



MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH COALITION

A bistate catalyst for improving maternal, child and family health in the greater Kansas City community

SPRING 2012 NEWSLETTER

APRIL IS NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

CHILD SAFETY INITIATIVE (CSI) CONFERENCE

"Strategies for Today's World"

Friday, April 13, 2012

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

WEAR BLUE DAY!

Kauffman Foundation

4801 Rockhill Road

Kansas City, MO 64110

REGISTER

at www.mchc.net

or call

(816) 283-6242 ext. 244

\$50 after April 1

This event is being co-provided by MCHC, CSI Planning Partners, and Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics.

FREE One-Day Childbirth Class

sponsored by MCHC's Kansas City Healthy Start.

Open to all KC area families.

Held the 3rd Tuesday of each month

10 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Grace & Holy Trinity Downtown KCMO

Lunch provided!

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

Call (816) 283-6242 ext. 252 or email info@mchc.net

MCHC ANNUAL MEETING and ELECTION

Program:

"Poverty and the Impact on Children's Health"

Friday, April 27, 2012

8:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Research Medical Center

Brookside Campus

6675 Holmes

Kansas City, MO 64131

REGISTER

at www.mchc.net

or call

(816) 283-6242 ext. 239

Safe Haven for Newborns is a Child Abuse Prevention Strategy

In March, a Missouri House Committee heard testimony on a bill aimed at making sure new mothers understand their option to give up a child, under Missouri's Safe Haven law. Safe Kids Metro KC Coordinator Regina Weir, and Child Abuse Roundtable Coordinator Debby Howland testified before the House about the bill proposing changes to the Safe Haven law, which was sponsored by [Representative Kevin McManus \(D-Kansas City\)](#). The original law was signed in 2002 by Governor Bob Holden. It allows a parent of an unharmed baby up to five days old to leave that child with staff at a fire, ambulance or police station or hospital without fear of prosecution. See the [Safe Haven law in Missouri Statute](#).

It is the language about an affirmative defense that Rep. McManus says has been confusing according to child advocates. "There is a general feeling that might provide a disincentive for someone to use or even understand the Safe Haven law."

McManus says he has been told that the language about an affirmative defense creates a fear of prosecution. His bill attempts to simplify the statute by making the age in the law 45 days instead of 5. "That is a date that folks can educate and increase awareness about the Safe Haven law so parents can understand it, but also it's one that, from research and from talking to child advocates, is used in many other states including neighboring Kansas." See the [language of McManus' bill, HB 1568](#)

Continued on page 3, "Safe Haven"

NO ONE EVER HAS TO ABANDON A NEWBORN

You have a safe choice. Instead of abandoning or putting your baby in danger, **HAND YOUR BABY** to someone at a Safe Haven. **MISSOURI:** hospitals; ambulance, police or fire stations. **KANSAS:** hospitals, fire stations, city and county health departments.

YOUR NEWBORN WILL BE SAFE at a SAFE HAVEN



Every child deserves a healthy start; it is the best gift a community can give its children and itself. Mother & Child Health Coalition works together with community partners and families to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care.

MCHC IS A UNITED WAY AGENCY



O U R N E W A N D R E N E W I N G M E M B E R S

Your valuable financial and in-kind support helps us continue our many programs and activities. Our heart-felt thanks go out to the following new and renewing members and partners for the period of January - February - March.

Individual Memberships

(R= Renewing; N= New)

Rebecca White (R) Shirley Haller (N)
 Teresa Tunstall (N) Sue Miller (N)
 Pamela Wittmeyer (N) Doris Egli (N)
 Linda Wishburn (N) Barbara Dawson
 (N) Beverly Rush (R) Amy Hill (R) Joan
 Shover (R) Kathleen Welton (R) Melissa
 Gray (R) Sandra Willborn (N) Lori Van
 Fleet (R) Cheryl Herzog Arneill (R)
 Melody Bruns (R) Rhonda Luther (R)
 Alisa Barker (N) Diane Daldrup (R)
 Barbara Spaw (R) Delores Sheenan (N)
 Heather Keitges (N) Mary Beth Fisher
 (N) Yolanda Guijarro (N) Sonia Reyna
 (N) Jean Honan (R) Venise Mobley (R)
 Maureen Gregg (R) Mary Jane Smith
 (R) Tanya Honderick (N)

