

NEK-CAP News

Spring Edition ~ March 2017

Serving Atchison, Brown, Doniphan, Jackson, Jefferson, Jewell, Leavenworth, Marshall, Mitchell, Nemaha, Osborne, Pottawatomie, Republic, Riley, Smith, and Washington Counties.



From the Executive Director's Desk

Submitted by Jeanette Collier, Executive Director

On behalf of NEK-CAP, Inc., I wish you a happy upcoming spring!

During this Kansas legislative session, I have supported legislation to approve the practice of Dental Therapy, expand KanCare, amend the HOPE Act, restructure tax policies and have kept a watchful eye on amendments that could negatively impact the implementation of reforms to the Kansas Juvenile Justice systems.

Although none of the legislation has passed, progress was made with the introduction of bills, committee hearings and in some cases consideration by both houses. With the

Kansas Supreme Court decision on K-12 funding, I will be monitoring proposals for the assurance of equity in funding for lower-income school districts and for students impacted by social and economic barriers.

I urge you to contact your Congressman, and ask that they not agree to the potential 10% cut for domestic discretionary programs. The result of such cuts would have a devastating effect on the lives of all vulnerable populations, especially children, the elderly, those with disabilities, and those experiencing homelessness. Please join me in raising our voice to ensure that "America is great" for all Americans!



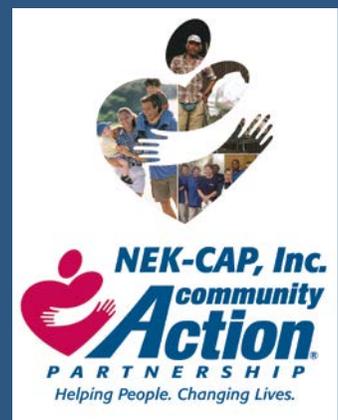
Mark your calendar to attend the upcoming Focus Group in your county!! Your voice matters!!

NEK-CAP's Mission

We provide comprehensive education and social services to low-income community members through collaborative partnerships focused on promoting family development, empowerment, and economic security.

The Promise of Community Action

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. We care about the entire community, and we are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other.



Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Office/Data Coordinator, lgrier@nekc.org

Your Voice Matters!!

Submitted by Linda Grier Office/Data Coordinator

Upcoming Focus Groups ~ Your Input is Needed!

NEK-CAP Inc. is conducting its triennial comprehensive community assessment and we want your input! It is important for NEK-CAP Inc. to have clear understanding of life in your county, cities and rural areas, so we provide needed services to low-income customers living in our service area. NEK-CAP Inc. is required to conduct a full community needs assessment as a requirement of our funding sources: Community Service Block Grant and Head Start. It is our agency's hope you can attend the upcoming Focus Group in your county – please mark your calendar (meeting will last approximately an hour). Visit our agency facebook page/events:

March 6, 2017 – 3:00pm
Smith County
First Christian Church
400 SW Hwy 36
Smith Center, Kansas

March 7, 2017 – 10:00am
Osborne County
United Methodist Church
105 N. 3rd St.
Osborne, Kansas

March 7, 2017 – 3:00pm
Mitchell County
Beloit First United Methodist Church
801 N. Bell St.
Beloit, Kansas

March 8, 2017 – 10:00am
Jewell County
Harmony United Methodist Church
109 S. High St.
Mankato, Kansas

March 8, 2017 – 3:00pm
Republic County
First United Methodist Church
2013 M Street
Belleville, Kansas

March 9, 2017 – 10:00am
Washington County
Washington United Methodist Church
400 C Street
Washington, Kansas

March 9, 2017 – 3:00pm
Marshall County
Lincoln Center (large room)
405 North 4th St.
Marysville, Kansas

March 13, 2017 – 10:00am
Leavenworth County
Leavenworth Public Library
417 Spruce Street
Leavenworth KS 66048

March 13, 2017 – 3:00pm
Atchison County
DCF Office - Street Sunflower Room
410 Commercial
Atchison, Kansas

March 14, 2017 – 10:00am
Jefferson County
Colonial Acres Event Center
8998 US 59 Hwy.
Oskaloosa KS 66066

March 14, 2017 – 3:00pm
Jackson County
Evangel United Methodist Church (Library)
227 Pennsylvania Ave
Holton, Kansas

