



Early Childhood Working Group Minutes

April 26th, 1-2:30 p.m.

Bluford Library 3050 prospect Ave., Kansas City, MO 64128

I. Welcome and Introduction of Attendees

II. Partner Spotlight

Jasmin Williams, [Pre-KC](#), KC Chamber of Commerce

- Focus on raising awareness of the need for quality early learning importance.
 - The Chamber is interested in making the business argument about the importance of quality early learning
- Pre-KC is offering Sesame Street in Communities Workshops and subscription boxes for free for families: <http://pre-kc.org/>
 - Equips parents with tips and tools that they can use to promote school readiness in their children from an early age
 - Subscription boxes include [sesame street in communities](#) toolkits, sesame street character toy, and other educational pieces focused on early learning
 - If your organization has resources for families it would like to include in the subscription box, contact Jasmin. She is looking to expand on the local resources included.
 - Volunteer opportunity to stock these boxes! Contact Jasmin with interest at williams@kcchamber.com or check Pre-KC Facebook for more information!

Lauren Olsen, Youth and Family Engagement Librarian, Bluford Library

- Spoke about how Bluford library and many libraries have terrific programming for young children that promote early literacy skills and support the #2 Fit-Tastic! Message to limit screen time to 2 hours or less per day
- Inclusion of play and movement into learning/reading to promote a healthy lifestyle without too much screen time
 - Focuses include: Talking, reading, play, writing and singing
- Other programs at Bluford include the Front Porch Café- Every Tuesday from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm – Playgroup for young children and their caregivers can network while kids are developmental activities and snacks, like fresh fruit

- Literacy story time with Lauren at 11:00 am follows (open to everyone)
- Kids' Café Summer Feeding Site– Kids can stop by and get a free serving of low or non-fat dairy along with a serving of fruit and veggies
 - Offered to kids ages 1-18 on Monday – Friday from 3:30 – 4:30
 - Looking for other summer feeding sites in the KC area!? Follow this link to search for USDA Summer Feeding Sites:
 - <https://www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks>
- Summer reading program for all ages! – Everyone gets a book to start with!
 - Also, check out the audio books at Bluford library! They are perfect for road trips or a relaxing day at the park!

III. Review of Charter and Past Accomplishments from 2017

See attached Short Term Outcomes document

Discussion of Next Steps

- Goals of Focus Group
 - Collaborate, Share, Learn, Grow and Create Change
- Think of what we can do collectively to enhance each other's work
 - Potential 12345 Fit-Tastic! Delivery subscription box with resources from partners
 - Healthy living books to improve literacy along with focus on nutrition and activity
 - Behavior needs to be modeled and content needs to be present to educate children
 - Integration of NAP SAAC tools and Healthy Lifestyles Initiative framework
 - NAP SAAC update on trainings, keywords and other terminology used on the site
 - Responses on assessments are being affected
 - Policy doesn't always match practice
 - Education AND assessment tool
- WIC Making Connections with Physicians and Providers
 - Income threshold is higher than other programs like SNAP, which is sometimes a misconception
 - If parents lost job and need help for a short time, they can still qualify
 - In Kansas, E-WIC rollout has been successful and is helping to maintain caseload and remove barriers for families; some Missouri WIC programs have been seeing a decrease in caseload, so important to be continuing to promote the value of WIC and the availability for families with children through 5
- **Next steps: Identify one priority short-term outcome and one or two action steps/strategies that you would be interested in working on as a group**

IV. Networking/Announcements

- Wyandotte County Childcare Licensing
 - Annual Parent-Provider University at KC Community College was April 21st- Vendors and agencies shared information and resources and child programming was included so professionals could network
 - “Grow it, Try it, Like it” event was included where participants made a recipe from the fresh foods
 - Focus of the conference was on fun alternatives to screen time and the many benefits of reducing screen time in young children (Ex. Neurocognitive development and function, as well as reducing sedentary time/increasing active time)
- Johnson County WIC program
 - Gearing up for the WIC Community Garden- Tuesdays mornings from 7:30 am – 9:30 am for volunteers to help as well as harvest produce
 - People can pick up produce when they come in for WIC
- KC Public Schools – Recent literacy fair for 200-300 people
 - Free meals, books and blood pressure readings for everyone in attendance
 - Truman Mobile Market was there to give out fresh fruits and veggies
 - Provider celebration with healthy breakfast options to start things off and then professional development the rest of the day.
- Growing Healthy Futures
 - Family Services Team- In process of going through applications for HeadStart
 - Partnership with Vineyard church to provide backsnack and also fresh produce for families for the weekends, which has been a very popular with families
 - In the process of prepping and reworking their existing school garden with help from volunteers- looking forward to utilizing that with children this summer
- The Family Conservancy
 - Taking Steps to Healthy Success Learning Collaborative with family childcare providers is going well and wrapping up in the next few months;
 - Amy is working on wellness grant and also focused on working with family childcare providers in Kansas, but will begin working with those in Missouri in the future as well
 - May 5th is provider celebration event on the topic of professionalism
- KC Healthy Kids – Advocacy efforts in full effect!
 - Senior farmers’ market nutrition program in MO
 - Pushing for decreased sales tax on food in KS
 - Healthy Kids – Bright Futures launched a couple weeks ago and focused on learning and leadership development
- MU Extension
 - Will be focusing this spring/summer on a “Eat Smart in Parks” project, using the Missouri DHSS toolkit/model

- Pita for Good/Mark Van Blaricum
 - Upcoming food truck workshop for Girl Scouts with Pita for Good food truck
 - Allowing Girls Scouts to help prep their lunches
 - Interested in other workshops focused on meal prep and healthy food advocacy through cooking
- ChildCare Aware of Kansas
 - In process of piloting the new Kansas Quality Rating Improvement System (with about 40 ECE programs)
 - Will include the NAP-SACC assessment as one of the quality indicators
 - Working with the state to prepare a large CDC grant for health and prevention; will include a focus on early childhood

Next Meeting: May 24th, 1:30- 3:00 p.m.

Don Chisholm Building, 610 E. 22nd Street, Kansas City, Mo. 64108

Weighing In Early Childhood Working Group -2018 Meeting Schedule

- **May -Thurs, May 24th** 1:30 -3:00- Don Chisholm Building, 610 E. 22nd Street
- **June-** June 27-28th -Regional Childhood Obesity Summit- Save the Date: Kauffman Conference Center (will take place of Weighing In Quarterly meeting)*
- **July- Thurs. July 19th** at 1:30- 3:00
- *August- no standing meeting/will schedule as needed*
- **September-** Weighing In Quarterly meeting- TBA*
- **October- Thurs. Oct. 25th** at 1:30- 3:00
- *November- no standing meeting/will schedule as needed*
- **December-** Weighing In Quarterly meeting- TBA*

**Weighing In Quarterly Meetings will be held from 9:00-11:00 a.m. in March, Sept and December. June's Weighing In Quarterly Meeting will take place as part of a Regional Childhood Obesity Summit. (Registration to come.) ECWG members are encouraged to attend Weighing In meetings in lieu of working group meetings those months. Additional ECWG may be scheduled as needed.*