

Cross-Cutting: Family Leadership Programs

Objective 7.3: Increase the number of families and consumers engaging as leadership partners with the MCH workforce through the FCP Program by 5% annually through 2025.

Activities During Federal Fiscal Year 2023

Family Delegate Program: Expanding family leadership efforts across Title V programs is a high priority for Kansas and supports our efforts to equip and empower families to engage as partners with the MCH workforce. As part of this effort, there will be continued focus on the Kansas AMCHP Family Delegate program. Over the past year, two former family delegates worked to provide feedback and recommendations on how to improve the Kansas Family Delegate Program. The feedback and recommendations are currently under-review by Title V Staff and the hope is to have the new program launched by August 2024.

Family Advisory Council (FAC): The Bureau of Family Health Family Advisory Council (FAC) kicked off FY2023 with a 2-day in-person meeting on October 15th & 16th. This was the first in-person meeting since the COVID-19 Pandemic and the first in-person meeting of our expanded council. During this 2-day meeting, FAC members got to know each other, learn about the Title V MCH Needs Assessment, and do a deep dive into the Title V State Action Plan to select work group projects.

After the October in-person meeting, the council met the remaining 3 times as proposed, however the members voted to move the meetings back to the 4th Saturday of the month instead of the 3rd:

- January virtual
- April in-person
- July virtual

Strengths and challenges have been identified with going back to in-person meetings post-pandemic. However, the members who can be at an in-person meetings find them extremely valuable. While the in-person meetings have never included all active members being present, the in-person meeting typically includes three-fourths of the active membership.

In FY23, each work group identified a project to advance the work of MCH as it aligned with their Title V Domain. More information on the ideas that were selected and will continue to be worked on are presented in the FY25 cross-cutting plan narrative.

The membership of the FAC continued to change and grow as we added new members and lost some members due to other commitments. allowed us to continue to recruit and diversify our council.

Plans for Federal Fiscal Year 2025

Family Delegate Program: After many years of having a Family Delegate Program in place a re-evaluation of this program was done and a determination was made between past/present Family Delegates and staff that the program needed to be revamped to better meet the growing needs for family partnership within Kansas Title V. Contracts were awarded to Family Delegates to redesign and improve the Kansas Family Delegate program. Revisions to the program were provided to Title V staff in early 2024. One key recommendation made by current and former Family Delegates was to expand the position to be a four-year period as outlined in the graphic below.



Title V staff will seek recommendations and feedback on the revisions from the Family Advisory Council (FAC). Title V will then re-develop the program and intends to launch the application process in summer 2024.

Family Advisory Council (FAC): During FY25 the Family Advisory Council (FAC) will continue focusing on their individual work group projects which correspond to the Title V State Action Plan. Additionally, during each FAC meeting, the FAC members will be presented information on MCH work across the state and asked for feedback, engagement, or to help promote the work. Based on FAC member feedback, Title V will once again hold three virtual meetings and one in-person 2-day retreat. The in-person meetings rotate around the state to help members not always have to travel as far, since membership is from across the entire state. The in-person meeting for FY25 will be held in Manhattan, KS. The Family Systems Consultant will continue to recruit for new members throughout FY 25.

Additionally, in FY25, the FAC will be involved in the Title V needs assessment. The FAC will participate in a focus group to provide feedback from the parent perspective on MCH programs and services in the state. Once the results of the needs assessment are received, Title V will also engage the FAC in the development of the five-year state action plan to help ensure alignment with the needs identified and Title V's response.

