



KECCS Update

June 2009

Economic Indicators Database by Kansas County

The University of Kansas, Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, announces the creation of an economic indicators database. This database is designed to assist local and state entities as they pursue grant funding. The database, created in Excel format, contains a collection of economic indicators broken down by county in the state of Kansas. Nineteen indicators, including public assistance, employment, poverty, sales tax, and foreclosure data, are compiled with source documentation to make access to the data easier for programs across the State.

KECCS Survey Results

Thanks to everyone for participating in the online KECCS Impact Survey earlier this year. The survey was conducted to evaluate the impact of the KECCS Plan on systems development at the state, community, and agency level. Forty-five stakeholders, including thirteen members of the Early Learning Coordinating Council, responded to the eleven question survey. Stakeholders stated that the KECCS Plan has had an impact:

- More than a third of stakeholders use the Plan regularly as a part of the planning and decision-making process at their agency, and another third use it occasionally in their work.
- Nearly 50 percent of the respondents indicated that the semi-annual KECCS stakeholder meetings and the available Plan graphic and folders are useful to their work. The semi-annual stakeholder meetings are regularly listed as a highlight of the Plan, as they provide a better forum for communication and collaboration.
- Forty percent of stakeholders reported increases in collaboration efforts with new and existing partners on grant writing, funding, programs, and service delivery due the KECCS Plan.
- Nearly 80 percent of respondents said that the Plan has increased awareness about comprehensive early childhood efforts in Kansas while 44 percent said that the Plan influences the decision-making process about policies, programs, and services.

Results of the KECCS Impact Survey also show that new partnerships have led to increased funding through grant-writing and collaborations with other stakeholders, more effective approaches to service delivery, and increased collaboration to generate new ideas, share resources, and coordinate to prevent duplication, and advance agency and state goals.

The majority of respondents to the survey (80%) agreed that the KECCS Plan provides an effective framework that both unifies early childhood efforts across the state, and guides planning, policy development, and implementation. As one stakeholder put it, “The KECCS Plan is the foundation for every conversation about early childhood in Kansas.”

Report finds Mental Health Problems in Early Childhood can Impair Learning and Behavior for Life

The sixth Working Paper from the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child summarizes recent evidence on the impact of significant mental health problems in young children and the potentially serious consequences for early learning, social competence, and lifelong health. This report examines the importance of addressing emerging emotional and behavioral problems in the early years, and the implications of those findings for policy.

Significant mental health problems can and do occur in young children. In some cases, these problems can have serious consequences for early learning, social competence, and lifelong health. Furthermore, the foundations of many mental health problems that endure through adulthood are established early in life through the interaction of genetic predispositions and sustained, stress-inducing experiences. This knowledge should motivate practitioners and policymakers alike to address mental health problems at their origins, rather than only when they become more serious later in life. This report summarizes in clear language the most recent scientific advances regarding the importance of addressing emerging emotional and behavioral problems in the early years, and the implications of those findings for policy.

To download this article, go to: <http://www.developingchild.net/pubs/wp-abstracts/wp6.html>

Parenting Meta Analysis: Insight for Practitioners

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) invests in supporting healthy parenting that facilitates children’s health and development. Parents are major influences and the key relationship in children’s lives. [Evidence-based parenting interventions](#) that support safe, stable, and nurturing relationships are an important step in our ongoing efforts to prevent [child maltreatment](#) for children in all communities.

Effective parent training programs exist throughout the country, but the individual components of these programs are rarely studied. In CDC's report on "[Parent Training Programs: Insight for Practitioners](#)," researchers examined 77 evaluations of parent skills training interventions to determine which program characteristics appear to be related to better parent and child outcomes. Results highlight which components are more often found in successful programs, and which components are less likely to contribute to program success.

CDC's continuing goal is to promote healthy parenting and prevent child maltreatment before it occurs by changing the factors and conditions that place children at risk. Ensuring that parents are able to provide a safe, stable, and nurturing environment for their children builds the foundation for a healthy future.

Additional information on child maltreatment prevention and education can be found by accessing the following links:

- [Child Maltreatment Prevention](#)
- [Strategic Directions for Child Maltreatment](#)
- [CDC Injury Research Agenda, 2009-2018](#)

New National Center for Parents

A new National Center for Parents with Disabilities and their Families has been established in Berkeley, California, under the auspices of Through the Looking Glass, a non-profit organization founded in 1982. The Center will oversee several national research studies concerning parents with disabilities and their families, as well as provide consultations, trainings and publications to parents, family members and professionals.

The research and resources of the Center will address the nearly 9 million U.S. parents with disabilities - 15% of all American families. Parents with disabilities include mothers and fathers in all disability categories - such as parents with physical disabilities, deaf parents, blind parents, and parents with psychiatric or cognitive disabilities. The Center is funded by a \$500,000 per year federal grant for three years from the Washington, DC-based National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research (NIDRR), U.S. Department of Education.

The new Center will focus its research and resource activities on four critical areas that impact parents with disabilities: custody, family roles and personal assistance; paratransit; and, intervention with parents with cognitive disabilities and their children. One of the notable activities planned over the next three years is a scholarship program for high school seniors and college students whose parents have disabilities. The Center will be staffed by nationally recognized experts regarding parents with disabilities, most of whom have personal or family experience with disability or deafness.

More information about the Center and Through the Looking Glass is available at the organization's website (www.lookingglass.org), through two toll-free numbers, 800-644-2666 (voice), 800-804-1616 (TDD/TTY), or by email at tlg@lookingglass.org

Tips & Tools

- The May 2009 edition of Kansas Health Statistics Report is available at the KDHE Center for Health and Environmental Statistics website at: <http://www.kdheks.gov/ches/khsnews/khsr.html>. Click on May 2009 to open the PDF file of the issue. The Center publishes the Kansas Health Statistics Report quarterly.
- The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Office of Women Health, in collaboration with Maternal and Child Health Bureau Oral Health Program staff and Indian Health Service, collaborated in September 2008 to develop a resource to help dental health providers be more aware of the issues of domestic violence. Research suggests that most physical injuries that stem from domestic violence episodes are located on the head and neck – areas that are visible to a dental team during exams. A new portal on the National Maternal and Child Oral Health Resource Center (OHRC) webpage is now available with links to web resources on domestic violence and oral health. Please visit: <http://www.mchoralhealth.org/AZ.html>.
- The HRSA Office of Women's Health and the MCHB Division of Healthy Start and Perinatal Services are pleased to share our new HTML (Section 508 compliant) Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness (BFWHW), Taking Care of Mom-Nurturing Self as Well as Baby (Maternal Wellness) Tools. This family of tools includes a consumer booklet, a provider pocket guide, and a poster. To access the HTML links, please go to <http://www.hrsa.gov/womenshealth> and scroll down to the Bright Futures for Women's Health and Wellness section. Free print copies of these and other BFWHW tools are available through the HRSA Information Center at 1-888-ASK-HRSA or <http://ask.hrsa.gov/>
- The California Childcare Program of the University of California has recently developed a checklist in accessing health and safety of early care and education programs, which is a standardized instrument that was developed based on the recommended national health and safety standards. It is available for download at: http://www.ucsfchildcarehealth.org/pdfs/Checklists/UCSF_Checklist_rev2.0802.pdf

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities in Kansas

- *Save the Date!* The **33rd Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect** is November 4-6, 2009, at the Capitol Plaza in Topeka, KS.

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 or contact Rebecca Gillam at (785) 864-7123.