



March, 2015

Topic of the Month

Which agencies are currently working with your coalition?

The Mayor's Healthy Task Force assists us with all events. Because our check list/action plan are very much the same, it makes for a great partnership. The Cleveland School District assists in a variety of ways, such as: financial support, office space with materials and needed supplies, meeting space, and professional development. Delta State University grad classes have become the foot soldiers for a lot of our events. Bolivar County Community Action Agency provides educational resources and meeting space. Bolivar County Health Department provides information on WIC, Breastfeeding, and general care for expecting moms. Extension Services offers professional development for early educators and meeting space. **-Patsy Clerk, Cleveland Coalition**

The City helps fund our coalition resource position and, by partnering with the Mayor's E3 and youth initiatives, this has given us a connection to the National League of Cities. William Carey University provides books for our Christmas parade and students to assist with our health fair. USM offers access to referral services for young children with developmental delays, and students to assist with our health fair. Southeast Mississippi Rural Health Initiative (SeMRHI) provides low-cost health services and assistance with our health fair screenings, eye exams, and dental exams. The Health Department works with our health fair and day care centers. Head Start partners with our health fair, SIDS conference, and other training efforts. United Way is a lead community partner that promotes Excel By 5 and allows us to use their logo to demonstrate community support (not just school district support). MSCCR&R is a valuable community service resource for us too. **-Dan Kibodeaux, Hattiesburg Coalition**

In Senatobia, our city is our lead agency and they have funded Excel by 5 up to this point. However, our public library is our main supporter. We have had a lot of our events there and that is also where our resource room is located. **-Lana Nail, Senatobia Coalition**

The Corinth-Alcorn Excel By 5 works with the following: Head Starts partner with us for all education outreach programs, help disseminate information, and participate in some training. Corinth School District and Alcorn County School District are MAJOR partners with us on everything. Magnolia Regional Health Center provides information and presenters for our health fair every year, distribute newborn packets at the hospital, and health fliers. Crosswind (faith based organization) is the location for our mobile resource center, Crosswind also helps disseminate information, runs homework clubs and leads educational programs in housing projects to parents. The Alliance (Chamber of Commerce) provides books for resource center, advertising and administrative support. Kiwanis sponsors our newborn packets that are Rotary provides monetary support for programs. Daily Corinthian (newspaper) prints our resource guide and provides advertising for our programs. CARE (community foundation) -provides funding for programs and administrative support. **-Andrea Rose, Corinth/Alcorn County Coalition**



We use the Public Library for reference and book checkouts, and to provide children's programs. We use Mississippi State University-Early Years Network for great information and the CDA credits! We use American Red Cross for First Aid and CPR trainings. United Way of Jackson George Counties helps with teen parents, preschoolers, and all kinds of things! We teach two programs under Head Start, they are awesome for Early Head Start. Mississippi Department of Health is used for child care, and health requirements. –**Connie Jo Williams, Pascagoula Coalition**

Our coalition is just getting started. We'd like to work with: Samaritans, who help people with emergency money for food, shelter, utilities, etc.; various churches and a new project to be called the Hope Center; House of Grace (women's shelter); Healing Hearts Child Advocacy Center; the Health Department and Social Services. – **Jesse Pool, Horn Lake Coalition**

CASA trains workers and gets resources to families. Our public library houses our resource center and donates space for parent trainings. The hospital and Health Department help with parent trainings. The Extension Service provides parent trainings and United Way funds Dolly Parton Imagination Library! - **Cathy Wilson, Hancock County Coalition**

Our coalition works with Three Rivers of Pontotoc, CREATE of Tupelo, and Pontotoc County Library. - **Lisa Lucius, Pontotoc County Coalition**

