



Visioneering Wichita
Birth-K Strategic Alliance Meeting
August 20, 2007
Meeting Notes

Attendees: Vicky Roper, Shirley Theurer, Kandi Miller, Teresa Rupp, Cayla Wasson, June Rempel, Emily Lies, Shannon Benoit, Nancy Rasmussen, Anne Cravens, Michele Spainhower, Walter Thiessen, Bev White, Audra Kenneson, Luann McFadden, Gloria Markuly, Suzanne Chapel-Miller, Paco Price, Anne Maack, Carol Roberts, Jeff Usher, Kendall Heier

Leadership Team: Beverly White, Bill Hanna, Carla Heintz, Cayla Wasson, Chelie Nelson, Connie McMullin, Jeannie Phillips, Jeff Usher, Kandi Miller, Karina Boyd, Lorraine Dold, Nancy Rasmussen, Shannon Benoit, Sue Sommers Barrientos, Susan Wilson, Teresa Rupp, Vickie McArthur, Walter Thiessen

Purposes of today's Alliance Meeting:

- *Build upon data gathered and identified needs to develop goals and strategies for a comprehensive early childhood system*

I. Welcome and Introductions

Teresa Rupp, Alliance co-chair, welcomed the group to today's meeting and had Alliance members introduce themselves to the group.

II. Goals and Strategies – Early Childhood Edition

Alliance members participated in a table activity to identify the goal of a popular children's character and the strategies they use to achieve that goal.

III. Developing an ECCS Plan

While not asking for a specific format, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund has asked that the community develop a "data-driven" plan for a comprehensive Early Childhood System. Therefore, the focus of the plan is not on specific program related issues, but rather, how to create or enhance a **system** for the four county area.

Over the course of the meeting, participants were divided into four workgroups, one for each area of the ECCS plan: 1) Early Care and Education, 2) Health Care, 3) Safety and Environment, 4) Economic Security. Based on the data gathered over the past few months and the needs that this data revealed, each group identified goals for their area and SHN staff demonstrated tools to move these goals to objectives and action steps. These workgroups will then be expected to meet and complete the remaining work for each strategic area.

The Birth – K Alliance Leadership Team has asked that the remainder of this work be completed and returned to Vanessa at the Self-Help Network no later than Friday, September 7 for their review on September 10. As a result, Alliance members were given the opportunity to "champion" a strategic area and schedule a meeting to develop the remaining objectives and strategies. Alliance

members, along with other members of the community, unable to attend this strategic planning retreat will be notified of these workgroup meeting dates to enhance input for each area.

Listed below are the results of initial work in each area, Alliance members willing to continue this work, possible additional attendees and meeting information for each of the strategic areas.

STRATEGIC THEME AREA: EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Related Identified Needs		
Goal #1: <i>Providers of early care and education have opportunities and resources to improve the quality of early childhood services.</i>		
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to identify what is a "quality" provider and tie this to dollars • Require subsidy dollars to be tied to quality • Funding for providers to participate in accreditation/KQRS processes, and for data collection and measurement • Additional provider participation in rating systems • More data on quality <u>and</u> a way to combine accreditation and KQRS data without duplication • Higher compensation for child care providers • SRS rate of reimbursement needs to keep pace with cost of quality • Higher provider rates, but not on the "back" of families • Increase in the number of highly trained teachers • Data regarding the percentage of teachers with CDA degree, teacher's license, or bachelor's degree 		
Objective 1: Increase the number of providers of early care and education who participate in quality rating systems by the number that funding will allow each year.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
1.1 Seek alternative funding sources	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRA	Smart Start grantees; Community foundations; Private foundations
1.2 Educate funders	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRA	Community foundations, private foundations, legislators
1.3 Educate providers of early care and education about access to and the benefits of participation in quality rating systems	Child Start; Health Departments and KDHE	Providers; Local school districts
1.4 Educate parents, families and other care givers about the importance of quality care and education	Health care professionals; Parent educators; Child Start; Human Resources Departments	Parents, family and other caregivers; Media; Faith community; Local school districts; Hospitals; Health Departments and KDHE
Goal #2:		

