



**Visioneering Wichita
Birth-K Strategic Alliance Meeting
June 18, 2007
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Michele Spainhower, Cayla Wasson, Sherri Buss Rawlins, Nancy Rasmussen, Teresa Rupp, Chelie Nelson, Gwen Neufeld, Anne Cravens, Lorraine Dold, Susan Harsh, Debbie Mai, Paco Price, Shirley Theurer, Virginia Swecker, Kendall Heier, Kandi Miller, Rita Flickenger, Suzanne Chapel-Miller, Bonnie Duden

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

Purposes of today's Alliance Meeting:

- *Review data collected over past two months*
- *Use this data to begin developing need statements for the region*
- *Discuss next steps*

I. Brief overview of the Birth-K Alliance

Teresa Rupp, Alliance co-chair, provided a brief review of the Alliances' activities to date and restated the Alliance Benchmark: *To develop a plan for an Early Childhood System for South Central Kansas so that all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.*

As part of the benchmark the Alliance had expressed the need to gather relevant data to inform the plan development process. Subsequently, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF) made grants available for communities to develop a plan for a comprehensive system for early childhood services. The Wichita MSA was successful in obtaining one of these grants and this money is funding the Alliance work at this time.

Alliance meetings will be spent working on developing the plan for the MSA. The Alliance will spend the next two meetings reviewing the available data and generating needs statements. In August-October, Alliance meetings will be spent translating these needs statements into goal statements, as well as developing strategies and action steps to move the plan forward. Individual counties will continue to work on a process for their communities and Self-Help Network staff will be available to consult, if needed. This information will need to be complete by November 1 to allow the Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council sufficient time to finalize the plan and submit it to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF) in mid-January 2008.

II. Data Review and Generation of Needs Statements

Self-Help Network staff distributed the data that has been collected by alliance members thus far. Alliance members were given some time to review the

information and ask any questions. The group was then asked to self-select into four small groups based on the four elements of the plan emphasized by the KCCTF:

1. Early Care and Education
2. Health Care
3. Safety and Environment
4. Economic Security

Based on the data in front of them, each group was asked to articulate major findings, identify needs based on these findings, and list any current activities or resources that currently exist to meet those needs. The following is the information gathered thus far. The Alliance will continue this work at the July meeting.

Early Care and Education

Major Findings: Only one of the four counties in the MSA has a substantial number of Early Head Start slots. Two of the four counties do not have Early Head Start.

Needs:

- Expansion of Early Head Start for Butler, Harvey, and Sedgwick Counties to meet the needs of those who currently qualify but are not being served.

Current Activities/Resources: Grants haven't been funded for Early Head Start. Butler County does currently have a "look-alike" program that is funded by the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA).

Major finding: There is incomplete data regarding the current availability and quality of early care and education opportunities in the MSA.

Needs:

- Inclusion of tiny-k data in the current set
- Convergent data along with the present data that is available

Current Activities/Resources: It is likely that more data exists in multiple locations though it may be time consuming and difficult to obtain.

Health Care

Major Finding: Adequacy of prenatal care is currently based on number of visits to the doctor.

Need:

- Standardized prenatal education and screening (i.e. drug/alcohol/tobacco).

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time

Major Finding: There is a lack of data regarding protective factors for children and families.

Need:

- Additional data regarding children and violence
- Parenting education regarding issues of child abuse/neglect and domestic violence and their affect on children's health

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of county-level data regarding the number of uninsured and underinsured.

Need:

- County-level data regarding the number of uninsured and underinsured children and families

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Immunization rates in the MSA are in need of continued improvement.

Need:

- Increased community education regarding immunization benefits

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of data regarding the availability of mental health programs that are available to young children and their families.

Needs:

- Number of programs available to young children and their families
- Number of staff trained to work with children 0-5 years

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of data regarding home visitation programs.

Need:

- Home visitation data

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of information regarding dental services for young children.

Need:

- Additional data regarding oral health care for young children

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Safety and Environment

Major Findings: There is a lack of data regarding child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, and rate of intentional injury. It is difficult to compare these with the rate of out-of-home placement to determine priority.

Needs:

- Data regarding child abuse/neglect, domestic violence, and rate of intentional injury
- Number of parenting classes available in the four county MSA

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of information regarding the number of licensed and registered family/home care providers who open or close during a year.

Need:

- Data regarding the percentage of centers/homes that are to be not in good standing with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of data regarding the number of trained teachers working in local child care settings.

Need:

- Data regarding the percentage of teachers with Child Development Associate's degree, teacher's license, or bachelor's degree.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is a lack of data regarding the safety and stability of the environments in which children of the MSA live.

Needs:

- Data regarding the local crime rate
- Data regarding local poverty rates

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major finding: Based on the data we have and what we know, clean air and water and safe, stable neighborhoods have a direct impact on the well-being of young children and their families.

Needs:

- Increased parenting education
- Increase in the number of high quality child care and preschool opportunities
- Increase in the number of highly trained teachers
- 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

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Economic Security

Major Finding: There appears to be a “disconnect” between the number of births in low-income families and the number of children eligible for direct assistance. This may be a reflection of the number of undocumented children and families.

Need:

- Improved information regarding the number of undocumented children and families in the Wichita MSA.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There are fewer than 30 child care slots for every 100 children age 0-12 years.

Need:

- Increase in the number of child care slots available to children age 0-12 years

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Education seems key to getting out of poverty. It’s so expensive to remediate poor outcomes, we need to start much earlier.

Need:

- Increase in high quality child care to impact children’s school success
- Data linking the level of education and the average income in each county (census data)
- Data regarding substance abuse

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Families with more than one child may need more help with child care costs, even though not eligible for SRS assistance. Almost everyone is too poor to pay full cost for 2-3 children in child care.

Need:

- Data regarding the percentage of working mothers with children under the age of 6 years

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: The economic burden of families with children 0-5 years is disproportionate compared to those with children in school because of the state's commitment of resources.

Need: None listed at this time

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

III. Next Steps

Alliance members were asked to continue to collect data that was requested and to submit this additional data to Cayla Wasson, Connecting Point Coordinator, at cwasson@rui.org by July 1. The Alliance will continue to work on generating needs statements at the July meeting.

The Alliance was asked to consider a four hour meeting in August to work on developing Goal Statements. The Alliance agreed to this and details will be announced soon.

IV. Other Announcements

A. Teresa Rupp distributed a summary of the activities at the Kansas Health Foundation Leadership Conference that was held on June 14-15 in Wichita. The team that attended will serve as a work group to carry out the Alliance's goal to better communicate the message of early childhood within the business community and develop an agenda to present to the Unified Legislative Alliance for 2008.

Next Leadership Team Meeting: Monday, July 9, 2007 from 2:00 – 3:30 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main

Next Alliance Meeting: Monday, July 16, 2007 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main