**WELCOME TO INCOMING
 CHAIR FOR 2012-2013,
 MICHELE MALONE**

Michele Malone, RN, is Director of Women's Services at North Kansas City Hospital (NKCH), a 451-bed acute care facility that delivers 2,000 babies a year. NKCH has currently expanded its Women's Health Services to include a new Birth Center, 18-bed private room level III NICU, a dedicated Breast Center, Fatigue Management, Cancer Survivorship Program, and Women's Heart Care. Michele has a BSN from Avila University and a Masters in Health Care Leadership from Park University. Her areas of interest include increasing access to prenatal care and reducing our community's rate of low birth weight, and developing innovative ways to engage women in being proactive about their health throughout their lives. Michele lives in Parkville, Missouri with her husband, Jeff.

Would your agency like to display your materials at one of our upcoming Quarterly meetings? Please contact the office at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date at (816) 283-MCHC (6242) ext. 251

Organizational Memberships

Children's Mercy - Sustainer

Tom McCormally, Daryl Lynch, Jodi McAre, Sarah Hampl, Phyllis Larimore, Lou Edwards, Shelly Summar, Adebayo Oshodi, Howard Kilbride, Brad Leech, Deb Markenson, Cindy Olson-Burgess, Angie Knackstedt.

Saint Luke's Health System - Sustainer

Robin Evans, Patrick Altenhofen, Heather Billingsley, Nancy Schroder, Sharon Wood, Lesley Pike, Scott Thompson, Sherry Marshall, Susie Girtten, Lissa Cross, Jennifer Wood, Deb Hoops, Penny Tobin, Eileen Connell, Janet Owen, Judy Junk.

Unified Gov't Public Health Dept. -

Patron

Nancy Sanchez, Terri Garrison, Jennifer Allen, Melanie Vogts

Score 1 For Health - Patron

Nancy Berry, Sara Cox, Kim Doran, Susan Roberts

Project EAGLE - Donor

Heather Schrotberger, Andrea Myer

MCHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Michelle Malone – Chair Elect
 Angie Knackstedt – Secretary
 Kay Connelly – Treasurer
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 Cheryl Herzog-Arneill
 Kim Kimmiau
 Anna Lambertson
 Bryan Love
 William Pankey
 Corrina Roberts
 Wilaiporn Rajjanasrirat
 Linda Steinke
 Charron Townsend

*Thanks
 for helping ME to be
 HEALTHY!*



You may join, or renew your membership in the Coalition during the Quarterly meetings or at any time on our secure Website: <http://www.mchc.net/join.htm>. Individual membership is still only \$25 per year.

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Regina Weir, Immunization and Childhood Injury Prevention Coordinator
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www.mchc.net



MAIC Updating School Nurse Immunization Workbook

Mid America Immunization Coalition (MAIC) is currently in the process of updating the Missouri and Kansas School Nurse Workbook.

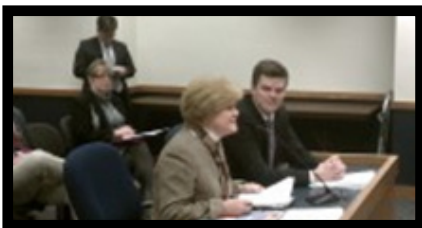
Plans include expanding the workbook to include pediatrics as well as adolescent: K-12. The book will be available online, so that links can be added for things that are not currently a part of the workbook, either in print or online. The target audience is school nurses, and the book will be user-friendly to the parent volunteer as well as the professional nurse. The goal is to ensure every administrator of every public, charter and parochial school knows that this is a resource for their nurses and how to access it.

