



WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Self-Help Network
Center for Community Support and
Research**

1845 N. Fairmount, Box 201
Wichita, KS 67260-0201
Ph. (316) 978-3843, (800) 445-0116 (in Kansas),
Fax: (316) 978-3593
e-mail: selfhelpnetwork@wichita.edu
web site: www.selfhelpnetwork.wichita.edu

Visioneering Wichita Birth – K Alliance
Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning

September 10, 2007

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 satisfactorily complete 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; KACCRRRA	Smart Start grantees; Community foundations; Private foundations

1.2 Educate funders	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRRA	Community foundations, private foundations, legislators
1.3 Decrease duplication when reporting the rate of high quality early childhood settings (ex. Establish a registry of quality rating/standards (Head Start performance standards, NAEYC, NAFCC, KQRS, Department of defense, NIEER, or other approved tools) and make it available to parents, grantees and funders.	Grant writers, funders, child care resource and referral	
1.4 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
1.5 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
Objective 2: Increase access to financial incentives based on quality rating for every Early Childhood provider who would like to participate.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
2.1 Seek alternative funding sources	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRRA	Smart Start grantees; Community foundations; Private foundations
2.2 Educate funders	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRRA	Community foundations, private foundations, legislators
Objective 3: Establish a registry of quality rating standards (i.e. Head Start performance standards, NAEYC, NAFCC, KQRS, Department of Defense, NIEER, or other approved tools) and make it available to parents, grantees, and funders.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
Objective 4: Establish a relationship with school districts to measure Kindergarten readiness for program participants.		

Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
Objective 5:		
Increase the rate of pay for Early Child Care and Education providers based on increased qualifications and education level.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
5.1 Seek alternative funding sources	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRRA	Smart Start grantees; Community foundations; Private foundations
5.2 Educate funders	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRRA	Community foundations, private foundations, legislators
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 qualify 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 		
Objective 1:		
Increased funding for additional children to receive affordable high quality birth to five early childhood services for all families who want it.		
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; KACCRRRA	Smart Start grantees; Community foundations; Private foundations
1.2 Educate funders	Interagency Coordinating Councils of Butler, Harvey, Sedgwick and Sumner Counties; KACCRRRA	Community foundations, private foundations, legislators
1.3 Focus initiatives on traditional access barriers such as non-standard hours and transportation	Grant writers, funders	
1.4 Create a message encouraging families to participate	Birth to K Alliance leadership with Wichita and Newton Frameworks partners	
Objective 2:		
Increase political will for increased investment in early childhood services.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:

2.1 Present a proposal to the Unified Legislative Agenda alliance	Birth to K Alliance leadership with Wichita and Newton Frameworks partners	Unified Legislative Alliance
2.2 Apply for Frameworks grant from Kansas Action for Children	Birth to K Alliance leadership with Wichita and Newton Frameworks partners	Kansas Action for Children
2.3 Use KAC funds to push the ULA proposal should we be successful	Birth to K Alliance	Vision partners
2.4 Sell some of our peripheral issues to the appropriate Visioneering Alliances	Birth to K Alliance leadership	Health Care Strategic Alliance
Objective 3: Increase parental interest in and demand for high quality early childhood services.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
3.1 Lobby Kansas legislators to offer a higher level of subsidy for parents who choose high-quality settings	Birth to K Alliance	Legislature
3.2 Publicize high quality ratings	Child Care Resource and Referral	
3.3 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 #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 		
Objective 1: More community-based practitioners (such as pediatricians, child care providers, clergy) will be prepared to offer appropriate, research-based parenting information and referrals to families.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
Objective 2: Increase the number of families who will voluntarily participate in strengths-based home visitation programs.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		

Objective 3: Increase the number of families who will voluntarily participate in strengths-based parenting education classes.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:

Additional needs associated with the Early Care and Education Strategic Area includes:

- 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>Families within the Wichita MSA will raise physically and mentally healthy children.</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? • 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 • 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 		
Objective 1: Conduct an assessment to identify current levels of utilizations, barriers to access, and perceived need of care within three months of plan implementation.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
1.1 *** (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	Local ICC, University Resources	Professional evaluator/moderator

associations, churches, etc.)		
1.2 Conduct retrospective assessment among families of identified high-risk kindergarteners	Local ICC, University Resources, .5 FTE TBD	Professional evaluator/moderator
1.3 Compile data and establish appropriate benchmarks	.5 FTE TBD, Local ICC, University Resources	
Objective 2: Increase community awareness of the importance of social/emotional development beginning from birth to prepare for school success.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
2.1 Integrate social/emotional development into ongoing education for early childhood providers and community partners	Extension Service, Child Start, Inc., Rainbows, KACCRRRA, Local ICC, Faith Community	
2.2 Increase early identification of children at risk for negative mental health outcomes	Early childhood providers, doctors, community	
Objective 3: Develop a plan to increase utilization of mental and physical health services within one year of plan implementation.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
3.1 Advocate for universal screening at birth	ICC, KDHE, KAC	
3.2 Expand coordinated screening follow-up	??? entity	Additional providers of home visitation services
Objective 4: Increase capacity of mental and physical health services.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
4.1 Increase number of Medicaid providers and level of reimbursement	KHPA, KAC	
4.2 Partner with institutions of higher education to develop courses focusing on early childhood mental health	Universities	
Objective 5: Increase the percent of births to women having received adequate and appropriate prenatal care.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
5.1 Expand provided outreach, education and ongoing support for	March of Dimes, Faith Community, Current Providers	

