



MOTHER & CHILD HEALTH COALITION

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

W I N T E R 2 0 1 6 N E W S L E T T E R

Preventing Youth from Becoming Victims of Violence: A Community Discussion



Violence impacts our youth in many ways. Please join us to discuss risk factors, prevention techniques, and proposed legislation. Network with colleagues to address this issue.

Date: Friday, January 22, 2016
Time: 8:00 – 11:30 a.m.
8 – 8:30 networking breakfast
Location: Kauffman Foundation Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, MO 64110



Register at www.mchc.net

COMING EVENTS in 2016

Friday, January 22
MCHC
Quarterly Meeting

Thursday, February 11
"Breastfeeding 101"

Friday, April 8
Annual Child Safety Initiative (CSI)
Conference

For details and to register, and for many other scheduled meetings, go to www.mchc.net

MCHC Weather Policy:

If the KCMO Schools are closed due to the weather, all MCHC meetings are automatically canceled.

January Quarterly Meeting

Imagine, if you will, a violence-free Kansas City. A vibrant metro community full of culture, that accepts and thrives on the differences of its residents. Can you picture the impact that a life without violence could have on children from the suburbs to the inner city? Safely walking to the school bus without fear of stranger-danger. Not worrying about the school bully finding them alone in the hallways or bathroom. Learning to build honest, loving relationships without being forced into unwanted sexual activity. Finally, ending their day in a home that is safe, secure, and loving.

Join us on Friday, January 22, from 8:00-11:30 a.m. at the Kauffman Foundation Conference Center for the MCHC Quarterly meeting to discuss the impact that childhood violence has on people's lives. A panel of experts will describe the effects of adverse childhood experiences, including bullying and sexual predation. During a breakout session, participants will identify services, tools and resources to reduce childhood violence. This program is planned and presented by the MCHC Metro KC Youth Collaborative and Safe Kids programs.



2016 Child Safety Initiative Conference
Educate, Empower, Advocate



Friday, April 8, 2016
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Kauffman Foundation
Conference Center
4801 Rockhill Road
Kansas City, MO 64110



Registration is now open at www.mchc.net

See page 3 for more information.

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.

We have NOT moved, but our address is now

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www.mchc.net

MCHC is a United Way Agency.



MEMBERSHIPS Your valuable financial and in-kind support helps us continue our many programs and activities. Heart-felt thanks to the following individual members and organizational partners joining or renewing their membership during the period of SEPT-OCT-NOV-DEC 2015. Please let us know of any errors or omissions.

Individual Members:

Melanie Becker, Anne Biswell, Charlene Burnett, Cindy Daugherty, Bonnie Fairchild, Cristina Marquez, Tawny Marrs, Michel Martin, Kay Miller, Selia Moya, Mary O'Connor, Sally Riley, Wilaiporn Rojjanasrirat, John Teasdale, Becky Williams.

Organizational Memberships

Benefactor Level (\$1,000): Women's Clinic of Kansas City

Karen Fike, Deborah Neel, Janna Rust, Lisa Strobel

UMKC Institute for Human Development

Cynthia Beckman, Carl Calkins, Vim Horn, Kathy Fuger, Tom McVeigh, Jovanna Rohs, Derrick Willis

Donor Level (\$250): Health Partnership of Johnson County (New)

Andrea Acosta, Amber Giron

A special thanks to all those who chose to make MCHC the recipient of your year-end gift. You contributed an amazing total of **\$4,875** plus an additional pledge of \$50/month for 2016! Your generosity is much appreciated!

**MCHC STAFF DIRECTORY
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A WORD FROM THE CHAIR



Rosemary Hodge Graves, PhD
Comprehensive
Community
Development, LLC
MCHC Board
Chair 2015-2016

"Life's most urgent question is, 'What are we doing for others?'"

It seems that not long ago we were just in the midst of planning for 2015! The holiday season is a great time to step back and reflect on the past year and the hopes for the coming year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our community partners for your support and contributions to yet another challenging but successful year for the Coalition.

We are fortunate to have maintained programs and initiatives that make a crucial difference in the lives of mothers and families battling poverty and other social stresses. Ensuring a healthy start and opportunities for their children to thrive and be productive is nearly impossible without needed support services.