March 15, 2017 – 10:00am
Brown County
Morill Public Library
(lower level meeting room)
431 Oregon St
Hiawatha, Kansas

March 20, 2017 – 10:00am
Nemaha County
Pioneer Building
209 N 8th St.
Seneca, Kansas

March 21, 2017 – 10:00am
Riley County
First United Methodist Church of Manhattan
612 Poyntz Ave
Manhattan, Kansas

March 21, 2017 – 3:00pm
Pottawatomie County
Onaga Senior Center
200 Bypass Rd.
Onaga, KS. 66521

March 22, 2017 – 10:00am
Doniphan County
Troy Community Building
1225 Last Chance Rd
Troy, Ks. 66087

In conjunction with the Focus Groups, we invite you to also participate in our online Community Survey, please visit this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2017nekcapcommunityassessment>

Thanks for your participation!!

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Serving the counties of:
Atchison, Brown,
Doniphan, Jackson,
Jefferson, Jewell,
Leavenworth, Marshall,
Mitchell, Nemaha,
Osborne, Pottawatomie,
Republic, Riley,
Smith and Washington

services vary per county



Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Office/Data Coordinator, lgrier@nekcaph.org

Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes

Submitted by NEK-CAP, Inc. staff members



NEK-CAP, Inc.'s Vision:

One by one
all families and communities
become self-reliant.

NEK-CAP, Inc. is an equal
opportunity provider
and employer.



We just wrapped up CDL training and the trooper thanked everyone for their questions and lively discussion. He said it shows our staff are very passionate about their jobs and the safety of their students. *Submitted by Belinda Estes, Housing Continuum of Care Coordinator*

NEK-CAP Outreach office was contacted by the Health Department about an uninsured individual in need of a medical procedure to remove a cancer. NEK-CAP was able to secure funds with the Salvation Army to assist in paying for the medical procedure. Dr. Lassey at Holton Direct Care was kind enough to work with our agency and the patient. He was willing to order the equipment necessary and perform the procedure at a deeply discounted rate. We are happy we could coordinate with the Health Department and Holton Direct Care to assure the patient received medical care that would have otherwise been unavailable to them. *Submitted by Kori Anderson, Jackson County Family Development Advocate*

NEK-CAP Head Start in Jackson County would like to thank all of the wonderful speakers and donations we have had for our Family Engagements this year. Angie Reith & Amy Hallauer from the Health Department joined us in November with healthy snacks and WIC information. Scott Foster of Foster Ford and Matt Wilson of Wilson Direct Tires joined us in December for winter car safety information. Donations from Farmer's State Bank, Denison State Bank and Holton National Bank provided the car safety kits. Pat Fontaine presented on fire safety in January. Carolyn Cochren from Fresh Start joined us with information on adult education in February. Judy May of Farmer's State Bank presented in March on budgeting and finances. These amazing people and businesses are a huge asset to our program in providing information and building relationship with our families. *Submitted by Kori Anderson, Jackson County Family Development Advocate*

With the help of Melanie Stuart-Campbell from Greenbush we have been able to further reach out to non-English speaking families in our community. Through a combined effort we have been able to see that seven new children in the community are receiving NEK-CAP Head Start or Early Head Start services

since December 2016. Some of those children had health and dental needs and NEK-CAP was able to assist in getting the proper care. Melanie has also written a lovely children's book called Alba, the South American Street Dog which she will be coming to read to the children in our classrooms. *Submitted by Kori Anderson, Jackson County Family Development Advocate*

Jackson County Family Development Advocates and Child & Family Advocates have been working closely with the YWCA office in Holton. Our joint effort has helped provide housing and other services to victims of domestic violence. In addition to their work with specific individuals, Vivian and Christina have been a great asset to our community and agency by providing information, trainings and support to other groups and agencies in the community. *Submitted by Kori Anderson, Jackson County Family Development Advocate*

I received a text message from a customer stating he had referred an elderly homeless man to me. At the time, we were not taking applications for ESG so he applied for TBRA and HCV. The gentleman was on a limited fixed income and I really wasn't sure how he could afford a place on his own. In conversation about homelessness, Belinda let me know if he could get into the income-based apartments there was enough funding in ESG to cover deposits. I called the property manager and asked if he had any openings and he did. I called the gentleman and told him about the apartment and how to apply. By the end of February the man was moved into the apartment. It was the first time in eight years he'd had a bed and shower to call his own. *Submitted by Kori Anderson, Jackson County Family Development Advocate*



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Achievements ~ Accomplishments ~ Successes (cont.)