The workgroups each select a project to help move the work of Title V forward and to help improve the lives of Kansans. For FY25, the workgroups have selected the following projects:

- Woman/Maternal Project

- Looking to develop a new project for FY25 with support from the KDHE domain consultants. This group is particularly interested in maternal mental health and will work with the MCH Behavioral Health Director for ideas and support.
- Early Childhood Project
 - Focusing on prevention and sharing resources with families. Considering the development of a “universal discharge plan for new parents” for hospitals and birthing centers. They have been connected with KDHE staff to support the AIM bundle for the Fourth Trimester Initiative and see if their resource list could be integrated into discharge plans.
- Child & Adolescent Project
 - These two work groups are working together with the focus on school-aged children’s mental and behavioral health. At the end of September 2024, they will be presenting at the Parent Leadership Conference related to mental and behavioral health for school-aged children. Their session will include vetted information for families. These work groups will continue to work with Title V staff to refine and add to their presentation. Title V will also work to identify other opportunities for this presentation to be offered to parents, caregivers, and families in Kansas.
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Project
 - Focus on transition. They will take information they gathered from the Charting the Lifecourse: Experiences and Questions Booklet and try to create an interactive website to help guide parents to resources and supports for their child and a timeline to show when to apply for certain services and waivers. By the end of FY25, a first draft of the website should be published.

Title V will also be introducing a special project for FAC members to participate in for the Title V needs assessment. The CYSHCN Director and Family Systems Coordinator will engage the FAC members in a PhotoVoice project. Each workgroup will select a topic that relates to their associated domain and MCH. They will be asked to take photos related to the identified topic and journal about the photos. The groups will then meet to discuss the photos and journals and identify key themes. These findings will be integrated into the needs assessment and help to shape the next State Action Plan.

Family Leadership Team: The Family Systems Consultant will become engaged in the broader early childhood systems work around family engagement and leadership through the Family Leadership Team. The FLT has been continuing to work on establishing itself with cross-agency partners to increase family engagement and leadership throughout the state. This group is comprised of state agencies, community-based organizations dedicated to family leadership in their programs, and families served by both agencies and programs.

The FLT aims to influence and enable systems-level change with a focus on cross-systems collaboration and alignment at the state and community levels within the early

childhood care and education system. To accomplish these things the Family Leadership Team will implement the following strategies:

- Directly engage family leaders to better understand diverse family needs, challenges, and preferences.
- Research and identify best practices and innovative strategies.
- Explore partnerships and tools to increase representation among family engagement opportunities throughout the state.
- Increase alignment and commitment to family engagement among state agencies.
- Develop a directory of existing statewide and regional councils, coalitions, and committees with a family leadership focus.
- Develop and disseminate family engagement tools and resources for families and professionals.
- Create a resource hub for family engagement resources and opportunities.

During FY25 the FLT has several projects that it will be working on including:

- Reestablishing a group made up of agency representatives, program leaders, and family leaders across the state to serve as an oversight committee on activities and projects put forth or selected to represent the FLT. This group will meet regularly to touch base and approve plans, divide workloads, and share updates.
- Continue with setting up and running Provider/Parent Fireside Chats. These Fireside Chats give the opportunity for parents to learn about a resource in the state as well as give them time to talk about their experiences with services and share knowledge about what is available near them. These events will happen virtually every month.
- Develop family focused resources on topics families want to understand more about.
- Develop and update a web resource for families to access information on available resources, linkage to those resources, sharing recordings of the Fireside Chats, and more.
- Plan to hold at least one Help Me Grow affiliated activity: Books, Balls, and Blocks, and develop a guide on how a local health department can set up their own event.

Other Family and Consumer Partnership Work

Fatherhood Engagement: The Title V MCH Director applied and was selected to host two interns during summer 2024 through the National MCH Workforce Development Center. During the internship, the interns will work with Title V staff to plan and conduct a community mapping assessment of father-serving organizations across the state of Kansas. This work is designed to inform the Title V five-year Needs Assessment. The interns will assist in identifying programs and agencies that work with fathers or partners of birthing persons to create a resource inventory and map of the services/programs

offered to fathers and where they are located. The next step will be for the interns to conduct key informant interviews with the leadership of agencies and programs serving fathers or other partners of birthing persons. Finally, the interns will work jointly with the Title V MCH director to conduct focus groups with fathers and other partners who have participated in these programs to see what is going well and where there are gaps in the system. This work is designed to lay the groundwork for the Title V team to expand its services to helping to support fathers and other partners and inform the selection of state priorities moving forward.