

Weighing In Early Childhood Working Group- Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Susan Matthews, Nola Martz, Christi Smith, Amy Vance, Nancy Sanchez, Lori Lanter, Ashley Jones-Wisner, Amy McGee, Tori Humes, Tory Anderson, Brynn Guardado, Laura Makarewicz, Emily Meissen-Sebelius

We welcomed Lori Lanter as our new co-chair!

Partner Spotlight – Ashley Jones-Wisner, policy director KC Healthy Kids

Kansas and Missouri Policy Items- Food Sales Tax, SNAP and TANF requirements

Kansas currently has the highest **sales tax on food** in the nation, at 6.5 percent. This can reach as much as 11 percent, combined state and local, in some areas. Neighboring states like Nebraska and Colorado, charge no sales tax on food; while Missouri charges about 1 percent and Oklahoma 4.5 percent.

There have been 11 bills introduced this legislative session on the topic of sales tax on food and much conversation. HB 2261 lowers the sales tax by 1 percent. SB 76 is the preferred bill, introduced by Carolyn McGinn, which lowers the sales tax on food by 1 percent every year until 2022. Recently a 1 percent sales tax reduction was added to SB 22, but it is a large bill with many tax changes, so KC Healthy Kids is not necessarily advocating for the bill as a whole. More information, talking points and ways to get involved can be found at <https://www.kchealthykids.org/change-kansas-grocery-tax/>

There has been some discussion about repeal the **Hope Act**, which added restrictions to TANF and other assistance programs. A bill may be heard in the Senate Public health committee, but hasn't been introduced yet.

Kansas will participate in the **WIC Farmer's Market Nutrition Program** this spring/summer. The state will pilot the program in 5 counties, including Wyandotte County. The program will allow WIC participants to receive an additional monthly benefit for fruits and vegetables purchased at farmer's markets in participating counties. More information to come from KC Healthy Kids, WIC and KDHE.

The Missouri assembly has been discussing two bills, SB 4 and HB 474, which add additional work and documentation requirements to the SNAP and TANF programs.

Bountiful Baskets

We continued our discussion about [Bountiful Baskets](#) and interest in this model as a way to access low cost produce, purchased in bulk, for families and/or childcare providers. The program is volunteer run, so if we wanted to pilot it, would need to start with interested host location, volunteers, etc. Anyone interested in further discussion, contact Christi Smith. She has additional information and contacts from ChildCare Aware staff in Salina, who were involved in starting the program in that community.

Weighing In Update: New Screen Time (#2) Handout

We have released a new version of the #2 Fit-Tastic! (2 Hours Maximum of Screen Time) handout. The main changes are to update the information by age ranges to more accurately reflect recent guideline changes/recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). AAP guidance is to reduce screen time and ensure that children get at least 60 minutes/day of physical activity and

appropriate amounts of sleep and other needed activities. The Fit-Tastic! handout is still targeted at ages 2 and up, but some AAP screen time guidance for children under 2 was changed (i.e. things like Facetime and educational co-viewing addressed). If you are currently using this handout, go to FitTastic.org to download the new version. (English and Spanish are available online. If you need unbranded, contact Emily.)

Emily also showed the new FitTastic.org website with additional resources and new filter to organize handouts and resources.

Networking and Announcements:

YMCA Head Start is hosting a safety and wellness fair on May 30. They are looking for mental health, physical health, and safety organizations for tables. The event targets HeadStart families, but is open to the community. They will also have car seat checks for anyone.

Parent Provider University- 9:00-1:30, April 27th

This year's theme is Mind, Body, and Spirit, Healthy You for Healthy Children. The event targets both childcare providers and parents, offering learning opportunities, a resources fair and childcare/child activities throughout the day. The target audience is Wyandotte county providers and families, but it is open to anyone.

Wyandotte County Breastfeeding Coalition has separated from Maternal and Child Health Coalition to be more Wyandotte County specific. They are working on coordinating with KU medical centers to train employees to be breast feeding certified, as well as with childcare providers. They will have free training available online.

No Small Matter viewing is happening in communities across the state to raise awareness of early childhood brain development. Family Conservancy is helping sponsor a viewing and panel discussion in KC. The event is March 7th, 5:30-8:00 at the Gem Theater. More info and to RSVP go to <https://www.thefamilyconservancy.org/no-small-matter/>

Weighing In's next Quarterly Meeting is March 28th from 9-11am at Kauffman Conference Center. Registration is open now.

Missouri MoveSmart and DHSS are planning a train-the-trainer event on the NAP-SACC assessment and online tools for early May. MoveSmart has revised the application and requirements and is about to release the online application and online training video. Emily will keep the group posted.

Next Meetings:

- **March:** Weighing In Quarterly Meeting will take the place of the Early Childhood Working Group. **March 28th, 9:00-11:00 a.m.** Kaufman Conf. Center, 4801 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, Mo.
- **April 11th from 1:30-3:00 p.m. Early Childhood Working Group, Location TBA**
Our topic will be quality initiatives in the region. We will hear about the Links to Quality pilot (Kansas), the Early Learning Profile project (KC area/MARC), Start Young Project (Wyandotte) and other similar initiatives for early care and education programs in the metro. This will be a great discussion and way to ensure that we are working together and aligning efforts across our region.