The publication should be finished by the end of the summer, ready for the 2012-2013 school year. The current edition is on the Website at <http://mchc.net/programs/maic.aspx>. For information contact Regina Weir at rweir@mchc.net or (816) 283-6242 ext. 244.

Safe Haven cont. from pg. 1

McManus says the law was only used in Missouri in two cases in 2011. "I think the number each year has varied from 2 to 9. But, there are a handful of cases every year, and from my perspective, if we're saving one child's life it's worth it."

Advocates want to see the law used more often. Debby Howland told lawmakers, "It's hard to imagine a more heart-wrenching story or decision that a mom has to make when she has a new baby and she realizes she can't care for it. We hope those babies don't end up in dumpsters or in dry creek beds, as some have." Many thanks to Rep. Kevin McManus for sponsoring this life-saving legislation!



Regina Weir, (right) Immunization and Childhood Injury Prevention coordinator for MCHC attended a class recently and became certified as a Child Passenger Safety Technician.

YES you can still get the FLU!
Get your flu shot today- do it to protect the ones you love.

Missouri has the highest rate of influenza infection in the COUNTRY right now. Yes, you read that right. While flu season can begin as early as October, most of the time seasonal flu activity peaks in January, February or later, and can last as late as May. So go ahead and get your flu shot today! See mchc.net for a list of clinics near you.



Are you a Safe Haven?

If you work for a hospital, fire or police station in Missouri (and health departments in Kansas,) then you work at a Safe Haven for Newborns. Do you have a permanent, metal sign posted on the property? Does your staff know what to do in case an infant is brought to your facility? If you have any questions or need materials or training, call us at (816) 283-6242 ext. 226, or go to http://mchc.net/programs/safe_havens.aspx. There you will find posters in 4 languages to print/distribute, resources for birth mothers, resources for Safe Haven agencies, etc. and we can provide you with signs to post outside. Follow us on Facebook.com!

LEFT: Debby Howland and Regina Weir testify in Jefferson City with Rep. Kevin McManus on the Safe Haven for Newborns bill, HB#1568.



Child Passenger Safety

Regina Weir, Immunization and Childhood Injury Prevention coordinator at MCHC is now a certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. The National Child Passenger Safety Certification Training Program certifies people in the US as child passenger safety technicians (CPSTs) and instructors. Thousands have completed training and been certified as CPSTs since the program began in 1997.

CPS technicians and instructors put their knowledge to work by conducting child safety seat checks, where parents and caregivers receive hands-on assistance with proper use of child restraint systems and safety belts. For a schedule of Buckle Up events, go to http://mchc.net/programs/safe_kids_metro.aspx.

Car crashes remain the #1 killer of kids ages 3-14 in the United States. Safe Kids Buckle Up, a program of Safe Kids Metro KC, teaches parents and caregivers to use the right safety gear for their kids in their vehicles on every ride.

Many adults are surprised to learn that it can take up to 12 years for a child to be big enough for safety belts — close to 5 feet tall and between 80 and 100 pounds. Until children reach that size and weight, they need to use car seats or booster seats for both protection in case of a crash, and comfort. Your child will take three car seat steps before reaching step four, the safety belt.

Mother's Milk Depots in MO

Missouri now has two milk depots that provide breast milk to the Mothers' Milk Bank located in Denver, Colorado. One milk depot is located at Fitzgibbon Hospital in Marshall, Missouri; the other is located at Saint Luke's Hospital in Kansas City. Milk provided to the Mothers' Milk Bank provides screened donor milk to premature and ill babies throughout the country. In order to be a candidate for donation, moms need to have a baby less than 1 year of age, be a non-smoker, taking no medications or herbs and willing to donate a minimum of 150 ounces. Please have possible donor candidates contact Saint Luke's Hospital at 816-932-4888 or Fitzgibbon Hospital at 660-831-3710 for additional information. To learn more about the Mothers' Milk Bank go to www.milkbankcolorado.com

A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Annette Campbell,
BSN, RN
Director,
Score 1 for Health

2011-2012 MCHC
Chairperson

"It's a great day to be
an MCHC
member!"

