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## **Hospital decides to provide sexual assault exams**

*Jana's Campaign* is happy to announce that the Hays Medical Center of Hays, Kansas has reversed its decade-long practice of not providing certified nurses to care for sexual assault victims.

According to a news report from the Lawrence Journal-World, Jodi Schmidt, VP and Chief Development Officer of the Hays Medical Center said that since the community-wide forum (on this issue), the hospital has "decided to change course". She said, "the Hays Medical Center hopes to have specially trained nurses in place within the next two or three months."

Over the last decade, rape victims from the Hays area who are willing to press charges must be transported 90 miles one way to Salina to be examined by a certified nurse. Clearly, this just prolongs the trauma faced by victims.

We would like to acknowledge and thank the leadership studies students at Fort Hays State University for bringing this issue to light as well as leading this community effort. We would also like to thank the Hays Soroptimist Club, the Kansas Chapter of the National Organization for Women, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence staff, and *Jana's Campaign* advocates for making this news possible.

Finally, we applaud the Hays Medical Center for their decision to provide the best care for all Northwest Kansas citizens.

For more information see the Lawrence Journal-World Article:

<http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2009/dec/27/advocates-see-rape-exams-closer-home/>