



### Weighing In Early Childhood Working Group

Feb. 8th, 1-2:30 p.m.

**Partner Spotlight** -Roosevelt Lyons, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation, Community Services Division Manager, Parks and Recreation, City of Kansas City Missouri.

Kansas City Missouri parks and recreation department includes [10 community centers](#) with physical activity amenities ranging from basketball courts to meeting rooms to an ice arena (at Line Creek). The recreation programs range but the rate is the same for Kansas and Missouri residents. Community center passes cost \$30/month and include all classes.

They have a program now to offer [free introductory swim lessons](#) to anyone, any age, including adult.

Summer programming includes kindergarten-middle school ages and scholarships cut the price in half. In addition, if families write a letter explaining financial hardship they are able to waive fees. They currently have partnerships with several schools to provide onsite afterschool or extracurricular activities.

Another program is a partnership with the KC Mo Health Department known as LifeX, with a goal of impacting factors related to life expectancy in 6 targeted zip codes. The participants in the program receive free community center passes if they come to the center at least 4 times/month. There are social connection and physical activity opportunities, with the goal of enhancing the sense of community as well as increasing physical activity.

They are looking for opportunities to expand their programming for early childhood and for possible partner with ECE providers to bring programming onsite where families and kids are. This group may be able to provide some connections/opportunities for partnership. If you are working with an ECE program that is interested, let Emily know.

### **Structured Networking and Resource Sharing**

**Rhonda Erpelding, KC Healthy Kids-** Shared about a new program called Healthy Kids, Bright Futures that is focused on creating a community health worker/community navigation model that supports families, as well as providing supports to targeted ECE programs to improve quality and health and wellness indicators.

**Amy McGee, YMCA** – Works with 8 YMCA HeadStart centers throughout KC; the YMCA has many bitty sport opportunities for 3-5 year olds, as well as swim lessons. Membership is offered on a sliding scale basis and includes classes and childwatch program.

**Katrina Minter, The Family Conservancy-** The Family Conservancy fundraiser, Brew 4 Books is coming up April 12<sup>th</sup>. Get tickets early before they sell out!

**Mark Van Blaricum-** Continuing to serve on the board of KC Healthy Kids and operating Pita 4 Good healthy food truck that will be at TFC this spring for several events

**Megan Justice, Clay County WIC** - June 1<sup>st</sup> from 2-6 p.m. is the Fit-Tastic! Family Fun Day in Liberty. Megan is planning and looking for ideas/community partners to provide physical activity, healthy eating resources and activities.

**Christi Smith, ChildCare Aware of Kansas-** ChildCare Aware of Kansas is working with a pilot group of ECE programs as part of the Links to Quality project with Ks Dept. of Children and Families.

**Nancy Sanchez, Wyandotte County WIC-** Electronic WIC started January in Wyandotte County! WIC participants now receive their WIC benefits via electronic card, and the roll-out has gone very well so far. Participants are very positive about the change. The Healthy Campus project in Wyandotte County may be being put “on pause” with the change of mayoral administration, which could impact future plans for community center and new grocery store in downtown KCK.

**Emily Meissen-Sebelius, CMH Weighing In-** Next Weighing In Quarterly meeting is March 29<sup>th</sup> on the topic of Food Insecurity and Health. Save the date for a regional childhood obesity summit with HRSA and CMH for June 27-28 here in KC! More details to come. Healthy Lifestyles Initiative Updates – Early Childhood Toolkit is Available at <https://fittastic.org/partners/resources>

**Next Early Childhood Working Group Meeting:** April 26<sup>th</sup> 1:00-2:30 p.m. Location TBD

**2018 Meeting schedule:**

**April-** Thurs, April 26 from 1-2:30 p.m.

**May** -Thurs, May 24<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 p.m.

**\*June-** Regional Childhood Obesity Summit- Save the Date: June 27-28 (will take place of Weighing In Quarterly meeting)

**July-** Thurs. July 19<sup>th</sup> at 1:30- 3:00 p.m.

**August-** no standing meeting/will schedule as needed

**\*September-** Weighing In Quarterly meeting- TBA

**October-** Thurs. Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:30 p.m.

**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. (Details to come.) ECWG members are encouraged to attend Weighing In meetings in lieu of working group meetings those months