



## Early Childhood Working Group January 25, 2016

### Early Childhood Working Group, 2:00 pm, Don Chisholm First Floor Conference Room

**Attendees:** Nancy Sanchez, Lisa Smith, Joan DeCoursey, , Mark Van Blaricum, Kyle Matchell, Connie Farakhan, Ashley Jones-Wisner, Emily Meissen-Sebelius. Lisa Boggess, Barbara Sansberry, Katrina Ball, Patty Lucas, Barbara Spaw, Carol Ayres, Shelly Summar, Danielle Richardson

### Partner Spotlights

#### **Ashley Jones-Wisner, KC Healthy Kids, Ks Legislative Update**

Biggest issue that KC Healthy Kids is promoting for Kansas is the elimination or reduction of sales tax on food. They have been working with an economist from Wichita State University to document the economic impacts of shoppers crossing state lines to purchase food as a result of the new sales tax increase implemented last legislative session (effective this past summer). KC Healthy Kids is concerned about the tax access to food due to cost. Kansas is 1 of only 14 states with sales tax on food. House Bill 2444 created a local food and farm task force for one year. A bill has already been filed to extend that and to consider recommendations for 2016 and 2017 from the task force. The Hope Act from last session has been reconstituted and will possibly include provisions that require the Kansas Department of Children and Families to cross check to verify that Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients have not won more than \$10,000 in the lottery; if so, they will not qualify for benefits.

#### **Scott Swain, KC Healthy Kids, Mo Legislative Update**

Missouri is considering a bill to restrict Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients from using benefit cards at ATMs. The two main issues that KC Healthy Kids is watching are The Farm to School Act and initiatives to expand farmers' markets, including expanding senior farmers markets.

#### **Jerry Kitz, Early Learning Commission and Kansas City Mo School District**

The Early Learning Commission was developed to investigate options for improving access to quality early childhood for 3 and 4 year olds. There are 2,000 quality seats in the district, but 6,000 children to be served. The commission is advocating for an increase in the tax levy, which is the lowest levy in the metro currently. The Levy increase would be proposed by the district likely in spring 2017 and would be brought to a ballot issue. If passed, the levy would fund universal pre-k for 3 and 4 year olds at a rate of about \$8,000/child/year. The money would follow the child and the early learning commission would reimburse existing providers on a scale based on quality. The commission has studied models in Denver, Tulsa, San Antonio and other communities. The Denver model uses a 5 point rating system to assess quality and incentivizes higher quality with increased reimbursement rates. Some models also provide a "geographic factor" to boost reimbursement for providers who serve low-income, higher risk communities. A major issue for Kansas City in implementation will be a lack of qualified teachers and building up the overall workforce capacity.

#### **Directory of Early Childhood Working Group members- Emily Meissen-Sebelius**

At past meetings, the group has expressed interest in having contact information about others within the Early Childhood Working Group. The survey link exists for members to fill out a membership directory, and we can make it available as a PDF or on the Weighing In Website.

**Action Item:** We have working group directory that we'd like everyone to fill out the survey:

[https://cmhredcap.cmh.edu/redcap\\_v6.10.1/index.php?pid=1454](https://cmhredcap.cmh.edu/redcap_v6.10.1/index.php?pid=1454) . Next meeting we'll discuss best way to organize and categorize. If you have directories that you use in your community, review or bring those as a reference.



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### **Nutritionist/Dietitian Resource- Nancy Sanchez and Emily Meissen-Sebelius**

At past meetings, the group has identified a need to connect with dietitians/nutritionists to support programs (i.e. menu planning) and families who they work with. We have worked with the Kansas City Dietetics Association to send a survey to its members regarding their willingness to provide information and be listed in a directory. We have had a low response rate, and of those who have responded, only 3 have actually indicated a fit and/or interest for the directory. 2 are HyVee dietitians and one is a hospital dietitian. The group discussed potential to connect with HyVee or hospital or other organizations. Shelly and Emily can meet with Children's Mercy nutrition department. Nancy can connect with KU and interns who may have the capacity to serve in that role. Childcare providers could need time to sit down and analyze menus and have conversations, not just a one-time service or analysis, but discussion and advice about how to best meet needs of the center and also be healthy in food offerings. Barbara mentioned CACFP and Dana as a potential person to speak with this group about those standards related to menus and snacks, as well as the Eat Smart Training provided by the state. Research and Extension and Harvesters are important partners and can provide some resources/assistance as well potentially. Many programs are looking for culturally appropriate recipes for the Latino community that are healthy.

#### **Action Item:**

Emily and Shelly will explore options within Children's Mercy. Nancy will connect with KU intern program to learn more about possibilities. Group will continue discussion next meeting with information from these groups.

#### **Next meeting**

**Monday April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2-3:30 p.m. Don Chisholm Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room**