A Message from our Executive Director

Mother & Child Health Coalition’s (MCHC) vision is that every mother and every child in greater Kansas City will be healthy. MCHC believes that healthy families make healthy communities. While MCHC experienced its first transition to a new Executive Director after Susan McLoughlin’s dedicated service, I can say that MCHC continues to make a difference in Kansas City for our families. While I took the mantle with two months remaining in the 2018 fiscal year, I am happy to report that organizationally-speaking, staff didn’t miss a beat in continuing to coordinate the programs that are synonymous with MCHC.

Healthy Start continues to thrive as the centerpiece of MCHC. Providing one-on-one support to our families so that we improve the likelihood of healthy birth outcomes drives our work and much of the other programming at MCHC. We also recognize that there is a continuum of care beyond birth in which MCHC plays a substantial role.

None of this work, and more importantly, these outcomes, would be possible without our members, partners and volunteers who connect us in support of a unified mission focused on healthy families in Kansas City. Thank you for your continued dedication to MCHC. We are truly an organization that depends upon community!

I look forward to this next chapter, excited for the future but grounded in the roots of MCHC’s mission!

Tracy Russell, Executive Director

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Executive Director and Ex-Officio

Tracy Russell, MPH (From Jan. 2019)
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MEMBERS
Hayat Abdullahi, BA
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Co-chair, Pregnancy, Infant & Child Health Committee

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Audrey Hill, MPA
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Jamie Katz, MPH, CPP
Johnson County Mental Health Center
Chair, Metro KC Youth Collaborative

Stephanie Seger, MSW, MA
Children’s Mercy Kansas City
Co-chair, Legislative/Advocacy Committee
Kansas City Healthy Start Initiative

Jean Craig, PhD, Program Manager

During the 2018-2019 Fiscal year:

- Healthy Start served 215 pregnant women, 188 post-partum women, 353 infants and children, and 98 men.
- There were 99 live births and 0 infant deaths in the program.
- 16 eighteen-month-old children graduated through Healthy Start.
- Diapers valued at $30,000 were distributed to 1,400 Healthy Start children.
- 99 new Pack n’ Play cribs and safe sleep education were provided to Healthy Start families.

High Infant and Maternal Mortality are key indicators of a population's overall health.

42
Missouri ranks 42nd for maternal mortality

First trimester prenatal care has decreased in Jackson County. That translates to 2000 fewer moms getting care every year.

86% 2006
64% 2015

Black moms and babies die at higher rates (9.8) than their white counterparts (4.1).

Every child deserves a Healthy Start!

700 program participants:
300 pregnant women
300 children (birth - 18 months)
100 Men

Kansas City Healthy Start Initiative is a program of Mother & Child Health Coalition www.mchc.net
Mid America Immunization Coalition

DuJuan Hord, Program Coordinator

MAIC's mission is to protect families in Clay, Jackson and Platte counties in Missouri, and Johnson and Wyandotte counties in Kansas against vaccine-preventable diseases through collaboration, advocacy and education.

- Immunization clinics held across metro: 7
- Doses flu vaccine provided: 502

(Flu clinics are a partnership with Walgreens Pharmacy and USDHHS, Region VII.)

- Hosted the 2018 MAIC Immunization Symposium in October 2018 (Attendance: 156)
- Hosted 4 Quarterly Membership meetings with professional presenters (Attendance: 45 average)
- Supported numerous community health and safety fairs, providing information to families on many issues.

SAFE KIDS METRO KANSAS CITY Coalition

DuJuan Hord, Program Coordinator

The Safe Kids mission is to reduce preventable injuries for children 0 – 19 years of age, in Clay, Platte and Jackson counties in Missouri and Wyandotte County in Kansas. (Numbers are for 2018 calendar year.)

- Participated in local and statewide child injury prevention events.
- Co-hosted annual Safe Kids Day event with Sunshine Early Education Center.
- Partnered with schools to teach pedestrian safety behaviors, focusing on International Walk to School Day and Halloween safety.
- Provided safe sleep education and promoted safe sleep practices.
- Provided Child Passenger Safety education and Car Seat Buckle-Up events in Kansas and Missouri.

- Car seat events: 13
- Car seats installed: 411
- Families served: 349
- Training events: 6
- Trainees trained: 106
- Bike safety events: 8
- Bike helmets fitted: 827
- Cribs provided: 130
Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)

The goal of the FIMR program is to enhance the health and well-being of women, infants and families by improving community resources and service delivery systems available to them. Cases of fetal and infant deaths are reviewed to determine factors that contributed to the death, trends are identified and recommendations for change are developed.

