



**Visioneering Wichita  
Birth-K Strategic Alliance Meeting  
July 16, 2007  
Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Calene Binns, Anne Cravens, James Garrett, Debbie Mai, Kandi Miller, Paco Price, Nancy Rasmussen, Teresa Rupp, Shirley Theurer, Cayla Wasson, Vicki Burgess McArthur, Kendall Heier, Anne Maack, Susan Chapel Miller, Walter Thiessen, Emily Lies, Lorraine Dold, Rita Flickinger

**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:**

- *Continue work from last month utilizing updated data*
- *Determine any additional needs not indicated in the data*
- *Discuss next steps*

**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. Data Review and Generation of Needs Statements**

Self-Help Network staff distributed the data that has been collected by alliance members thus far, including updates from July 5, 2007. The notes from the last Alliance meeting, which included major findings and needs statements from the June meeting, were available for review.

Alliance members were asked to self-select into two groups to generate further needs statements in the areas of:

1. Early Care and Education
2. Health Care

After about 30 minutes of work, the groups came back together to divide again into two different groups, to generate needs statements for the areas of:

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 at this meeting.

**Early Care and Education**

Major Findings: There is no way to indicate quality other than (expensive) accreditation processes and/or KQRS and therefore there are very few accredited homes or centers. Ratings are currently voluntary only.

Needs:

- Additional participation in rating systems. Make participation mandatory?
- More data on quality and a way to combine accreditation and KQRS data without duplication.
- Funding for providers to participate in accredited/KQRS processes, and for data collection and measurement.

Current Activities/Resources:

- Limited accreditation or participation in KQRS (rolling out slowly)
- IWPR study/projection of full cost of statewide system of early childhood

Major finding: Reimbursement rates to providers are inadequate to fund either high quality or documentation of quality through accreditation or KQRS.

Needs:

- Higher provider rates, but not on the back of families
- SRS rate of reimbursement (or cash assistance) needs to keep pace with cost of quality
- Require subsidy dollars to be tied to quality (e.g. be a qualified provider to get subsidy)
- Need to define "qualified" provider and tie it to money

Current Activities/Resources:

- SRS Child Care Subsidy for low income families

### **Health Care**

Major Finding: 8-15% of mothers in the MSA received less than adequate prenatal care.

Need:

- All mothers should receive adequate or adequate plus care.
- Need to determine what the reason for less than adequate care is. Is it lack of availability? Or risk factor?

Current Activities/Resources: Standardized prenatal and at birth screenings.

### **Safety and Environment**

Major Findings: There were 9,782 reports of abuse/neglect regarding children age 0-18 years in the MSA in 2006.

Needs:

- More family supports are needed to prevent child abuse/neglect
- Data on the number of families already served by support programs

Current Activities/Resources:

- Parent education
- Home visitation programs
- EHS, HS, Tiny-K, Health Dept.

### **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.

Need:

- Identify children with financial need
- Add a financial component to current screening efforts.

Current Activities/Resources: Currently must enroll.

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

Need:

- Increase availability.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Education seems key to getting out of poverty. Also, poverty predicts poor outcome.

Need:

- Increase child care quality (see work by early care and education group)
- Need money to support children with additional needs

Current Activities/Resources:

- Head Start and Early Head Start in Sumner and Sedgwick Counties
- Four-year-old at risk
- Pre-K pilot in Sedgwick Co.
- Part C/B
- Parents As Teachers
- Healthy Start

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:

- Universal access to high quality child care using sliding fee scale.

Current Activities/Resources:

- SRS Child Care Subsidy for low income families

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:

- Universal health coverage and access to child care.
- Address the needs of the working poor and students

Current Activities/Resources:

- SRS Child Care Subsidy for low income families
- Healthwave

### **III. What's Missing?**

Alliance members were asked to contribute findings and needs statements that are not necessarily based on the data, but which they feel is an important need for the MSA.

Major Finding: There are a huge number of children living in poverty, including the various levels of poverty such as the working poor.

Need:

- Need to address the needs of children ages 0-5 who are living in poverty.
- Poverty has many impacts. Children of poverty need more "cushioning" from the effects of poverty, such as moving often, lack of healthcare, and hearing parents fight about money.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Parent education is important to the well-being of children.

Need:

- Parenting education needs to be provided in an evidence-based way.
- Change the stigma associated with parenting education.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Mental health services for children are currently tied to the child, based on a medical model of diagnosing and treating the child.

Need:

- Children's mental health services need to be seen as services to families with children with mental health needs.
- Increased preventative services
- Interventions to address issues of parents and primary caregivers as well as the individual child.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: Most childcare jobs are not well-paid. This has an impact on the quality of childcare provided.

Need:

- Higher compensation for child care providers.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is little data that is specifically tied to school readiness.

Need:

- Need additional data that identifies specific causes for children who do not enter school ready to learn.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

Major Finding: There is currently a lack of political will (and thus a lack of monetary resources) to carry forward improvements for early childhood services.

Need:

- Need to increase political will.
- Need to increase funding of services.

Current Activities/Resources: None listed at this time.

#### **IV. Next Steps**

The next Alliance meeting will be a special 4-hour meeting to work on creating goals based on the needs statements generated in the June and July meetings. Prior to this meeting, the Alliance Leadership Team will meet to brainstorm questions that will help the Alliance to prioritize the needs.

#### **V. Other Announcements**

Teresa Rupp announced that one member of the Alliance (either herself or Lorraine) and one staff member of the Self-Help Network will be attending a Request for Proposal meeting put on by the Kansas Health Foundation, at which they expect to apply for another \$10,000 grant to receive further training in "framing the message" or other project related to the Kansas Health Foundation Leadership Conference that

was held on June 14-15 in Wichita. Those who attend will prepare a short report for the Alliance to be given at the next meeting.

**Next Leadership Team Meeting:** Monday, August 13 2:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main

**Next Alliance Meeting:** \*\*\*Note special time\*\*\* Brown Bag lunch  
Monday, August 20, **12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.** at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main