2. **Continue to incorporate mitigation strategies into annual budget and mini-grants**: Many of the mitigation strategies require funds to be able to fully execute the strategy (i.e., PPE re-stocking, trainings, exercise development, etc.).
3. **Share and review the NEKSHCC HVA with coalition members via the HCC website:** This will provide coalition members an opportunity to view the regional hazards and vulnerabilities at a time that is convenient for them.