<i>Children and families have access to high quality early childhood services.</i>
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expansion of Early Head Start for Butler, Harvey, and Sedgwick Counties to meet the needs of those children who currently quality but are not being served • Need to increase funding for early childhood services • Need to increase political will around early childhood related services • Increase in the number of high quality child care and preschool activities
Goal #3: <i>High quality parenting education opportunities are desirable and accessible.</i>
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change the stigma associated with parenting education • Parenting education needs to be provided in an evidence-based way

- Additional needs associated with the Early Care and Education Strategic Area include:
- Need additional data that identifies specific causes for children who do not enter school ready to learn

STRATEGIC THEME AREA: HEALTH CARE

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Related Identified Needs		
Goal #1: <i>All Families will access needed Health Care & Mental Health Services that are available in the Four County Area.</i>		
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to determine what the reasons are for less than adequate care. Is it lack of availability or related to risk factors? 		
Objective 1: Develop a system to provide mental health services so that young children and families receive needed services.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
1.1 Increase the ability of (key?) providers to identify, address, and prevent social and emotional problems in early childhood.		
1.2 Educate clergy & faith community about the resources available.		
1.3 Educate the health care community about the resources available.		
1.4 Increase qualified mental health providers for ages 0-5.		
1.5 Increase the ability of (key?) providers to treat social and emotional problems in early childhood.		
Objective 2: To identify why people don't access necessary or needed services.		

Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
2.1 *** (Needs to be done first) Conduct a series of listening meetings with families about access to necessary or needed services. (note: go to places where people would already be meeting – Neighborhood associations, churches, etc.)		
Objective 3: Develop a system to provide physical health services so that young children and families receive needed services.		
Goal #2: <i>Families within the Wichita MSA will raise physically and mentally healthy children.</i>		
Related Identified Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parenting education regarding issues of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence and their effects on children’s health • Children’s mental health services need to be seen as services to <u>families</u> with children who have mental health needs • Interventions to address mental health issues of parents and primary caregivers as well as the individual child • Number of mental health staff trained to work with children age 0-5 years • Increased preventative mental health services • Number of programs available to young children and their families • Standardize prenatal education and screening (i.e. drug/alcohol/tobacco usage) • All mothers should receive adequate or adequate plus prenatal care Increased community education regarding immunization benefits		
Goal #3: <i>Access to universal data across the four counties within the Wichita MSA.</i>		
Related Identified Needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home visitation data • Additional data regarding children and violence • Additional data regarding oral health care for young children • County-level data regarding the number of under- and uninsured children and families 		

Additional Notes for future inclusion: advocacy around the issue of healthcare for kids, providing/mandating parents to do more....

STRATEGIC THEME AREA: SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Related Identified Needs	
Goal #1:	<i>Keep children safe and families strong.</i>
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More family supports are needed to prevent child abuse/neglect 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased parenting education • Improved coordination with community members, early childhood providers, and school districts • Data on the number of families already served by support programs • Number of parenting classes available in the four county MSA. • Data regarding rates of child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, and intentional injury 																	
<p>Objective 1: Decrease substantiated instances of child abuse/neglect in the Wichita MSA by at least 5%.</p>																	
<p>Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>What</th> <th>Who</th> <th>Who else:</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1.1 ***Conduct listening sessions with families to feed the development of a coordinated service system</td> <td>ICC in each county</td> <td>Parents and caregivers</td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.2 Advocate for a coordinated system of services to families in stress</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.3 Conduct a public awareness campaign regarding strengthening families</td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>1.4 Provide parenting education opportunities</td> <td>Local service providers</td> <td>Parents and caregivers</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			What	Who	Who else:	1.1 ***Conduct listening sessions with families to feed the development of a coordinated service system	ICC in each county	Parents and caregivers	1.2 Advocate for a coordinated system of services to families in stress			1.3 Conduct a public awareness campaign regarding strengthening families			1.4 Provide parenting education opportunities	Local service providers	Parents and caregivers
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1.3 Conduct a public awareness campaign regarding strengthening families																	
1.4 Provide parenting education opportunities	Local service providers	Parents and caregivers															
<p>Objective 2: Decrease instances of domestic violence in the Wichita MSA by at least 5%.</p>																	
<p>Goal #2: <i>Community providers/first responders will have the tools to interact effectively with families in stress.</i></p>																	
<p>Related identified needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in public education, particularly service providers and emergency responders, to improve their ability to work with young children and their families 																	
<p>Goal #3: <i>Families live in safe and stable neighborhoods.</i></p>																	
<p>Related identified needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data regarding the percentage of child care centers/homes that are to not in good standing with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment • Data regarding local crime rates 																	

