



Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council (KMCHC) Meeting

Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Member Attendees		Absent	Visitors
Rebecca Adamson, APRN Carrie Akin Taylor Atwood Kourtney Bettinger, MD, MPH Kayzy Bigler Heather Braum Lisa Chaney Stephanie Coleman Julia Connellis Mary Sunshine Delgado, APRN Stephen Fawcett, PhD Geno Fernandez Terrie Garrison, RN, BSN Cory Gibson, EdD Jessica Grubbs Kari Harris, MD, FAAP Sara Hortenstine Melissa Hudelson Charles Hunt Ronda Hutchinson Elaine Johannes Peggy Kelly Jamie Kim, MPH Steve Lauer, MD, FAAP Shannon Lines Kelli Mark Jennifer Marsh	Patricia McNamar, DNP, ARNP, NP-C Elisa Nehrbass Jill Nelson Brittney Nichols Angela Oldson Susan Pence, MD, FAAP Cherie Sage Cari Schmidt, PhD Katie Schoenhoff Christy Schunn, LSCSW Pam Shaw, MD, FAAP Cassandra Sines Heather Smith Kasey Sorell David Thomason Kelsee Torrez Stephanie Wolf	Brenda Brandy Joe Caldwell Dennis Cooley, MD, FAAP Deanna Cummings Beth Fisher, MSN, RN James Frances Phil Griffin Scott Latimer Brandi Markert Melody McCray-Miller Brian Pate Sookyung Shin Rachel Sisson Sharla Smith Lori Steelman Juliet Swedlund Kelly Totty Cora Ungerer Alice Weingartner Donna Yadrich Daina Zolck Taryn Zweygardt	Drew Duncan Gretchen Homan, MD Lisa Goins Dan Leong Cindy Olson-Burgess, RN, BSN Deepthi Patnaik Treva Smith Jill Spader Jennifer VandeVelde
Staff			
Mel Hudelson Connie Satzler Emily Bailey			

Agenda Items	Discussion	Action Items
<p>Welcome & Recognize New Members/Guest</p>	<p>Dr. Harris welcomed everyone to the meeting. New members and guests introduced themselves.</p>	
<p>Family Consumer Partnership Program Overview</p> <p>Heather Smith, KDHE</p>	<p>Heather defined what KDHE sees as family and consumer partnerships, and that the Bureau of Family Health views these partnerships as an important voice to guide programs and priorities.</p> <p>Priority 7 in the State Action Plan relates to family and consumer partnerships.</p> <p>Four areas of support in the new Family Consumer Partnership Program include:</p> <p>Peer supports – expand Supporting You program</p> <p>Advisory – expansion of the Family Advisory Council beyond special health care needs with workgroups for specific age groups and two work groups.</p> <p>Leadership – equipping leaders to engage in their communities and in advocacy.</p> <p>Technical Assistance – includes an engagement tool kit for MCH grantees and partner organizations.</p>	<p>Action Item:</p> <p><i>Heather – do you have an action item for the council?</i></p>
<p>Immunization Opportunities and Challenges in Kansas</p> <p>Connie Satzler and Cindy Olson Burgess, Immunize Kansas Coalition</p>	<p>The mission of IKC is to protect all Kansans from vaccine preventable illnesses. The coalition is broad and includes a wide spectrum of members.</p> <p>Current IKC priorities include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase adolescent immunization rates Increase influenza immunization rates Booster vaccine confidence Maintain/restore immunization rates that decreased during the pandemic <p>Current challenges include a decrease in vaccine confidence, increase in vaccine opposition, and declining immunization rates during COVID-19. IKC partners with organizations to identify vaccine hesitancy in Kansas.</p> <p>Cindy Olson Burgess shared her personal experiences as an immunization nurse. After personally seeing the impacts of diseases that can now be</p>	<p>Action Item:</p> <p><i>Connie suggested that Council members become engaged with IKC and promote vaccines one of the following ways:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • IKC website and social media - click, like, or share! • Join the IKC email list • Share an education module

	<p>prevented by vaccination, she remains a passionate advocate for making sure everyone is fully immunized.</p> <p>Connie introduced potential discussion topics and action items by population domain (see the Domain Group Immunization Reference Sheet), as well as IKC resources and websites with fact-based information. Finally, she shared simple action items for consideration.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Join the IKC Parents & Families group
<p>Immunization Panel</p> <p>Gretchen Homan, MD, FAAP</p>	<p>Gretchen Homan, MD, FAAP – a pediatrician in Wichita. Dr. Homan remembers being in training before the rotavirus vaccine and what a big difference it made in hospitalizations once it was widely given to babies. Vaccine hesitancy has unfortunately become a normal, daily part of practicing medicine. She has noticed a big uptick in families refusing vaccines. The influenza vaccine is the most refused vaccine in her practice, and she thinks it is because people do not seem to understand what the flu is.</p> <p>Jennifer VandeVelde – parent representative involved in the Family Advisory Council and has two children with special healthcare needs. Jennifer shared that children with special healthcare needs are reliant on herd immunity and other people being vaccinated.</p> <p>Dan Leong – The IKC chairperson shared information about the antivaccination groups in Kansas and how the coalition is working to fight the messaging. Partnerships are important to spread the vaccination confidence message.</p> <p>Question: What kind of policies should we be looking for at the legislative level this session? Right now, the Secretary of KDHE has the power to decide which vaccinations are required for school and daycare. Legislation last year tried to strip that authority. It did not pass last year, but we expect the challenges to continue. It is important for the experts to be able to make those decisions.</p> <p>Other policy challenges to look out for are about vaccine exemptions.</p> <p>It is important to understand that we can't legislate ourselves away from vaccine exemptions. We must be just as relentless in our pursuit in vaccinating children as the antivaccine groups are.</p>	