Dear Friends,

It is spring. Wow, is it ever spring! Who knew we would be experiencing the fullness of the season before the first of April. It seems, *everything* is blooming! Grass is thick and green, birds are busy and people are donning summer attire. And, yet, this early spring can make many mid-westerners a little cautious, slightly nervous. With good reason and based on years of experience, let's just say we are keen to nature's fickle turns. We know that one cold night, one freezing rain can bring much of our love affair with groomed gardens to a halt. We hope for moderation between many competing forces. We know that our gardens, our lawns, prairies and trees need doses of both rain and sun, fire and ice, pests and insects in order to thrive.

In following the three days of Supreme Court hearings regarding the Affordable Care Act, I could not help but draw some comparisons between our eco-system and our health care system. Like our eco-system, health care in the United States is extremely complicated! To find a balance in the delivery of health care that supports sustainability and still recognizes individual freedoms is a deeply tangled root. To suggest that access to quality health care by low-income individuals is somehow distinctly separate and not related to an individual's rights to purchase or not purchase health care coverage is like saying that growth of tall prairie grass does not affect the soil for the big oak tree. They *are* related and ultimately both will survive and flourish if allowed to co-exist. The Supreme Court is

tasked with determining whether it is unconstitutional to mandate that an individual must participate in healthcare coverage – either through purchasing coverage or by paying a penalty for not doing so. I hope the Court looks at the oak tree in relation to the prairie. I hope the Court digs into the soil, checks the roots of both the grass and the tree. I hope the Court turns toward the sky to acknowledge the role that sun, wind, rain and other partners play in keeping this eco-system, ahem, health care system sustainable. I hope the Court recognizes the value of supporting sustainability of a complicated, interrelated system.

While this major debate will undoubtedly pervade into summer, MCHC will continue to nurture access to health care regardless of the rulings. Like a worker bee that has learned to survive adverse conditions, the people who work through MCHC's various programs and services are expert at delivering what is needed to help sustain the health of Kansas City's families. It is important to remember that we do make a difference – each day, perhaps in small, yet significant ways. Anyone receiving an email from me in the past month knows I have had as a tag line after my name: *"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."* - Robert F. Kennedy

As my time as Chair draws to a close, I wish to thank everyone on the board of MCHC as well as the staff, volunteers and members of this great organization. It has been a pleasure, and a quite humbling experience to work among so many experts in the region's health care garden.

It is a great day to be an MCHC member!

Best, Annette

We're on Twitter! Follow us at www.twitter.com/mchc_dot_net and help spread the good word about our news and activities.



KANSAS CITY HEALTHY START UPDATE

Kansas City Healthy Start (KCHS) was represented at the 13th Annual National Healthy Start Spring (NHSA) Conference by all levels of the KCHS care coordination teams. Janet Rhone, family advocate at Truman Medical Center (TMC), Hayat Abdullahi, outreach worker at TMC, Remona Miller, family advocate at Project EAGLE and Margarita Juarez, family support worker for the Hispanic team at Children's Mercy Hospitals & Clinics, and Frieda Tresvan, director of education and health promotion, attended. The attending group also included a program participant family, Mona and Zaid and their two children. KCHS's project director, Jean Craig, served as chair of the NHSA Conference planning committee, and as emcee for the conference.

The theme of the conference was *"Our Blueprint for the Future, Building Healthy Families."* The workshops included presentations regarding life course perspectives, male involvement, obesity and much more. This conference provided avenues for networking and learning. A record number of 535 Healthy Start staff and program participants were registered for the conference. A total of 95 volunteers assisted for the success of the conference.

The 14th Annual NHSA Conference is scheduled for April 6-9, 2013. Dr. Craig serves on the NHSA Board of Directors.

Happy Spring!



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