STRATEGIC THEME AREA: ECONOMIC SECURITY

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Related Identified Needs
<p>Goal #1: <i>Our community supports families having adequate resources to raise children ready to succeed in school.</i></p>
<p>Related identified needs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data regarding local poverty rates • Data linking the level of education and the average income in each county

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved information regarding the number of undocumented children and families in the Wichita MSA • Data regarding the percentage of working mothers with children under the age of 6 years. • Need money to support children with additional needs • Universal access to high quality child care using a sliding scale fee • Identify children with financial need • Need to address the needs of children ages 0-5 who are living in poverty • Address the needs of the working poor and students • Add a financial component to current screening efforts • Universal health coverage and access to child care. • Data regarding substance abuse • Increase availability of child care • Increase in the number of child care slots available to children age 0-12 years. 		
<p>Objective 1: Increase access to basic family resources (i.e., living wage, affordable housing, safety, nutrition, transportation).</p>		
<p>Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:</p>		
What	Who	Who else:
1.1 Educate/lobby the legislature about the need for living wage for everyone.	Workforce Development, Statewide Homeless coalition, individual NPs available to testify	SC Delegation,
1.2 A standardized financial and needs form will be developed and implemented across agencies that provide assistance to families with young children.	Emergency Services Network, Ministerial Alliance, Interagency Coordinating councils	
1.3 Increase awareness of intake personnel at agencies so that they are better informed in meeting the basic needs of families with young children.	KACARRA, Child Start, United Way 211, Child screenings	
<p>Objective 2: Universal access to quality health care to young children, their families, and pregnant mothers.</p>		
<p>Objective 3: Universal access to high quality childcare and education.</p>		

IV. **Next Steps**

Alliance members will work in individual groups to draft the remaining objectives and strategies in each area of the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan. This work is to be submitted to Vanessa Lohf at the Self-Help Network via email at vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu **no later than September 7, 2007**. Additionally, each county in the Wichita MSA will also meet to adapt this plan to their local communities.

The individual workgroup meeting schedules are as follows:

Championing a Strategic Area: Early Care and Education

Champion: Anne Maack		
Who:	Who Else:	Meeting date/time/location
June Rempel Nancy Rasmussen Susan Harsh Jeff Usher Anne Cravens Emily Lies	Chairperson for Interagency Coordinating Councils in Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick, and Sumner Counties	August 29, 2007 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, Wichita Wichita Room

Championing a Strategic Area: Health Care Champions: Michelle Spainhower/Walt Thiessen		
Who:	Who Else:	Meeting date/time/location
Cayla Wasson Gloria Markuly Suzanne Chapel-Miller Bev White Nancy Rasmussen Pam Cornwell	Claudia Blackburn – Sedgwick Co. Health Dept. Rod Harris – Center for Health Equity	August 30, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, Wichita High Plains Room

Championing a Strategic Area: Safety and Environment Champion: Jeff Usher		
Who:	Who Else:	Meeting date/time/location
Anne Cravens Nancy Rasmussen Gloria Markuly Bev White Emily Lies Vicky Roper	Don Henry Representative from SAFE KIDS	August 29, 2007 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, Wichita Wichita Room

Championing a Strategic Area: Economic Security Champion: Kandi Miller		
Who:	Who Else:	Meeting date/time/location
Teresa Rupp Suzie Ahlstrand Kendall Heier		August 30, 2007 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, Wichita Wichita Room

V. Other Announcements

Teresa Rupp announced that Kansas Action for Children has released a Request for Proposal for grants up to \$10,000 that is limited to the 17 communities that attended the Kansas Health Foundation Leadership Conference in June 2007. This grant is to be used for the creation and dissemination of “messages” around the importance of investment in early childhood programs. The Self-Help Network will be working with the Leadership Team as well as the team that represented Sedgwick County in June to develop a proposal which is due to Kansas Action for Children no later than October 16, 2007.

Next Leadership Team Meeting: Monday, September 10, 2:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main, Wichita

Next Alliance Meeting: Monday, September 17, 2:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main, Wichita