pregnant women through collaboration with community partners		
--	--	--

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>Children will be in safe environments.</i>		
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More family supports are needed to prevent child abuse/neglect • Increased parenting education • 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 		
Objective(s):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease substantiated instances of child abuse/neglect in the Wichita MSA by at least 5%. • Decrease instances of domestic violence in the Wichita MSA by at least 5%. 		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
Conduct listening sessions with families to feed the development of a coordinated service system	ICC in each county	Parents and caregivers
Increase public awareness of available resources.	Coalition for Domestic Violence, local homeless services coalition	Faith Community, ICC
Increase availability and accessibility of family friendly shelters.	Coalition for Domestic Violence, local homeless services coalition	Faith Community, ICC
Goal #2:		
<i>Families will be strong.</i>		
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More family supports are needed to prevent child abuse/neglect • Increased parenting education • Data on the number of families already served by support programs • Number of parenting classes available in the four county MSA. 		
Objective(s):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decrease substantiated instances of child abuse/neglect in the Wichita MSA by at least 5%. • Decrease instances of domestic violence in the Wichita MSA by at least 5%. 		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:

Conduct listening sessions with families to feed the development of a coordinated service system	ICC in each county	Parents and caregivers
Advocate for a coordinated system of services to families in stress.	ICC, Domestic violence coalition, mental health service providers	Parents and caregivers, law enforcement,
Conduct a public awareness campaign regarding strengthening families	KCSL, SRS	ICC & other service providers
Provide a continuum of services and opportunities to meet individual family needs (e.g. evidence based parent educations, home visiting programs, parent mentoring, etc).	Local service providers	Parents and caregivers
Conduct listening sessions with families to feed the development of a coordinated service system	ICC in each county	Parents and caregivers
Increase public awareness of available resources.	Coalition for Domestic Violence, local homeless services coalition	Faith Community, ICC
Increase availability and accessibility of family friendly shelters.	Coalition for Domestic Violence, local homeless services coalition	Faith Community, ICC
Goal #3:		
<i>Communities will be engaged.</i>		
<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 • Increase in public education, particularly service providers and emergency responders, to improve their ability to work with young children and their families • Improved coordination with community members, early childhood providers, and school districts 		
Objective(s):		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The community develops the capacity to insure that the needs of children and families will be addressed collaboratively. 		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
Engage neighborhood organizations to support families.	ICC and other service providers	Parents and caregivers, neighborhood policing
Conduct listening tours throughout the community	Center for Health and Wellness, United Way	Parents and caregivers, faith community,
Conduct public forums that inform the community the results of what was heard in the listening tours.	Center for Health and Wellness, United Way	Parents and caregivers, faith community,

Coordinate a collaborative marketing effort.	ICC	Marketing professionals, media
--	-----	--------------------------------

STRATEGIC THEME AREA: ECONOMIC SECURITY

Goals, Objectives, Strategies and Related Identified Needs		
Goal #1:		
<i>Our community supports families having adequate resources to raise children ready to succeed in school.</i>		
Related identified needs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data regarding local poverty rates • Data linking the level of education and the average income in each county • 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. 		
Objective 1:		
Increase access to basic family resources (i.e., higher wages for early childhood professionals, affordable housing, safety, nutrition, transportation).		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
1.1 Educate the legislature about the need for higher wages for early childhood professionals.	Workforce Development, Statewide Homeless coalition, individual NPs available to testify	1.1 Educate the legislature about the need for higher wages for early childhood professionals.
1.2 Implement coordinated case management including common needs assessment forms and inter-agency referrals across agencies that provide assistance to families with young children.	Emergency Services Network, Ministerial Alliance, Interagency Coordinating councils	1.2 Implement coordinated case management including common needs assessment forms and inter-agency referrals across agencies that provide assistance to families with young children.
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	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.

Objective 2: Universal access to quality health care to young children, their families, and pregnant mothers.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
2.1 Educate the legislature about the need, and help them identify ways and/or funding sources to increase eligibility for SCHIP for young children, their families, and pregnant mothers.	KAC, Sedgwick County Medical Society, Kansas Family Physicians, KUMC, Project Access	Individual NPs, Hospitals, Health Clinics, SRS, KDHE, St Dept of Education
2.2 Explore the Healthcare Alliance activities and find ways to support them.	Birth-K and Healthcare Alliances	
Objective 3: Universal access to high quality childcare and education.		
Strategies that will help achieve the goal and objective:		
What	Who	Who else:
3.1 Expand Pre-K and Smart Start Kansas into the entire MSA.	Interagency Coordinating councils, Head Start, R & R, Businesses, School Districts, Parents	
3.2 Explore the Literacy and/or Racial Diversity Alliances to support the common goal of a literate workforce.	Birth-K, Literacy, and Racial Diversity Alliances, Businesses	
3.3 Encourage and support higher education to create more opportunities in the early childhood education field.	Birth-K and College Mecca Alliances	
3.4 Educate the legislature, business community, and the general public about the need for higher wages for early childhood professionals. (Possible activity-Sponsor a forum on early childhood education and learning to solicit public input and support.)	Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, KACCRRRA, KAC, KAEYC,	