

**Report for the Missouri Coordinating Board for Early Childhood**  
*January 2011*

**Partner Group:** *Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office*

**Liaison to the Board:** *Stacey Owsley*

**Date of last meeting:** *N/A*

**Date of next meeting:** *N/A*

**Action Items Completed:** *N/A*

**Action Items In-progress/Pending:** *N/A*

**Announcements:**

The federal Department of Health and Human Services convened a 1 day meeting in DC on December 10, 2010. The meeting brought together Collaboration Offices and State Pre-K administrators together from around the country. This was the first meeting in a series dedicated to promoting "real" collaboration among HS and LEAs and child care. This meeting focused on monitoring early childhood programs: working together to promote quality. DHHS, Joan Lombardi strongly spoke to the continued (really historical) and unprecedented partnership between DHHS and DOE. She referenced the Interagency Policy Board (internal board comprised of DOE and DHSS high level staff) that is focused on learning about one another's programs and addressing key system topics/challenges and what the federal level can do to support states and ultimately communities. The message continues to be the importance of HS and LEA partnerships, and the importance of Federal, State and local collaborations within this area. At the conclusion of the meeting the Office of Head Start committed to:

- Implementing demonstration projects. This project would focus on how states are monitoring early childhood programs and how HS is fitting/not fitting into the system. The goal of this would be to reduce duplication in systems, who (what program) does what, what can get eliminated. Intense work would be with 2 states and working with OHS to "figure things out"
- Demonstration on School Readiness: not a lot of details here---seemed to center on how HS is serving as the Pre K program. Work would ultimately result in how OHS can support local programs

Commitment for 2 more national meetings on this topic (HS-LEA-Child Care) to continue discussion, delve deeper into topic

**Columbia Cares for Kids** is led by Central Missouri Community Action Head Start, in partnership with many of Columbia's most influential human service and educational entities. This will be a week long campaign centered on engaging the community to promote the emotional well-being of children and families. While this is the first campaign of its kind, it is anticipated the energy, momentum and efforts will continue past the week of January 24<sup>th</sup>. The campaign will include a series of events taking place January 24-29<sup>th</sup> entitled "The Week of the Emotionally Healthy Child". Dr. Gerald Newmark, nationally renowned expert in the emotional health of children and author of the book How to Raise Emotionally Healthy Children will take the lead by engaging child-serving professionals, families, and community leaders in enlightening seminars focused at strengthening the emotional health of children and adults alike. He will provide a framework for strengthening emotional health by meeting five basic but critical needs - the need to feel respected, important, accepted, included, and secure. One of the goals at the Missouri Head Start-State Collaboration Office will be to examine how we can showcase and/or assist other grantees develop this model collaboration across the state. I am also currently working with the CSMT to officially endorse this event/collaboration.

**Questions for the board/larger group:**

- Would CBEC like to officially recognize the Columbia Cares for Kids event? (see above)

**Other Notes:**

- Region VII Family Financial Stability Leadership Summit. Attended one day of this two-day seminar as a representative from CBEC. Family Financial Stability is a new asset initiative, focusing on (all) families with young children. Financial stability is an important ingredient in helping families establish the foundation for children's future success. The goals of the initiative are:
  - To foster collaboration between the early learning community and the asset building community
  - Make asset building tools and strategies accessible to families
  - Raise awareness about the importance of asset development for families with young children

A key message: Family financial stability sets the stage for children's future success. High levels of stress related to economic hardship can affect young children's brain development and impact their long term outcomes. Because of their close working relationships with families, Head Start and child care providers can play an important role by connecting families to services that will enhance their economic stability.

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