



# Maternal and Child Health Coalition of Greater Kansas City

## Press Release

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### **The New Medicaid in Missouri: A Dialogue with Elected Officials**

Kansas City, MO – Maternal and Child Health Coalition along with Missouri Association of Social Welfare (MASW), Missouri Budget Project, Missouri Pro Vote, and Jackson County Community Mental Health Fund is convening a panel discussion on Missouri Medicaid proposals and their impact. This non-partisan dialogue with elected officials and a panel of experts is open and free to the public. Nick Haines, KCPT's Week in Review host, will moderate the discussion.

In 2005, Missouri lawmakers made some of the largest cuts to the state Medicaid program in the history of the nation. More than 100,000 Missourians lost their Medicaid coverage entirely, and more than 300,000 people were affected by service reductions. The state legislature also agreed to end Missouri's Medicaid program by June 30, 2008. On February 22, 2007, a proposal to replace Missouri's current Medicaid program, Missouri Health Net, was introduced in the state legislature. The proposal builds on plans unveiled by Governor Blunt and by the Missouri Department of Social Services in January 2007.

The participants on the panel include Senator Yvonne S. Wilson, District 9 and Senator Jolie Justus, District 10 as well as Representative Jeff Grisamore, District 47. The expert panel includes Scott Lakin, Former Director, Missouri Department of Insurance, Dr. Thomas W. Tyron, MO Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics, and Deacon Mike Lewis from Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, and consumers.

A Q&A session will follow the panel discussion. Participants are welcome to stay after the event to learn about action strategies.

This event will take place on Friday, April 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:00 – 5:00 PM at Curry Auditorium located in the Research Medical Center Brookside Campus (Formerly Baptist-Lutheran Hospital), 6601 Rockhill Road, Kansas City, MO. **For more information and RSVP, call Paul Cesare at 816-283-6242 Ext. 239**