

## **A Declaration of Commitment to The Kansas Collaborative<sup>SM</sup>**

**We, the undersigned parties, acting in behalf of state and local governments in Kansas,**

- 1) hear the voices of Kansans who demand that all levels of government work together to serve all Kansans, without regard to location, and that state and local governments share a mutual responsibility to deliver programs and services effectively and efficiently;
- 2) maintain a strong commitment to identify potential cost savings for both state and local governments through data analysis and strategic planning; and
- 3) understand, in the words of Scott London speaking to the Pew Partnership for Civic Change, that in “a time of widespread frustration with politics-as-usual, the principles of collaboration are seen by many organizations, communities, and civic leaders as a more effective means of working for change than ..... other, more traditional kinds of partnerships;” and
- 4) have experienced the tangible economic value of collaboration of elected and administrative officials of state and county governments working through processes resulting in significant prescription drug cost savings for incarcerated populations of both jurisdictions; and
- 5) are fully capable and fully committed to replicating these processes in addressing other service areas of shared responsibility – state, county, city – for the improvement of services for Kansans and at a lower cost than achieved by each level of government working on its own.

**As a result of our shared experience around and confidence in the process of collaboration, we therefore create *The Kansas Collaborative* as a joint effort among the State of Kansas, Kansas Association of Counties, and the League of Kansas Municipalities to foster collaboration and improve government efficiency. Furthermore, projects of *The Kansas Collaborative* will be managed and facilitated by Team Tech, Inc., whose collaboration skills were documented as critical to the success of the pilot prescription drug effort.**

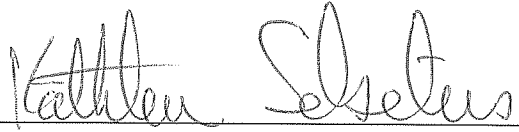
In creating *The Kansas Collaborative*, we pledge our human and financial resources to break through structural boundaries and attack shared problems together, rather than attacking the same problems over and over again, alone.

Furthermore, we affirm the value of first arriving at shared definitions of common problems, even where ideas or solutions are not yet identified, and then proceeding to authentic dialogue which ultimately reveals solutions.

Finally, we state our intention to build *The Kansas Collaborative* in such a way that the fundamental wisdom of our nation's founders of shared responsibility among levels and units of government can be reignited within a framework of lively, dynamic, and accountable collaboration among our state, counties, cities, and citizens.

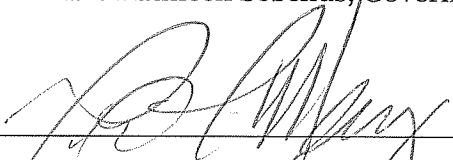
This statement of intention and commitment is hereby executed on this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of November, 2005, in the city of Topeka, county of Shawnee, state of Kansas, among a crowd of witnesses at the 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Kansas Association of Counties.

Signed:



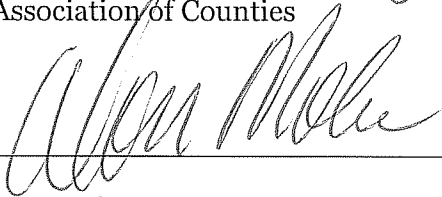
---

Honorable Kathleen Sebelius, Governor of Kansas



---

Commissioner Gene Merry, President, Kansas Association of Counties



---

Don Moler, Executive Director, League of Kansas Municipalities