



**BARBER COUNTY
UNITED**

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<https://www.barbercountyunited.org>

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BCU and Kansas Cares

BARBER COUNTY UNITED OFFERS ASSISTANCE TO RESIDENTS ACCESSING THE HEALTHCARE MARKETPLACE AND OTHER SERVICES

Medicine Lodge, KS – Barber County United offers assistance services to Barber County residents accessing the Marketplace for healthcare. Barber County United’s Navigator, Walinda Arnett, is a federally trained community health worker who helps consumers find and apply for the health coverage that is best suited to their needs and budget. As trusted community partners, Navigators are focused on assisting all residents, especially those who have historically experienced lower access to health coverage and greater disparities in health outcomes to coverage.

One of Walinda’s primary objectives as a Navigator is to advocate for Barber County residents. She offers free, unbiased, confidential assistance to help wade through the often-confusing Marketplace. Her support is ongoing for anyone who needs it. Navigators are available to answer questions throughout the year, not only during the open enrollment phase.

The rate of uninsured Barber County residents was 14.1% in 2018. Barber County United anticipates that Walinda will be instrumental in lowering that number in the future.

Pictured: Walinda Arnett, Barber County United’s Kansas Cares Navigator.



Barber County United is a local quality-of-life coalition focused on new approaches to rural wellness. The coalition strives to strengthen Barber County communities by bringing its people together to become healthier Kansans. Thrive Allen County is the largest and most prominent rural health advocacy organization in Kansas. Thrive offers education on health topics and provides mentoring and technical assistance to individuals and organizations working to improve their communities, including mentoring Barber County United. Through the KANSAS CARES program Thrive has contracted with ten agencies across Kansas to bring Navigator services to underserved communities throughout the state. Walinda Arnett, Barber County United’s Website Coordinator and Kansas Cares Navigator provides enrollment assistance services to Barber County and Kansas residents for the Marketplace and other health and safety net services in its Thrive CARES program.



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