



# Maternal and Child Health Coalition

*of Greater Kansas City*

The Consortium for Kansas City Healthy Start  
A bistate catalyst for improving maternal, child and family health

## F A L L 2 0 0 7 N E W S L E T T E R

### MCHC LAUNCHES A NEW PROGRAM - DEDICATED DADS

BY JEAN CRAIG, DIRECTOR, KC HEALTHY START

A brand-new fathering initiative – the Dedicated Dads program - was implemented as a component of the Kansas City Healthy Start project in February 2007. The goal of the Dedicated Dads program is to connect KCHS dads and all men in the community to people, programs and services they need to help them be a better dad and role model in the lives of their children. In partnership with the National Center for Fathering, a 'why bring dads into the picture' event was held at Penn Valley Community College on June 23, 2007 to showcase this exciting and much-needed new program.

Attendees of this event represented a variety of resources from the community including health care, faith-based initiatives, education and those with personal interest in the program objectives. The event focused on bringing collective efforts to provide services to men in the community and to form partnerships that will strengthen the referral system for these men.

For more information regarding the Dedicated Dads Program, please contact Tyrone Yarbrough, Kansas City Healthy Start community mobilizer, at (816) 283-6242 ext. 240.



*Dr. Jean Craig and MCHC chair Kay Connelly with Missouri Congressman Emmanuel Cleaver II and Rev. Michael Brooks (right), Zion Grove Missionary Church, at the Dedicated Dads event in June. Congressman Cleaver was the keynote speaker at the event. Rev. Brooks is a member of the Dedicated Dads Coalition.*

### 2008 CELEBRATING HEALTHY MOTHERHOOD LUNCHEON - MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

BY ANGHA CHILDRESS, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Join us as we celebrate the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Celebrating Healthy Motherhood Luncheon on Tuesday, May 6, 2008 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center Hotel, in Kansas City, Missouri, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Keynote speaker

Dr. MOM (Marianne Neifert) will talk about balancing life and work issues for all. We are delighted that long time friends of the Coalition, Ms. Jean Honan and Ms. Davoren Tempel have accepted to be the luncheon honorary co-chairs. Ms. Barb Wiman and Ms. Betty Novak will serve as luncheon co-chairs.

Individual tickets are available for \$50.00 each. For table sponsorships and benefits, please call Angha Childress at (816) 283-6242 ext. 249. We hope to see you all there!

### MCHC QUARTERLY MEETING

Please join us for the Annual Legislative Meeting on Friday, October 26, 2007 from 8:00 – 10:30 a.m. at Research Brookside Campus, Curry Auditorium.

On the agenda for this meeting are the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), and Early Childhood Education. You will find the detailed agenda included in this mailing with the map/directions printed on the back.

Please note that in order to save mailing costs, MCHC emails the minutes from past

Quarterly meetings to members. Copies of the past Quarterly meeting minutes will be available at the MCHC registration table during this meeting. If you haven't already done so, please share your email address with us at the registration table so we can continue to send you meeting notices, agendas, minutes and other pertinent information.

For more information, contact Paul Cesare, coalition coordinator, at (816) 283-6242 ext. 239 or pcesare@mchc.net.

Would your agency like to display your materials at one of our upcoming Quarterly meetings? Please call Rita Muehlbach at least 2 weeks prior to the meeting date at (816) 283-6242 ext. 251, or contact her via e-mail at: [rmuehlbach@mchc.net](mailto:rmuehlbach@mchc.net).

Friday, October 26, 2007  
Friday, January 25, 2008  
Friday, April 25, 2008

**MISSION:** Every child deserves a healthy start. It is the best gift a community gives to its children and itself. The Maternal and Child Health Coalition works together with community partners to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care for mothers and children.

6400 Prospect, Suite 216, KCMO 64132 (816) 283-6242 phone (816) 283-0307 FAX [www.mchc.net](http://www.mchc.net)

MCHC IS A UNITED WAY AGENCY



**FOR OUR NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS**

BY ANGHA CHILDRESS

The Coalition is only as strong as our members/donors' passion and support for our mission – improving the health outcomes for area mothers and children! Your advice, time, talents and gifts are very important to us. I encourage you to call me and together we

can strengthen and make visible the Coalition's programs and initiatives in the bi-state area. I welcome and thank the following new and renewing Coalition members/donors for the period of July – September 2007:

Elizabeth Arnold  
Phillis Bailey  
Denise Bratcher  
Kelli Brickhouse  
Jim Bridgeford  
Carol Cowden  
Diane Daldrop  
Susan Dana  
Stacey Daniels-Young  
Joan Decoursey  
Shannon Drummond  
Terrie Garrison  
Maureen Gregg  
Hibba Haider

Vicki Hanley  
Tonya Honeycutt  
Kathy Howell  
Wendy Kreutzer  
Kelly Manking  
Alexis Mayo  
Susan McLoughlin  
Tam Oleszczak  
Carrie Rauenzahn  
Susan Ray  
Sally Riley

