



Maternal and Child Health Coalition of Greater Kansas City

News Release

Contact: Angha Childress
816-283-6242 ext. 249

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
January 30, 2008

Chicago Childhood Obesity Consortium visits Kansas City

Kansas City, MO- The Weighing-In Childhood Obesity Prevention Collaborative of the Maternal and Child Health Coalition of Greater Kansas City (MCHC) has been chosen as one of four communities in the U.S. to receive technical assistance from the Consortium to Lower Obesity in Chicago Children (CLOCC). CLOCC received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation for this initiative. CLOCC will be in Kansas City from January 31st through February 1st to learn about the local childhood obesity prevention programs, and to offer best practices to interested community members and organizations by sharing their efforts in bringing community resources together that have affected legislation and policies in the Chicago area for working towards the prevention of childhood obesity. One of the meetings (**invitation-only**) will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2008 from 8 – 11:30 a.m. at the Don Chisholm Center (auditorium), 610 E. 22nd Street, Kansas City, MO 64108.

Media representatives should call Angha Childress at 816-283-6242 ext. 249.

Adam Becker, PhD, MPH CLOCC's executive director, and pediatrician Dr. Kathy Chistoffel, the medical and research director for CLOCC and the director for the Center of Obesity Management and Prevention (COMP) will be presenting at the meeting tomorrow. The event is sponsored by MCHC and Children's Mercy Hospitals and Clinics, a founding member of Weighing-In.

Weighing-In Collaborative draws a variety of local organizations and community members with an interest in the prevention and treatment of childhood obesity in Kansas City. The group meets quarterly to share best practices and highlight local childhood obesity prevention programs. Dr. Sarah Hampl, medical director of Weight Management Services at Children's Mercy Hospital and the chairperson for Weighing-In shared, "We are very excited about the opportunity to learn from the lessons that CLOCC has learned as they've developed an integrated, comprehensive childhood obesity prevention initiative in Chicago...their knowledge and expertise will be critical to incorporate as Weighing-In moves forward."

Additional support for the meeting and CLOCC visit is provided by the KC Healthy Kids and the YMCA of Greater Kansas City.

#####

Maternal and Child Health Coalition is a membership organization focused on improving the health of women and children in the Kansas City metropolitan area. More information about the meeting and CLOCC visit can be obtained by calling Julie Barry, director of Childhood Obesity Prevention Initiatives at 816-283-6242 ext. 257. **Photo and interview opportunities available on request.**