Submitted by NEK-CAP, Inc. staff members

The moments that make my job absolutely incredible!! I was sitting with a Family Self-Sufficiency client – NEK-CAP’s employment program that is part of the Housing Choice Voucher Program. I was speaking to a single mom – we spoke about employment goals, what she had on her “To Do” list – you know, goals. We spoke for about 30 minutes, when we began talking about jobs closer to where she lived, and how she might get more an hour if she worked closer, and what did she see as her dream job? Her inquisitive looks were absolutely amazing, she was not sure, she had really never looked at it, and said, “She was never allowed to work” so she had not really thought about it. I asked her, “What do you want to be when you grow up”, we laughed. So, I challenged her to think about her ideas, where was her heart of hearts, what was her dream job? She sat in wonder, thinking, then she said, “Social Work” as we spoke about the next steps she asked me where do I even look for jobs, in the newspaper? I said, “Well, fortunately the newspapers still has a lot of information in them, however, primarily, a lot of jobs are also posted on-line”. I asked if she had email and she said “yes” the conversation went back and forth, I told her, unless she had a computer at home she would need to go to

the library. The next question she asked was if she could get her email on her phone? With much eagerness I said, “YES”! as she began smiling, I walked her through the process of downloading the app for her phone, smiling ear to ear, excited to be able to see instant emails and communications with others was so very powerful.

The connection, the communication, and the process were truly a magical moment. I could see by her smile and her eyes she had just learned a new task, a new way to connect, a new way to get information she had felt limited too by going to the library. I told her she may still need to go to the library and get on their computers to print or apply for jobs, but this allowed her instant connection and now I could send her resources for employment and other information in her county. It was so empowering to watch and to be a part of. The success of this story is she is connected in a way she was once limited, it opened doors, she was empowered in that one interaction, and the boost to her self-confidence by doing something as simple as a download to a smart phone app. Our meeting soon ended and she walked out with a huge smile on her face! Success, absolutely!
Submitted by Mary Schreifels, FSS Coordinator

Atchison Area 98th Annual Chamber Banquet

Submitted by Shelby Howard, Family & Community Resource Manager and Mary Schreifels, FSS Program Coordinator

On January 28, 2017 NEK-CAP, Inc.’s Shelby Howard, Family & Community Resource Manager and Mary Schreifels, Family Self Sufficiency (FSS) Program Coordinator, Brown County Housing Authority attended the Amelia Earhart themed Atchison Area 98th Annual Chamber Banquet. What a flight through the eyes of the aviator; complete with propeller, road maps, along with decorations to highlight the life of the woman aviator.

The banquet hall at the Atchison Event Center was a packed house, dinner served; chocolate bar full of decadent chocolates, and the band played a rock n roll theme. Guests experienced travels through time with a simulated flight power point and reenactment to all ten of the highlighted places in honor of this young woman pilot. The highlights of Amelia Earhart include:

Amelia Earhart birthplace
Amelia Earhart Bridge
Amelia Earhart Substation
Amelia Comes Home
International Forest of Friendship
Amelia Earhart Earthwork
River Front – Annual Fireworks show celebrated in June during Amelia Earhart days
Mall Statue – Bronze life statue
Selfies Mural – created space for selfies by Benedictine Students
Muriel – The last original 1935 Lockheed Electra L – 10E

Mary and Shelby had the opportunity to visit with Commissioners, service providers, local media personality, and business owners of Atchison County and share NEK-CAP, Inc.’s impact in the county. They also entertained questions on the services provided in Atchison County and throughout the entire 16 county area.

What your child learns
before age 5
is the key to
success!

Enroll your child
now in
NEK-CAP, Inc.
HeadStart!!

Applications always
accepted!



Shelby and Mary at the banquet

***Comments/Questions: please contact Linda Grier, Office/Data Coordinator, lgrier@nekap.org**