We are grateful to the leadership of the MCHC board and a very dedicated and hardworking staff who

have worked to maintain our programs and led continued efforts to fill the void left by the loss of other needed community services. I consider it a privilege to work with this talented group of community leaders.

As we welcome the New Year we begin with a strategic plan focusing on developing new relationships with business, faith and other community partners. Our goal is to use our collective strength to advocate for legislative policies and leaders at the federal, state and local levels who recognize the importance of investing in our children and taking actions that ensure every child the right to begin life with hope for the future.

I look forward to your continued engagement and support for funding, access, and the delivery of quality support programs over the coming year.

One of the greatest gifts of the holiday season is the clients who share their traditions, joys and celebrations with our Coalition family. Whether it's Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanza or other traditions, they all represent the spirit of giving, thankfulness, gratitude, and hope for a better future

for our greatest treasure, our children.

Thank you for your continued support. While there is much to be done, the holidays are a time to celebrate and rejuvenate. My hope is that each of you have had a holiday season filled with happiness and good times spent with those who matter most.

- Rosemary

MCHC BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2015-2016

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KANSAS CITY HEALTHY START INITIATIVE UPDATE



Shannon Williams, KCHSI Education and Health Promotion Coordinator



Please help us welcome Shannon Williams as the new Education and Health Promotion Coordinator for MCHC's Kansas City Healthy Start Initiative. Shannon is an experienced health educator and facilitator, having worked for the Johnson County government for fifteen years. She began in the Victim Assistance Unit of

the District Attorney's Office, transitioning to the Women, Infants & Children program, and lastly she was a Health Educator with the Department of Health and Environment. Shannon facilitated the Making a Difference program, working with both students and parents to better understand adolescent development.

Shannon is fluent in Spanish which will be an added advantage in her new role. She attained her BA in Management and Human Relations and her MA in Organizational Administration and Leadership, both at MidAmerica Nazarene University. A tenacious passion for education has led her to devote her career to helping under-represented communities elevate their overall well-being by increasing their knowledge about their health. Her first day on the job was November 2. We are happy to have Shannon join our team and look forward to all that she will bring to the Coalition.

Healthy Start Team at Swope Health Services

Healthy Start is pleased to welcome two new employees at Swope Health Services: Ahkeya Howard and Tameka White.

Tameka graduated from Kansas State University and has worked in the social/human services field for 15 years. She enjoys working with children and families and is very excited about her new role as community health worker (CHW) and being a part of the team.

Ahkeya Howard, lead CHW, transitioned from her previous position as a CPRP intake therapist with Swope, a position she'd held since May of 2006. Ahkeya is a licensed clinical social worker and holds a master of social work. Her past experiences include interim CPRP supervisor and community support worker, also at Swope Health Services. Welcome to both of you!



Left: Tameka White, CHW, and

Right: Ahkeya Howard, Lead CHW, Kansas City Healthy Start Initiative at Swope Health Services.



HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

On Thursday, December 17th a wonderful holiday celebration was enjoyed by over 110 moms, dads and children of the Kansas City Healthy Start Initiative (KCHSI) at the Gregg Klice Community Center. The children were delighted by a visit from Santa as he listened to their list of wishes. Children and adults alike were captivated by the volunteers from *Reach Out and Read* who read stories from books the families were then allowed to keep. A catered lunch included pizza, veggies, fresh fruit and cookies, sponsored by MissouriCare and Aetna. Jose Quiroz (MissouriCare) and Allen Pettigrew (Aetna) provided health education and distributed hats and gloves to the attendees. Drawings for \$10 Sunfresh (grocery) gift cards (also provided by Aetna) was a highlight of the event. Each family received a gift bag of goodies that included books, stationery and wrapping paper.

A special "thank you" is extended to the volunteer readers, our health maintenance partners for their generosity, the KCHSI staff for their hard work, and the Gregg Klice Community Center for allowing us to host this event at their location.

As we move into the New Year, we thank all those who are dedicated to partnering and collaborating to ensure that families in our community receive the support, information and education they need to make decisions that will improve their and their families' health.

To learn more about the Kansas City Healthy Start Initiative and how you can become involved with the program, contact Dr. Jean Craig, KCHSI project director at (816) 283-6242 ext. 225 or jcraig@mchc.net.

