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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Children's Mercy Chosen to Participate in National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality's Collaborate for Healthy Weight

Children's Mercy leads the region's Greater Kansas City Obesity Collaborative, one of 10 teams nationwide participating in the collaborative

Kansas City, Mo – Friday, September 30, 2011 – Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics [Weight Management Program](#) and the [Kansas City Childhood Obesity Collaborative-Weighing In at Children's Mercy](#), are joining with other Kansas City area partners as one of 10 teams from across the country tackling childhood obesity issues through the National Initiative for Children's Healthcare Quality (NICHQ) [Phase One of the Healthy Weight Learning Collaborative](#).

The Learning Collaborative is one part of NICHQ's Collaborate for Healthy Weight project, a new program designed to promote healthy weight and improve health equity through innovative local partnerships.

“Our goal is to identify, share, and spread evidence-based clinical and community interventions to increase the proportion of people at a healthy weight in Kansas City communities,” says Deborah Markenson, Director, Kansas City's Childhood Obesity Collaborative-Weighing In at Children's Mercy, and the lead on the Greater Kansas City Obesity Collaborative. “NICHQ is gathering experts and leaders in childhood obesity from across the country to lead the movement for healthy weight. Through this collaboration, Children's Mercy and its partners are identifying and testing best practices in prevention and treatment in clinical, public health and community settings and will help spread the information beyond the project participants to other settings and communities ready to take action and promote healthy weight.”

In addition to Children's Mercy, the Greater Kansas City Obesity Collaborative includes the Kansas City Missouri Health Department, Children's Mercy Family Health Partners, KC Healthy Kids, and the YMCA of Greater Kansas City. The team envisions that more partners will be added as insights grow regarding what works.

The Collaborate for Healthy Weight is a two-phased project supported through the Public Health and Prevention Fund under the Affordable Care Act and made possible by a grant from Health Resources and Services Administration. The Collaborate includes a quality improvement initiative that aims to promote healthy weight and health equity by establishing productive teams composed of representatives from health care, public health, and community-based organizations. Through this Collaborative, the group will identify, test, and evaluate evidence-based program and policy changes related to the prevention and management of obesity and overweight. Once these interventions have been evaluated, they will serve as a tested and proven model for beginning and sustaining positive change in communities across the United States.

MORE



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The phase one Collaborate for Healthy Weight teams include California's San Diego Healthy Weight Collaborative, Florida's Community Health Improvement Partnership, Massachusetts' Boston Area Collaborative for Health, Montana's Healthy by Design Quality Collaborative, New York's Greater Rochester Obesity Collaborative, Ohio's Healthy Weight Outcome Coalition, Virginia's St. Charles Health Council, and Washington's Lincoln County Health Department.

About Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics

Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, located in Kansas City, Mo., is one of the nation's top pediatric medical centers. The 314-bed hospital provides care for children from birth through the age of 18, and has been recognized by the American Nurses Credentialing Center with Magnet designation for excellence in nursing services, and ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of "America's Best Children's Hospitals." Its faculty of 600 pediatricians and researchers across more than 40 subspecialties are actively involved in clinical care, pediatric research, and educating the next generation of pediatric subspecialists. For more information about Children's Mercy and its research, visit childrensmercy.org or download our mobile phone app *CMH4YOU* for all phone types. For breaking news and videos, follow us on [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#) and [Facebook](#).

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