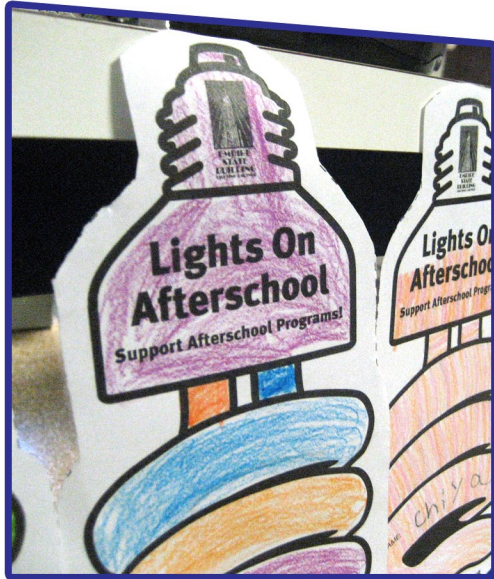


LINC Commission Meeting

October 27, 2008



Students (above) from Symington Caring Communities look at a custom motorcycle. First and second grade students (below) sing a song for Lights On Afterschool.



A student (above) at the Grandview School District's celebration.



Local Investment Commission (LINC) Vision

Our Shared Vision

A caring community that builds on its strengths to provide meaningful opportunities for children, families and individuals to achieve self-sufficiency, attain their highest potential, and contribute to the public good.

Our Mission

To provide leadership and influence to engage the Kansas City Community in creating the best service delivery system to support and strengthen children, families and individuals, holding that system accountable, and changing public attitudes towards the system.

Our Guiding Principles

1. **COMPREHENSIVENESS:** Provide ready access to a full array of effective services.
2. **PREVENTION:** Emphasize “front-end” services that enhance development and prevent problems, rather than “back-end” crisis intervention.
3. **OUTCOMES:** Measure system performance by improved outcomes for children and families, not simply by the number and kind of services delivered.
4. **INTENSITY:** Offering services to the needed degree and in the appropriate time.
5. **PARTICIPANT INVOLVEMENT:** Use the needs, concerns, and opinions of individuals who use the service delivery system to drive improvements in the operation of the system.
6. **NEIGHBORHOODS:** Decentralize services to the places where people live, wherever appropriate, and utilize services to strengthen neighborhood capacity.
7. **FLEXIBILITY AND RESPONSIVENESS:** Create a delivery system, including programs and reimbursement mechanisms, that are sufficiently flexible and adaptable to respond to the full spectrum of child, family and individual needs.
8. **COLLABORATION:** Connect public, private and community resources to create an integrated service delivery system.
9. **STRONG FAMILIES:** Work to strengthen families, especially the capacity of parents to support and nurture the development of their children.
10. **RESPECT AND DIGNITY:** Treat families, and the staff who work with them, in a respectful and dignified manner.
11. **INTERDEPENDENCE/MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Balance the need for individuals to be accountable and responsible with the obligation of community to enhance the welfare of all citizens.
12. **CULTURAL COMPETENCY:** Demonstrate the belief that diversity in the historical, cultural, religious and spiritual values of different groups is a source of great strength.
13. **CREATIVITY:** Encourage and allow participants and staff to think and act innovatively, to take risks, and to learn from their experiences and mistakes.
14. **COMPASSION:** Display an unconditional regard and a caring, non-judgmental attitude toward participants that recognizes their strengths and empowers them to meet their own needs.
15. **HONESTY:** Encourage and allow honesty among all people in the system.



Monday, Oct. 27, 2008
Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd.
4 – 6 p.m.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements**
- II. Approvals**
 - a. September minutes (Motion)**
- III. LINC President's Report**
- IV. Lights on After School**
- V. Foreclosure Developments**
- VI. Closed Session**
- VII. Adjournment**



DRAFT MINUTES

THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – SEPTEMBER 15, 2008

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Chairman **Landon Rowland** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Bert Berkley
Sharon Cheers
Jack Craft
Steve Dunn
Herb Freeman
SuEllen Fried
Rob Givens
Anita Gorman
Bart Hakan
Adele Hall

Richard Hibschan
Judy Hunt
Rosemary Smith Lowe
Mary Kay McPhee
Richard Morris
David Rock
David Ross
Frank Salizzoni
Gene Standifer
Bailus Tate

Rowland welcomed special guests.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2008, LINC Commission meetings was passed unanimously.

A video of a recent ceremony marking the national accreditation of the Missouri Children's Division was shown.

Deborah Scott, director of the Missouri Dept. of Social Services, gave an overview of goals for the department under her tenure: getting results, improving customer services, increasing proficiency in performance, being good stewards of tax dollars, and being accountable. She invited LINC to press DSS to make changes to better serve the Kansas City area.

Dr. Ian McCaslin, director of MO HealthNet, gave a presentation on the needs of people who are covered by MO HealthNet (formerly Medicaid). The determinants of health are not doctors and nurses (which are where Medicaid has traditionally focused its resources) but things like the built environment and other day-to-day influences. The aim of MO HealthNet is to be actively involved in people's health lives rather than a passive safety net.

LINC staff **Robin Gierer** reported that LINC is partnering with the Center and Hickman Mills school districts to apply for funding to establish a community health center that is connected with schools in both districts. The partnership is part of LINC's larger effort to establish the neighborhood and community as residents' "health care home."

LINC Professional Cabinet member **Cathy Davis** reported that the Kansas City Quality Improvement Consortium (KCQIC) will release a patient satisfaction survey tomorrow.

Discussion of MO HealthNet and other health issues followed.

A video on the partnership between LINC and Hickman Mills School District was shown. **Dr. