



## Full Council Meeting Minutes

April 10, 2010

Present: Dena Bracciano, Janene Snyder, Megan Rierson, Rich Minder, Erin Taylor, Lindsey Sola, Robyn Elder, Jamie Gabriel, Gayle Anderson, Pennie Dubisar-Cross, Penny Schau, Elaine McCullough, Erin Emert, Melissa Hoffman, Doug Bowman, Kelly Evans, Rusty Schnur-Shelton.

### Coalition Updates:

- Melissa Hoffman, with LMH Community Education, told of the infant safety program which includes infant/child safety CPR, car seat safety, and home safety issues. There are scholarships available for families to participate. The newborn safety program is a success and they are looking at hosting it two times per month. It is for all new parents: adoptive and foster parents too.
- Robyn Elder and Lindsey Sola, Baldwin Parents as Teachers, are anticipating hearing of funding news by the end of the month. They will be hosting a child safety check lane this month. In May, they will be partnering with Healthy Families for a Conscious Fathering class.
- Penny Schau, SRS, said the Healthwave application backlog is frustrating. There are no online forms; applicants can pick them up at the SRS building. The review period has been extended and if there are urgent cases, SRS can help facilitate this process. Just contact Penny. SRS is currently working to integrate services and staff cases.
- Peggy Dubisar-Cross, Cottonwood, said there is a 5-7 year waiting list for services. The application is free and they are still encouraging people to apply. The family support grant is no longer available.
- Gail Anderson, Lawrence Parents as Teachers, is waiting to hear by May on funding. They are still focusing on quality standards and finding that collaboration with other infant/toddler service agencies has been good. The safe sleep program is piloting in Douglas County. They are just waiting on the brochure to be printed. Magnets have been made. As the quantity of DVDs is limited, they are making the video available for viewing on the website.
- Rich Minder, Success by 6, told of the Fatherhood Council of Kansas. They are calling the local chapter Dads of Douglas County. Dad's Days are Monday, June 14<sup>th</sup>, through Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup>. There will be events scheduled during this time to recognize Fatherhood: speakers, film festival, professional development opportunities (myths about system child support and masculine/father formation), announcement by the

city council, and an award ceremony, as well as, a celebration at the Douglas County Fairgrounds on Saturday, June 19<sup>th</sup> with bikers, hotdogs and fun activities.

The Partner Circle of Fathering grant calls for organizing Dad's groups. They will try to do this through neighborhoods. The first group meets on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 9-11 a.m., at the Delaware Commons House in East Lawrence. The participants at that meeting will decide if they want to sustain a group.

Success by 6 is partnering with DCCCA in a proposal for an extension of the FIAT (Fund for Infants and Toddlers) grant. It will provide scholarships to families to increase the qualifying income level for childcare slots. They are negotiating a contract with SRS.

- Jamie Gabriel, tiny-k, told of reactivating the tiny-k family support group called SPUnK (**S**pecial **P**arents, **U**nique **K**ids). It is for families that include children with disabilities and developmental delays, ages birth to 8 years. They will focus on sharing experiences, learning from each other, education, and advocating for their children. The SPUnK kick off picnic is this Friday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 6 p.m., at Centennial Park (East Shelter). Meat, drinks and utensils will be provided.
- Rusty Schnur-Shelton, Coordinator for USD #497 Early Childhood Special Services, said that they are currently packing to move as the building they are in is closing. Screenings are full and staff has been reduced. They probably won't be able to serve kids in their least restrictive environments anymore.
- Erin Taylor, Imagine Drop in Childcare, announced that they are currently serving 7-8 children. They are serving two needs in the community: typical family daycare needs and families with children with special needs (to get a break). They do not have a nurse on staff, but can find volunteers if they are given advanced notice. There are scholarships available for families (4 hours, each child, per month). It is based on need and doesn't require an application, just contact Erin.

Kelly Evans, Director of Trinity in Home Care, added that the building which houses Imagine Drop-In Care has meeting space available upstairs in two rooms: one can hold 12 and the other 20 persons.

Doug Bowman, with state ICC, shared the current news at the Kansas Legislature. This is an historic budget crisis in Kansas with a \$400-450 million deficit. Later this month, a study will be made of the economic indicators and this report will be used for deciding what will be required for balancing the state budget. Unlike the Federal budget, the state budget is not able to borrow from any other place. The governor has proposed enhancing revenue (i.e., doubling the tobacco tax, adding a one-cent sales tax for 3 years) and now legislators are starting to consider raising taxes (i.e., possible soda tax) as the budget cannot be balanced entirely through cuts.

The cuts the legislators are discussing are:

- Children's Initiative Fund
- Infant-toddler services

- Smart Start grants

Historically, Legislators choose the amount of cuts and the Children Cabinet would then pick individual programs to receive the cuts. There is always the chance that the Legislature will want to choose the individual programs themselves.

Public schools suffering cuts will be looking at PAT funding and all-day kindergarten.

There is a childcare bill to eliminate the category of registered childcare home. The proposal is that all childcare be licensed, which will allow for inspections. This is in committee now. They are looking at risk-based system to determine how often inspectors appear on doorsteps.

Another bill that the Governor will probably sign is a two-year pilot program with specific services for children with Autism. The state employee health plans would now include medical services coverage for Autism.

Dena discussed the tiny-k newsletter's article about contacting Legislators (it includes contact information). When contacting a Legislator, you need to be specific and include which taxes you would raise to support infant/toddler services.

Doug said we need to be providing a variety of suggestions to our Legislators. Just doubling the Tobacco tax would provide \$80-100 million which is only a quarter of the funding that needs to be raised. Kansas taxes are lower than the national average, but Missouri has the lowest in the nation.