	<p>In Kansas, school districts can exclude students that are not vaccinated, but they are not required to. Many school districts do not want to exclude students for that reason. The IKC model school policy encourages schools to exclude students that are not fully vaccinated.</p> <p>https://www.immunizekansascoalition.org/schools.asp</p>	
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Small Group Discussion by Domain & Focus Area

State Action Plan Small Group Discussion

Council members met by the following domain areas: Women/Maternal, Perinatal/Infant, Child, Adolescent. Each group discussed these questions for their priority:

- What barriers and challenges have you seen in access to and uptake of immunizations for the adolescent population and in terms of this priority, as it relates to immunizations and vaccine confidence?
- Are there particular barriers or challenges you have observed related to vulnerable populations, people of color, children and youth with special health care needs, mistrust/hesitancy among certain populations, and/or equity of immunization access?
- How can KMCHC better align efforts to move forward this priority and objective, as it relates to promoting immunizations and vaccine confidence?
- What is one thing you or your organization are doing or can specifically do to move this priority and objective forward, related to promoting immunizations and vaccine confidence?
- Considering the barriers and/or alignment opportunities identified, which one of these should our domain workgroup prioritize for immediate action?

<p>Women/Maternal</p>	<p>Topics for consideration by the Women/Maternal group included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tdap and Flu shots for pregnant women • Tdap for family members and care givers to protect baby • Helping pregnant women make informed decisions about protecting their baby with vaccinations • Target population for vaccine opposition messaging • MMR check during pregnancy or before pregnancy; awareness of vaccine considerations for pregnant and lactating women 	<p>Action Item: Create action alert or educational opportunity 1-pager; related to awareness in rural communities and addressing vaccine hesitancy.</p>
<p>Perinatal/Infant</p>	<p>Topics for consideration by the Perinatal/Infant group included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building vaccine confidence among new parents, decision to immunize on-time with the recommended schedule • Hep B vaccine birth dose 	<p>Action Item: Work with the IKC and other partners to develop/gather educational resources/flyer that are</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe sleep connections: vaccine opponents have attempted to tie SIDS to vaccines, though there is no evidence of this • Breastfeeding: natural immunity, vaccinate before delivery, breastfeeding during or immediately after immunizations can help reduce pain for infant, vaccine considerations for breastfeeding mothers 	provided to Home Visitors by social media platforms of trusted sources to use during visits. Personal stories help; educating the educators is important.
Child	<p>Topics for consideration by the Child group included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting vaccine confidence • Vaccinate on time with recommended vaccine schedule • Maintain/restore childhood immunization rates during/post-pandemic • Schools/school nurses – opportunities to ensure up-to-date immunizations • Model school exclusion policy • Maintain current Kansas regulations related to school vaccine requirements 	Action Item: Review IKC information thoroughly, understand how we can more effectively share accurate and full information with the networks we are connected to and engage those partnerships.
Adolescent	<p>Topics for consideration by the Adolescent group included the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kansas – low adolescent vaccine rates, particularly HPV • HPV vaccine • Meningococcal vaccines • Tdap/bundling of adolescent vaccines • Increasing awareness of importance of vaccines and building vaccine confidence among adolescents 	Action Item: Promote the various vaccination education materials from IKC and KAAP. Focus on educating adolescents and their parents who are vaccine-hesitant with trustworthy, factual information. Work with IKC and KAAP for the modules dissemination through the Adolescent workgroup's networks and partners.
<p>Announcements</p> <p><i>Kari Harris, MD, FAAP KMCHC Chair</i></p>	<p>The final version of the five year needs assessment is available online: https://www.kdheks.gov/c-f/downloads/2025_Title_V_Report_DIGITAL.pdf</p> <p>Kansas Action for Children launched a Children's Agenda last night after the Governor's State of the State address. You can learn more here: https://www.kac.org/kansas_children_s_agenda</p> <p>Please share the “Be the One” campaign on suicide prevention.</p>	

Safe Kids new data document on unintentional injuries is available with the Kansas 5 year strategic plan for unintentional injuries.
https://www.kdheks.gov/idp/core_injury.html

Optional Session

Focus Group on Family and Consumer Engagement

Heather Smith

Heather shared information about the new family and consumer engagement tool kit.

Peggy Kelly commented that it is important to look at how we are bringing in family/consumers to our organization and work. Are we having meetings in evenings and weekends when they can attend? Are we paying them for their time?

Another important factor to consider is whether we are giving family representatives the power they need to feel comfortable sitting at the table? Having the person closest to the child is the first to speak at a meeting gives the parent the ability to speak first and feel more empowered to share their voice. Another approach is to make sure that after an "expert" speaks, a parent has an opportunity to share next.

Focus on empowering, equipping, and activating families to participate.

One trap to avoid is having a programmatic emphasis and seeing this as a way to serve a program instead of parents. There should be mutual benefits from these partnerships.

The KIDS Network has bylaws state that parents are to be on the board, and they have worked with onboarding board members and connecting the new parent board members with existing board members. Retention is hard because it seems like they feel vulnerable sharing their experiences, then tend to pull back. Technology is another stumbling block for some family members.

	<p>In many situations parents aren't always treated like they should be, they are treated like "big kids", not adults. We need to be sure to treat them with the respect they deserve. They won't want what you need from them unless you ask them.</p> <p>The main reason people participate is because they are asked.</p>	
Future Meetings	<p>The following dates are for meetings coming up:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• April 21, 2021	