



# *KECCS Update*

April 2008

***Please see updated Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities!***

## **ECCS Grantees & Partners Meet in Baltimore**

Representatives from the KECCS Plan joined colleagues from around the country for a national ECCS Grantee & Partner meeting last month in Baltimore, MD. Dr. David Heppel, MD (Director, Division of Child, Adolescent and Family Health Maternal and Child Health Bureau) announced that the Health Resources and Services Administration would provide a one-year extension on ECCS implementation grants – continuing funding of the Plan through August 2009. Other highlights include:

- Connections with oral health projects
- New ideas for parent leadership development
- Resources for systems evaluation and results-based accountability

The Kansas team gave a presentation on implementing Strengthening Families as a collaborative, cross-system initiative.

More information and resources from the meetings will be available at the KECCS Stakeholder meeting, May 28<sup>th</sup> in Salina.

## **Advocates Continue to Work in Topeka**

Early childhood advocates are continuing to work with the Kansas Legislature during what has been a busy 2008 Session. Many key early childhood issues have been tabled for Omnibus when the Legislature reconvenes at the end of April. Visit the [Kansas Action for Children](#) website for [regular Legislative updates](#).

## **We Need Your Help!**

*The grant application for continuation of the KECCS Plan is in progress...We need to know what activities your agency has been working on over the past year. You can enter your activities in the online [Implementation Tracking Tool](#). (Remember, in addition to*

supporting the Plan, you'll have access to individual agency reports!) **Need help?**  
Contact Rebecca Gillam at [keccs@ku.edu](mailto:keccs@ku.edu) or by telephone at (785) 864-7123.

## **Plan in Action**

The Kansas Home Visitor's Training Program is a new program designed for all home visitors working with children and families in our state, including Head Start and Early Head Start, Healthy Start Home Visitors, Parents As Teachers, SRS and child care. The program uses the Nebraska Home Visitation Training Curriculum, designed to build the skills and capacity of home visitors to work effectively with families in the home setting. The Kansas Head Start Association brought together home visitation programs to revise the course for Kansas and condense it into a five-day training.

Trainers have been certified in this curriculum and offer the training at [various locations throughout Kansas](#). Agencies are encouraged to work collaboratively so that training sessions have participants from various agencies. This provides the opportunity to learn together and exchange ideas. Participants will learn:

- How ethics impact home visitation
- Care of self and safety
- Family development from a systems perspective
- The home visitor's role in relationship to culture
- Ways to effectively communicate and reflect
- Ways to assess families, document and set goals
- Community resources that can be accessed to help families reach their goals

The group is currently looking at developing an Advanced Home Visitation Training to provide more in depth support for experienced home visitors.

## **Tips & Tools**

- The FRIENDS National Resource Center for Community Based Child Abuse Prevention and the University of Kansas Institute for Educational Research and Public Service are offering training on the newly released valid and reliable Protective Factors Survey, a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of prevention programs in strengthening protective factors in families. The Protective Factors Survey (PFS) Webinar will be held on April 24, 2008 from 12:00 to 1:00pm CDT. [Register now](#) to reserve space for the PFS Webinar.
- The National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care and Early Education (NRC) has made available a one-page *Parent's Checklist for Good Dental Health Practices in Child Care* that you can use in your work to help influence the quality of dental practices in child care. The checklist encourages parents to look at the dental practices their young children are experiencing in child care/early education settings. The ADA Harris Foundation supported NRC's development of the handout. Packets of 25 printed checklists available –enough to fill the first 300 requests. You may request a packet at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/pdc.htm> and copy as

many as you need for parents or providers. You can also download as many copies as you want from their website at <http://nrc.uchsc.edu/dentalchecklist.pdf>.

- The Eye Care Council's [SEE TO LEARN®](#) program is a preventive health effort to ensure that children entering school can see to learn and to educate parents and teachers about the warning signs of vision problems in all school-age children. Part of the effort includes a free vision assessment for three-year-olds by [a participating Eye Care Council optometrist](#).

## **Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities**

- **[Blending Teaching and Braiding Funding of Special Education, Head Start and Community Services](#)** will be held on April 25, 2008 at Spiritual Life Center in Wichita. The meeting is for administrators and direct service staff from Head Start, Early Head Start, Part C Tiny-K, Part B Early Childhood Special Education, public and private preschool and mental health partners. You are encouraged to invite your collaborative partners (i.e. home child care providers, Parents As Teachers, other early childhood programs interested in learning more about these unique collaborations)!

The meeting is being coordinated by Head Start Collaboration Office, Kansas SRS Health Care Policy – Mental Health, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department of Health & Environment - Infant-Toddler Services, ACF Region VII Regional Office, and Kansas Inservice Training System.

Registration is available [online](#). Contact Peggy Miksch ([pmiksch@ku.edu](mailto:pmiksch@ku.edu), 785-456-8881) for content questions or Robin Bayless ([rbayless@ku.edu](mailto:rbayless@ku.edu), 620-421-6550 ext. 1618) for registration questions.

- Tri-County Smart Start and the Mental Health Association of the Heartland invite you to [Building for the Future: Nurturing Early Childhood Mental Health](#) on May 16, 2008 in Kansas City, KS. Learn about how we can provide children and families with the building blocks for positive socio-emotional and mental health in early childhood. This low cost training is for early childhood educators and professionals, parents or anyone interested in early childhood mental development. Come and learn from noted professionals about early childhood mental health and strategies for promoting good mental health in the classroom and in the home.
- Local inter-agency community teams (of between 8-12 persons) are invited to participate in [Building Local Bridges for Social & Emotional Development](#) on May 19, 2008 in Salina, KS. The purpose of the event is to provide support for local teams to begin the process of developing community based early childhood family centered systems of care. These local efforts will build on the new Kansas Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan. Please let community leaders know about this so that they can communicate this opportunity to their local early childhood

partners. For more information, contact [Rich Minder](#), Collaborative Projects Coordinator for Success By 6 of Douglas County.

- Save the date! The spring **Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan Stakeholder meeting** will be held on May 28, 2008 in Salina, KS. Stay tuned for details.

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KECCS partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KECCS website and in the newsletter, the KECCS *Update*. Send information to [keccs@ku.edu](mailto:keccs@ku.edu) or contact Rebecca Gillam at (785) 864-7123.