

Child Health

Objective 3.2 Healthy Activities for School-Aged Children

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REPORT – October 2021 through September 2022

Clinical School Health Consultant: Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Title V invested in a Clinical School Health Consultant to work closely with Title V, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), local school districts, and communities on health screenings, referrals, and other school health initiatives, such as school-based health centers. A Consultant was hired in February 2021 and predominately focused on coordinating [COVID-19 guidance](#) to schools and school districts across the state and updating information and resources as part of the [School Nurse Toolkit](#). Due to personal reasons, the Consultant resigned from the position in August 2021. Title V attempted to recruit another qualified candidate, identifying a couple applicants who would have been excellent in the role, but state salary limitations prevented efforts from being successful. During this report period, Title V determined they would not fill the role, and the position was transferred to another function within the agency. Title V plans to continue partnering with local school districts, the Bureau of Health Promotion, KSDE, and the Kansas School Nurses Organization to align statewide messaging around child health initiatives. Local communities will receive guidance on healthy campaigns (e.g., Move Your Way, Let's Move; Turn a Page-Touch a Mind; Dolly Parton's Imagination Library), farmer's market resources, and other food programs that are available. With the Child and Adolescent Health Consultant position vacancy, the Consultant Unit Director has supported planning and coordination for the 2023 Annual Kansas School Nurses Conference.

Inclusive School and Community Playgrounds: A call for investment to assist with funding for inclusive playgrounds was originally planned but due to staff and funding shortages, this was not able to be offered in 2022. This is still something the Title V team wants to offer when funding allows. This would be open to a variety of agencies (e.g., communities, schools, childcare facilities) who would like to make their playgrounds more inclusive for those with disabilities. Matching funds would be required for all applicants.

Social and Emotional Development Milestones: An Age-By-Age Guide: The Bureau of Family Health has developed Social and Emotional Development Milestones: An Age-By-Age Guide to be used in conjunction with the Developmental Milestone & Activity Postcards. Since behavioral health was one of the most addressed concerns in the MCH Needs Assessment, capacity-building of the MCH workforce to address behavioral health concerns has become a top priority. The Guide is a resource that the MCH workforce can provide to families for their use, gain knowledge of healthy social-emotional development, and identify strategies to address concerns they may have. This approach will further increase early identification of social and emotional development delays, thus allowing interventions to occur earlier and families to be healthier. The Guide offers information on developmental milestones, guidance for talking to children about their mental wellbeing, and other tips for furthering a child's development. There are 12 age groups, ranging from newborn to 18 years, in which Title V plans to partner with community organizations leading efforts on social-emotional health to provide programs with these resources/tools that support the encouragement and empowerment to build healthy relationships with parents/caregivers, teachers, mentors, health care providers, and peers. With the release of revised developmental milestones and tips to support early child development in February 2022, printing and promotion of the Social and Emotional Developmental Milestones resource was put on hold. In collaboration with the Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services (Part C) Program, Title V is

exploring options for creating a new Kansas specific Developmental Milestone resource that aligns with CDC's updated milestone by age checklist. In the interim, Title V is using the CDC's handouts, especially the promotional flyer for the Milestone Tracker App, for outreach/promotion with providers, programs, and communities.

PLAN – October 2023 through September 2024

Inclusive School and Community Playgrounds: Due to staffing challenges, the Inclusive Playground Call for Proposals, an opportunity for communities, schools, childcare centers and others to apply for support to add or establish inclusive playground equipment was put on hold. Based on funding availability this is expected to occur in FY '24. All applicants will be required to have 50 percent match criteria and to share the types of equipment they are wanting to install and how this will allow more children to be able to engage in play within their community, school or childcare center. There will be an application review process put in place, so all applications are reviewed by a committee of at least three members using a scoring rubric. All awardees will be expected to submit a final report and pictures upon project completion.

Local MCH Agencies:

- Barton County Health Department (BCHD) will have a messaging campaign to provide education on child safety using Facebook, digital sign (in the lobby and outdoors) and BCHD newsletter. They will post twice a month on the BCHD social media page, twice a month on the digital signs and one article a month in the BCHD newsletter. Conducting a messaging campaign, will allow them to reach families outside of those that come in for services.
- Clay County Health Department nurses will provide recommended immunizations for children during scheduled vaccine visits, including flu and COVID-19 vaccines. 50 children between the ages of 9 through 35 months will receive immunizations which will be documented in DAISEY.
- Crawford County Health Department will assist nurses in four schools with providing education on tobacco use and vaping using Take Down Tobacco and Catch My Breath materials. They will host the Kick Butts poster contest with 5th graders. Posters will educate peers on the risks of tobacco use and be displayed and voted on during the Pittsburg Art Walk.
- Nemaha County Community Health Services (NCCHS) will become a local affiliate of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library and enroll at least 50 eligible children. Social media campaigns, flyers placed at local daycares and preschools, and promotion at the community baby shower will help them reach this goal.
- Ottawa County Health Department will partner with the Community Association to Safety and Prevention of Abuse (CASPA) to host two parent/student education sessions during the program year. They will work with USD239 and USD240 to host the events for enrolled families. The education provided will be based on the needs identified by parents in the community. Screen Sanity is an example of education that has been provided by CASPA.
- Pottawatomie County Health Department will be sure their program information is accessible and up to date on 1-800-CHILDREN's website. They will promote 1-800-CHILDREN on their web page and social media pages.
- Sheridan County Health Department is a new MCH applicant this year. They will coordinate the summer food service program for children and provide education on ways to stay healthy. This activity fills a gap in the town of Selden where the City Council of Selden expressed concerns about lower income rates and lack of food service programs compared to the neighboring town of Hoxie.

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