- The Case Review Team (CRT) examined details of stillbirths and infant deaths and forwarded findings to the Community Action Team, which is housed by the Birth Outcomes Monitoring Committee, through the Kansas City Health Commission;

- CRT members participated in Implicit Bias training to improve understanding on how to be more self-aware on implicit biases and to look at the cases through a non-racist and non-biased lens;

- The FIMR program coordinator was named to the Missouri Maternal Mortality Panel. This will serve to increase our overall insight into women’s health issues.

- We support Medicaid expansion as a means of improving women's general health, which will result in healthier pregnancies and better outcomes.

The four main risk factors in pregnancy remain:
1) A lack of prenatal care, 2) obesity, 3) abuse of tobacco and other substances, and 4) a history of asthma.

Safe Haven for Newborns Coalition of Greater Kansas City

Anne Biswell, Coordinator

Goal: To increase public knowledge of the Safe Haven for Newborns laws in MO and KS, using various methods of outreach to the community, and to provide technical support for Safe Haven agencies.

- Public Outreach: Presentations were given to Head Start staff at MARC, Hallmark, two to AT&T employees, and at the National Governor's conference in Topeka, KS.

- Video Update: Working through PrepKC summer program, students of Wyandotte County high schools updated the video for the website. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hMe91IyI0s

- National Safe Haven Alliance: Our local group is now a partner with this new national group, which is working to provide information and support to all 50 states in their efforts to promote awareness of the Safe Haven laws across the country.

- Missouri state expansion: Discussions took place with partners in St. Louis and Columbia to help spread awareness across the state.

- Kansas state expansion: Local efforts have resulted in the creation of a new Kansas Safe Haven Coalition in Wichita.
**Advocacy & Policy Committee**  
Tanya Lorenzo, Coalition Coordinator

The committee participates in and develops advocacy activities that will promote and improve awareness regarding the four MCHC Advocacy Priorities:

- Access to Care
- Child Mortality and Safety
- Infant and Childhood Health and Wellness
- Social Determinants of Health and Social Safety Net Coverage

Activities:
- Supported legislation re. tobacco use prevention and cessation;
- Participated in discussions with Kids Win Missouri on plans re. state policy priorities;
- The MCHC Annual Legislative Meeting Oct. 5 presented: "Social Determinants of Health and Evolving Policy Perspectives;" 
- Endorsed the Universal Pre-K initiative on the April ballot in Kansas City.

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**Metro KC Breastfeeding Collaborative**

Seeks to develop outreach activities to new and existing partners who share a common interest in promoting and supporting breastfeeding in the greater Kansas City area.

Activities:
- Training for Collaborative members was held on the Business Case for Breastfeeding;
- Our Breastfeeding Employee Support Award (for developing and implementing breastfeeding friendly policies in the workplace) was awarded to 3 local businesses:
  - Kansas City, KS USD #500 (Gold)
  - City of Leawood, KS (Silver)
  - City of Kansas City, MO: Aviation, Conventions & Entertainment, Parks & Recreation, and Water departments (Silver)

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**Pregnancy, Infant & Child Health Committee**

The Committee seeks to generate community-wide investment and achieve collective impact to measure and promote perinatal health in greater Kansas City.

- Co-hosted May 5, 2018 MCHC Infant Mortality Forum and utilized the MCHC Infant Mortality Report "From Birth to One: Infant Health in Greater Kansas City" to create a common agenda with our many community partners.

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**Metro KC Youth Collaborative**

The Youth Collaborative seeks to enhance the work of youth-serving organizations in the metro area by fostering an environment for structured networking, facilitating the connection of these groups and the sharing of relevant information.

- Co-hosted January Quarterly meeting "Empowering Parents in the Digital Age."
- Co-hosted July Quarterly meeting "Youth & Mental Health: Living in an Anxious World."
Our Mission
Every child deserves a healthy start; it is the best gift a community can give its children and itself. Mother & Child Health Coalition works together with community partners and families to promote wellness and advocate for excellence in health care.

Where does your dollar go?

- Baby supplies $5
  Provide baby wipes and other necessary hygiene items for mom and baby.

- Bicycle helmets $25
  Fit two children with new bike helmets through Safe Kids metro KC Bike Rodeo.

- New crib $50
  Provide a family with a new, portable crib and supplies through our Safe Sleep program.

- Car seat $100
  Help keep young passengers safe with a professionally installed car seat.

To donate or to learn more visit:
www.m chc.net

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NOTE: After 11-01-2019, MCHC will be known as Nurture KC, and the staff is moving to
1111 W. 39th Street, Ste. 101 Kansas City MO 64111