Midtown Partners is a host to Mississippi Child Care Resource and Referral Network (MSCCR&R). MSCCR&R (offered through the MSU Extension Service) supports early care and education professionals, parents, children, and community members seeking information about quality childcare. The following services are available through the Mid-Jackson MSCCR&R: training & technical assistance, resource center, and parent referrals for childcare. UNACARE Health Clinic, established by the University of MS Medical Center/ School of Nursing, is a full service urban-based health clinic. Located in Midtown, UNACARE partners with us to provide services for the annual Health Fair as well as assisting Midtown families with primary health care. Jackson Public Schools serves as a member of our coalition and the JPS Pre-K Coordinator serves as the Coalition's Vice Chair. Millsaps College serves as a coalition member, and their 1 Campus 1 Community initiative is the lead partner as the host of our annual Health Fair and hosts the Annual Midtown 1 Campus 1 Community Block Party. Institutions of Higher Learning serves as a member of the coalition. Hinds Community College serves as a coalition member and partners with Midtown Partners for professional development for students enrolled in the Early Childhood Technology classes. Jackson State University serves as a member of the coalition and partners with us to provide professional development in early education. Midtown Neighborhood Association partners with our coalition as the host of the annual Neighborhood Night Out. City of Jackson Human and Cultural Services/Early Childhood Development Division serves as a member of the coalition. Parents for Public Schools of Greater Jackson serves as a member of the coalition and has partnered to create the "Kindergarten Express" for the Kindergarten Readiness event. Hinds Community Resource Agency/ Head Start serves as a member of our coalition. - **Eileen Beazley, Mid-Jackson Coalition**



We are fortunate to have many local agencies that are part of the Oktibbeha County Excel By 5 effort. The following work with our coalition: MSU Extension Service's local agents have a booth at our health fair and provide programs for parents and children. One example is a cooking program that focuses on healthy snacks. In the past we have had the United Way Director serve on our coalition so the UW has been present at many of our events and we have participated in theirs. Our Health Dept. participates in our events, serves on our coalition, and provides information at our Health Fair (and car seats for door prizes as they are available). Other agencies participate in events like the MS Dept. of Ed. (School Attendance Officers) for our area by circulating information to families at events about school attendance policies and the local hospital and doctor's offices participate in our Health Fair. The hospital also contacts us when they plan their Infant and Maternity Fair so we can be present. The Early Years Network is assisting us with a program for CCC directors this spring and providing training for our local and nearby centers. **–Ellen Goodman, Oktibbeha County Coalition**

In Petal, several agencies are housed at our "Excel By 5 hub", the Center for Families and Children. MS State Resource and Referral Center - provides resources and numerous programs and services to support child care, Head Start and parents of pre-school age children. MS Dept. of Health - An early interventionist with the First Steps program is housed at the Center and provides developmental assessments and intervention services to children ages birth-three years. MS Dept. of Health Developmental specialists - Speech, Occupational therapists work with our Center to offer weekly "Developmental Playshops". This provides an opportunity for informal assessments and information sharing with parents regarding possible delays/concerns. The Petal School District funds the resource center, Parents as Teachers parent educators, social worker, outreach coordinator. The city of Petal provides funds to support Early Care and Education Liaison. **–Nadine Coleman, Petal Coalition**

We signed an MOU with First Steps, Mississippi Early Intervention Program and the Coastal Plains Interagency Coordinating Council in 2011. Children 0 – 2 years of age are referred to First Steps. The children are screened services are provided to those who qualify. The MOU partnership allows the Biloxi Family Resource Center to be utilized on Wednesday mornings for classroom instruction. The instructor is provided by First Steps. The instructor utilizes the Resource Center Classroom, center materials, and supplies. Parents are encouraged to use the interactive rooms when class is over. They are also encouraged to attend the Community Events and special activity days at the center. We signed an MOU with Biloxi Public Schools and the City of Biloxi in 2011. Sun Camp is sponsored by the City of Biloxi for Special Needs children. The MOU partnership allows the camp to be held on Wednesday mornings at the Biloxi Family Resource Center during June and July. The teacher at the resource center plans the weekly activities. There is a story followed by an art project. At the end of the camp, the children attend a Biloxi City Council meeting where each child is recognized and receives a certificate from the Mayor. They also present a "Group Art Project" to the Mayor. If you ever visit City Hall, you will see the projects hanging on the walls. **–Susan Hunt, Biloxi Coalition**