Mary Ellen Rodriguez  
Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat  
Jenna Stainbrook  
Clearlis Starr-Williams  
Mary Ellen Sweat  
Marla Tobin  
Kerri Wade  
Julianne West  
Debra Whiteman  
Thad Wilson  
Nancy Zaner

*Please join or renew your membership in the Coalition during the Quarterly meetings or on our secure website: <http://www.mchc.net/Join.htm>.*

**CONGRATULATIONS, JULIE BARRY**

BY SUSAN MCLOUGHLIN

Maternal and Child Health Coalition (MCHC) is pleased to announce that Julie Barry has assumed responsibilities of directing childhood obesity prevention initiatives as of September 1st. Prior to this, Julie was coordinator of the Kid Power KC program, a three year program which ended September 30<sup>th</sup>. Her new duties include directing the Weighing In Collaborative and its Eat Small campaign. Julie is a licensed and registered dietitian, and has promoted nutrition and healthy eating habits in the Kansas City community for the last eight years. We are fortunate to have her expertise

and her community connections applied to our prevention efforts.

Carol Cowden, previous MCHC director of Childhood Obesity Initiatives, will remain associated with Maternal and Child Health Coalition in a strategic capacity, as well as with other community organizations. While not being directly involved with day-to-day activities in childhood obesity efforts, Carol remains interested in and committed to the healthy lifestyles of children and their families.

Julie can be reached at (816) 283-6242, ext. 257 or [jbarry@mchc.net](mailto:jbarry@mchc.net).



*Julie Barry is the new director of the MCHC Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiatives, Weighing In and Eat Small.*

**A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR**

BY ANNE BISWELL

You may notice that this issue of the newsletter is only four pages long. Over the past few months, we have been assessing the content, design and accessibility of the newsletter – hopefully adding items of interest to YOU – our members, donors and partners! Part of this effort has involved seeking your feedback and streamlining processes to make the best use of MCHC resources by bringing the publication process in-house.

You will still receive four newsletters per year, to coincide with each Quarterly meeting. An in-depth, larger newsletter featuring updates on all MCHC programs will be published each April.

By next spring, our new logo and name will be incorporated in the newsletter and all our publications. In light of all these changes, we would like to continue to get a grasp on how you perceive the newsletter, which parts you

like and don't like, and understand how you would like us to improve. With this in mind, please contact Angha Childress, MCHC director of development, at (816) 283-6242 ext. 249 or [achildress@mchc.net](mailto:achildress@mchc.net).

As always, your comments are very much appreciated. You can find a copy of this newsletter online at [www.mchc.net](http://www.mchc.net).

**UPDATE ON COALITION ACTIVITIES**

BY KAY CONNELLY, MCHC CHAIRPERSON

The Coalition has just completed a very exciting and challenging summer. In June, the biennial MAIC Immunization Symposium was held with more than 180 attendees and 21 exhibitors. Then came three half-day cultural competency workshops, a collaboration between KC Healthy Start and the Jewish Vocational Services. The theme was: Global Health Care Comes to Kansas City. In August the Breastfeeding Subcommittee presented an educational event at Swope Parkway Health Services in conjunction with World Breastfeeding Week.

As part of the new community fathering initiative, a "kickoff" event was held at Penn Valley Community College. More than 20 organizations attended with Congressional Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver giving the keynote address.

This event led to an historic father/child event the weekend of Sept. 21 – 23. Former NBA great, Earvin "Magic" Johnson took part in "KC Magic, a Dedicated Dads Workshop" Saturday, September 22nd. Magic spent time with the young people while the dads were in workshops and then fielded questions from the dads. His message was about education and taking care of your community, your family, and yourself.

Another summer activity was the annual Health Fair. The Fair was attended by more than 1,200 people, who received all kinds of health care screenings and other valuable information, as well as food, school supplies and clothing.

MCHC was also very involved in advocating and educating policy-makers about the merits of the SCHIP legislation, with many letters and emails forwarded to U.S. legislators from



*Kay Connelly, Chairperson  
Maternal and Child Health Coalition*

both sides of the state line. The Legislative Committee is busy formulating issues to be addressed during the 2008 legislative sessions in both Missouri and Kansas.

Committee meetings are in full swing. We are getting ready for the October Quarterly meeting presented by the Legislative Committee, planning the January Quarterly meeting with the Adolescent Health Committee, and Safe Kids Metro KC is working to continue car seat checks as well as other safety events. There are plenty of activities for everyone to be involved in. Let's make this Fall one to remember!

