



KECCS Update

December 2009

Happy Holidays!

Kansas Parent Research Initiative Webinars

Join us on **Wednesday, January 6, 2010** to hear the results of the year-long Kansas Parent Research Initiative! This webinar will include information about the ways parent involvement is defined and utilized throughout the State. Results will include survey data from over 80 agencies in Kansas, data from 10 focus groups with over 100 parents, and discussion about what was found.

Webinars will be held throughout the day and will last approximately 1 hour:

- 10:00 am: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/395439562>
- 1:00 pm: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/304771387>
- 4:00pm: <https://www2.gotomeeting.com/join/132269346>

To participate in the audio portion of the webinars, dial 1-877-278-8686 and enter participant pin 376226.

Bureau of Family Health Director Honored as 2009 Samuel J. Crumbine Award Recipient

Congratulations to Linda Kenney, Director of the Bureau of Family Health & KECCS Project Administrator, who was recently awarded the prestigious Crumbine Medal, the highest award conferred by the Kansas Public Health Association (KPHA), for meritorious service and national recognition related to the improvement of the health of Kansans. Linda has had numerous achievements in the field of maternal and child health, providing leadership for priority setting, planning and policy development, and mentoring of practitioners at the local and state level. Among her accomplishments: vision and groundwork for creation of the Office of Oral Health; conceptual planning to collect and analyze maternal and child health data; administrative leadership of the KECCS grant; and collaboration to create a comprehensive statewide newborn screening program.

50-State Report on Early Childhood Advisory Council Progress

The New America Foundation recently released a report, "[The Next Step in Systems-Building: Early Childhood Advisory Councils and Federal Efforts to Promote Policy Alignment in Early Childhood.](#)" The report gives an overview of where states are in the

process of applying for their ECAC funding, and how they are integrating the ECAC with existing initiatives, including ECCS efforts.

New National Policy Resource

The Center for the Study of Social Policy has launched a new website that offers policymakers an array of proven resources, tools, and strategies for making a difference in children's lives. PolicyForResults.org is a one-stop shop for information on the most effective approaches states and localities can use to help families succeed economically, ensure children are reading at grade level, and for families in crisis, ensure that children live safely in permanent homes rather than in foster care and that costly and unnecessary juvenile detention is reduced.

The website features:

- A step-by-step guide to making effective policy decisions
- Data on the status of children and families in each state
- Successful examples of "what works" to improve the well-being of children and families
- Numerous tools for self-assessment, results-based budgeting, and other valuable purposes
- A blog where state and local officials can share their own experiences and good ideas with their peers

PolicyForResults.org was developed by the **Center for the Study of Social Policy** together with a number of issue experts and nonprofit organizations, with major funding support from the **Annie E. Casey Foundation**.

Cristi Cain to join Project LAUNCH team

Cristi Cain will join the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service as the Young Child Wellness Coordinator for Kansas Project LAUNCH, a five-year, \$4.25 million cooperative agreement through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. She previously served as Chair of the Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children and the State Coordinator for the Kansas Methamphetamine Prevention Project. Cristi is a certified prevention professional and has worked in substance abuse prevention for almost fourteen years.

Cristi has extensive specialized training in addiction, Drug Endangered Children's issues, Substance-Exposed Newborn initiatives, and child abuse prevention. Cristi has worked in communities across Kansas implementing strategies that have proven successful in addressing the methamphetamine problem and in assisting Drug Endangered Children. She has conducted trainings at local, state, and national levels and has testified before a Congressional hearing. She specializes in partnership development, capacity building, grant writing, and providing technical assistance to communities. In 2006, Cristi received an Office of National Drug Control Policy Director's Award for Distinguished Service for her dedication and leadership.

Cristi will be working with Finney County to implement local portions of the grant and will be supporting KECCS efforts on the state level.

Early Childhood PTA Conference

Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) are not just for school-age families! Come learn about how early childhood PTAs are working in communities around the state at the first ever Kansas PTA early childhood conference. In addition to sessions by national PTA and early childhood experts, CEO of the National PTA Association, Byron Garrett, will be facilitating a town hall meeting at the conference. Help contribute to the discussion on February 20, 2010 as you learn about a Kansas PTA that focuses on early childhood education.

- What: Early Childhood PTA Conference
- When: Saturday, February 20, 2010, 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
- Where: Indian Creek Technology Center, 4401 West 103rd Street, Shawnee Mission, KS 66207
- Who: Parents of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers; school administrators; teachers and advocates for early childhood; PTA members interested in leader development. (Spanish language workshops will be available for all types of PTAs.)

Check the [Kansas PTA website](#) or contact [Debbie Lawson](#) (Kansas PTA President) or [Cynthia Jarrold](#) (Kansas PTA President-Elect) for more information.

Tips & Tools

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has launched a [Parent Portal](#) to help parents find information to give children healthier, safer lives. The CDC Parent Portal organizes and presents information for parents and provides resources from across CDC, all in one location, making it easier for parents to find what they are looking for. The Portal is a great source for credible, accurate information in helping parents raising healthy kids and providing a safe home and community. It also is a resource for diseases and conditions that can occur, and for developmental milestones and schedules. The Parent Portal also provides information on physical activity, diet, physical and mental health, injuries and violence, peer relationships, and a special section on risk behaviors geared for the parents of teens.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities in Kansas

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KECCS partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KECCS website and in the newsletter, the *KECCS Update*. Send information to keccs@ku.edu or contact Rebecca Gillam at (785) 864-7123.