



Early Childhood Working Group Oct. 10, 2016

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

Attendees: Carol Ayers, Cindy Calendar, Amy Cochran, Emily Meissen-Sebelius, Nancy Sanchez, Rhonda Erpelding, Marc Van Blaricum, Olliea Jarrett, Lori Lanter, Andrea Manlove, Karen Sherbondy, Emily DeWit, Christi Smith

Partner Spotlights

Cindy Calendar- City of Independence Health Dept.; Play Everywhere Grant and Start Right Program

City of Independence Health Department recently received a “**Play Everywhere**” grant from Kaboom! and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The grant focuses on creating a playhouse themed-room in Hawthorne Place Apartments in Independence. Hawthorne Place is the largest low-income apartment complex in Independence with more than 2000 residents, nearly 60% of them children. Average income of residents is around \$10,000/year. Existing services are co-located there, like WIC, Boys and Girls Club and job training services. The grant allows the Health Department to add play equipment onsite. They have added an activity table in the computer lab, and interactive bookcase, a play rug and other items. They are partnering with Mid-Continent library to donate books and have a story time. Habitat for Humanity is a partner in constructing the bookshelf. Boys and Girls Club is participating in creating a mural, in which the kids will help paint. On Oct. 27th, they will roll out the project with a healthy trick or treat/Halloween party. HyVee is providing a healthy eating demo, and there will be healthy screenings and healthy giveaways. The Health Department will administer surveys pre-post to evaluate if residents like and use the new play area.

[Start Right](#) is a designation program for Independence childcare center-based programs. Centers can participate and certify on a 3 star basis in several policy/practice areas including safe sleep, indoor/outdoor play, physical activity, nutrition, emergency preparedness, etc. The Health Department works with the programs to look at existing policies and enhance or add policies to meet the star levels of 1, 2 or 3. The programs receive a certificate and recognition on the Health Department website. The Health Department can connect programs with Missouri Eat Smart and/or Move Smart programs and supports to achieve those designations as well.

Lori Lanter, Olliea Jarrett- Wyandotte County Childcare Licensing

The Wyandotte County Childcare Licensing Department, in partnership with organizations through the Wyandotte County Interagency Coordinating Council, has been holding family engagement events at 2 housing authority sites. The program is offered 6 times, one/month. Each session features community resources/organizations and also focuses on healthy eating and active living practices. They are utilizing the 12345 Fit-Tastic! message and focusing on one message/session.

As a result of partnership with Rhonda Erpelding/AHA, Weighing In, Healthy Communities Wyandotte and others, the licensing department has started looking at own practices and how to offer healthier snacks at events, like Parent-Provider University.

Regulation changes proposed by the state of Kansas will increase the number of clock hours required for childcare center directors and staff. Wyandotte County Licensing is working to provide opportunities for directors and staff to be able to receive training for free or low cost and building the training calendar for next year. They are looking at how to let them know about 12345 Fit-Tastic! messages and how to present the resources and opportunities.



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Networking/Resource Sharing

Barbara Keen- Mo Depart of Health and Senior Services

- Farm to Preschool program and mini-grants available to Kansas City, Columbia and Springfield childcare centers for spring 2017 growing season
- Target is 75 centers participating
- Hiring a part-time person to coordinate the program

Carol Ayres- Family Conservancy/Taking Steps to Healthy Success program

- Oct. 29th starts the next Taking Steps to Healthy Success learning collaborative program for Missouri programs; 16 programs are currently signed up. They will receive 5 full days of training and technical assistance.

Amy Cochran- Family Conservancy/ Step it Up program

- Working with Johnson County Kansas programs that are family home/home-based; the programs meet 4 times/year on Saturday for training, technical assistance and cross-learning

Karen Sherbondy- MU Research and Extension

- SNAP-Ed program through Extension offers obesity prevention, nutrition education through para-professional nutrition educators and regional nutrition specialists
- MU Research and Extension also offers online childcare provider trainings, such as family style meals training for childcare programs: <http://extension.missouri.edu/hes/familystylemeals.htm>

Marc Van Blaricum

- [Pita for Good Food Truck](#) has been extremely busy/popular as Marc brings good healthy food to locations throughout the metro; offers healthy options with vegetables, not common among food trucks

Nancy Sanchez- Wyandotte County WIC program

- New App- [WIC Shopper](#) - allows participants/shoppers to scan products to see if they are WIC-eligible items; also contains recipes, tips, map with WIC vendors and a place to request a product be added to the WIC-approved list

Emily Meissen-Sebelius- Weighing In/Healthy Lifestyles Initiative

- 12345 Fit-Tastic! materials and resources are available at www.fittastic.org including the Fit-Tastic! Event Kit and Activity Ideas; items for check-out for events include flags, retractable banners and horizontal banners with 12345 Fit-Tastic! materials
- We are working on creating more early childhood specific training/supports and will be bringing those to the group for review and input, with an eye towards aligning with existing programs, policies, recommendations



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Wrap Up

Next meetings: Early Childhood Working Group, Every other month, 2nd Mondays

December 12th, 2:00-3:30 p.m.

Don Chisholm Building, 610 E. 22nd Street

Weighing In Quarterly Meeting – Kauffman Conference Center, **Dec. 8th, 8-10 a.m.**