**A THANK-YOU FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

BY SUSAN MCLOUGHLIN

As we move into this season of Thanksgiving, I would like to reflect on all those who help make Maternal and Child Health Coalition the great organization it is today! We have incredible partners, loyal members, a dedicated board, and a competent staff, all working together to achieve our mission to promote wellness and advocate excellence in health care for mothers and children. We are lucky to have a membership that is not wed to 'business as usual' and looks for creative and workable approaches to challenges and stays open to address current issues and changes in the health care environment.

I believe that one of the biggest reasons for the success of MCHC is that YOU – our members, board and staff, are truly committed to the vision that all mothers and children in greater Kansas City will be healthy. MCHC's collaboration with you is best seen in our programs like Mid America Immunization Coalition, Safe Kids Metro KC, Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiative and Kansas City Healthy Start, working together to address the issues that impact the overall system of care and quality of life for area families.

YOU work tirelessly to see that women, infants and children receive the services they



*Susan McLoughlin, RN,  
MSN, CPNP, Executive  
Director,  
Maternal and Child  
Health Coalition*

need, often without a thank-you or recognition. What you do is so important and I am here to tell you that you are making a difference! I thank you for all you do and I stand ready to hear from you how we can better work together to promote wellness for Kansas City's children and families.

Sincerely, Susan

**BREASTFEEDING: A FAMILY AFFAIR**

BY SHERRY PAYNE, CHAIR,  
BREASTFEEDING COMMITTEE

On August 4<sup>th</sup>, Maternal and Child Health Coalition, Swope Parkway Health Center, and Truman Medical Centers held an educational event to educate the public about the numerous benefits of breastfeeding in honor of World Breastfeeding Week. More than 100 women, men and children, as well as vendors and non-profits participated in Breastfeeding: A Family

Affair, held at Swope Parkway Health Services in Kansas City, Missouri.

The Breastfeeding Committee is committed to promoting breastfeeding education, awareness and support in the metropolitan area for both consumers and health care professionals. If you are interested in serving on the committee, please contact Paul Cesare at (816) 283-6242 ext. 239 for more information.



*Participants in Breastfeeding: A Family Affair, August 4, 2007 at Swope Parkway Health Services enjoy a walk around the grounds.*



**COLLABORATIVE SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR 2007**

BY RITA MUEHLBACH , DIRECTOR,  
EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

Maternal and Child Health Coalition (MCHC) partnered with Operation Touch, Inc. (OTI), a Kansas City, Kansas community faith-based 501(c)(3) organization, and Mt. Carmel Redevelopment Corporation (MCRC) to cosponsor a community health fair. The health fair, held on September 8th at Breidenthal Youth and Family Community Center in Kansas City, Kansas, was a tremendous success again this year. A special thank-you goes to MCRC for allowing us to use the beautiful, new community center. This allowed us to have private rooms for more screenings.

Nearly 1,800 health screenings were provided, including blood pressure, glucose, vision, glaucoma, dental, hearing, nicotine addiction, HIV screenings and diabetes risk assessments.



*Young fairgoers learn about good dental health practices.*



*A participant learns about diabetes symptoms and treatments.*



*Attendees visit the information booths.*

In addition to all of the screenings and educational booths, OTI provided a bag full of groceries and personal care items and a trip through the clothing area to health fair participants. There were also school supplies provided for those families with children, thanks to area churches. Thank you, Operation Touch, for all you do and give back to our community!

In addition to helping each participant with some basic needs, OTI and MCHC also treated all of the exhibitors and volunteers to a nice, healthy lunch to thank them for a phenomenal job!

Thank you to all the exhibitors for sharing their time, resources and door prizes for the participants, and to the hundreds of people who volunteered to make this health fair another extraordinary success!

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS, VENDORS AND PROVIDERS FOR A GREAT HEALTH FAIR!**



*With help from a KCK police officer, a child is made safer by completing a fingerprint kit.*



*A participant learns about the proper weight-to-height ratio for optimum health.*

**A Special THANK-YOU to all our sponsors for the Health Fair!**

Major Sponsors:

- March of Dimes
- Providence Medical Center
- LifeScan
- Heart to Heart International
- bp
- Harvesters Community Food Network
- Shawnee Mission Medical Center
- UniCare
- Saint Luke's Hospital
- Children's Mercy Family Health Partners

Contributions are also appreciated from the following funders:

- Community Blood Center of Greater Kansas City
- Construction & General Laborers Local Union 1290 AFL-CIO
- DeGoler's Pharmacy
- Diamond Idealease
- Earp Distribution
- Heart of America Surgery Center, L.L.C.
- Hy-Vee, Mission, Kansas
- Jay Wolfe Chevrolet
- Kansas Gas Service
- KC NAPNAP
- Medical-Surgical Eye Care, P.A.
- QuikTrip Corporation
- The Kansas City Zoo

It wouldn't have happened without YOU!

**The Coalition offices will be closed on the following holidays:  
Thurs. and Friday, November 22 & 23,  
Tuesday, December 25 and  
Tuesday, January 1.**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**

