



Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood
January 6, 2015

Partner Group: *Child Care Aware® of Missouri*

Liaison to the Board: *Carol Scott*

Date of last meetings: *Network Council—October 9th, 2014; Board—October 10th.*

Date of next meetings: *Network Council—January 8th, 2015; Board—January 9th.*

Action Items In-progress/Pending:

- The Spring-Summer 2014 reorganization to align our structure and staffing with our 2014-17 strategic priorities and newest contract from DSS is completed; the new staff are “settled in” and developing as a strong team. As a reminder: changes include the closing of the Jefferson City office, moving all mid-MO staff to a new office in Columbia (to be completed in January).
- In January, we launch the *Show Me Child Care Resources* web portal, offering purchasing discounts and templates/tools for child care, early education, and after school programs. For most programs, access will be subscription-based at \$600 per year for a center, \$300 per year for a home. Subscriptions are extremely modest, compared to the expected savings from discounted purchasing of commonly used products. Some subscriptions will be considered match for, or be subsidized by, our contracts.
- Other new projects, continuing services, and projects in development:
 - **NEW:** Sesame Workshop/Child Care Aware® of America-funded, short-term project to engage families’ use of Sesame Street-branded materials about supporting children after trauma. Implementation is in the Springfield area, as a follow-on support for a previous project. We’re extending the “A” component of our K+A=C model for professional development (Knowledge + Application = Change), working with the same early care and education programs that participated in our Children’s Trust Fund project last year. In that project, training and coaching/TA focused on practices and policies on identification, reporting, and prevention of child abuse, especially sexual abuse, with an emphasis on protecting children with special needs.
 - **NEW:** Margaret A. Cargill Foundation/Save the Children-funded program through June 2016, to train early care and education personnel about, and expand system-level capacity for, supporting young children after a disaster. Statewide funding to us and our three Member Agencies will enable 5 statewide webinars, F2F training for at least 80 participants across the state by June 30, 2015, and a statewide leadership summit to develop/strengthen disaster-response leadership capacity among staff in CCR&Rs and our state partners. We will also be piloting some new uses of technology and outcomes assessment strategies in this program.
 - **DEVELOPMENT:** Ferguson-area implementation of our Emotional Foundations for Early Childhood-Plus (EFFEC+) program, which has also been presented to CBEC as an evidence-based program. Emerson Electric has committed funds and we are seeking other funders at the time of writing this report.
 - **CONTINUING:** T.E.A.C.H. MISSOURI scholarship and retention program, supported by a new DESE contract for up to \$1.4 million in FY15. This is our first DESE funding in two years. **Thank you!**

- CONTINUING: Year 2 of *Taking Steps to Healthy Success* obesity prevention program, highlighted for CBEC last year in a presentation by Director of Wellness Initiatives Megan Klenke. Related DEVELOPMENT: Seeking support for a significant advocacy effort to align licensing rules related to nutrition and physical activity with national best practice recommendations (private sector proposal pending).
- CONTINUING: Referrals and consumer education for families, by phone or online, as they search for child care, preschool, other early learning, and after-school programs statewide, at no cost to the consumer (subsidized by DSS).
- CONTINUING: Statewide coordination of all training for the early care and education and after-school workforce, offered by all training organizations. Includes maintenance of the online Missouri Workshop Calendar, which has significant value to DHSS and OPEN, for licensing-related training approval and the Missouri Professional Development Registry, respectively.
- CONTINUING: By June 30, 2015, 359 minimum hours of training from the Basic Knowledge curricula (across the three age-specialty levels—Infant/Toddler, Early Childhood, and Youth Development), and the Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect (PCAN) curriculum (366 completed, or 102% of minimum required, as of 12/31/14).

Celebrations:

- Child Care and Development Block Grant re-authorized after 17 years of advocacy (Missouri *Parents Aware* advocate Shelly Blecha invited to attend signing).
- Child Care Aware[®] of America releases new report on cost of child care; Executive Director Lynette Fraga interviewed on *Today* show.
- White House Early Childhood Summit (Lynette Fraga participated).

Announcements:

- Ms. Hope Whitehead, Esq. of Whitehead and Associates, LLC in St. Louis, and Ms. Janine Hron, Executive Director of Crittenton Center in Kansas City, recently joined our board of directors.
- Child Care Aware[®] of Missouri has achieved an A rating from the Better Business Bureau (not yet showing on the BBB site, but verbally confirmed).
- The Child Care Aware[®] of America board will meet next on January 29th-30th in Arlington, VA.

end report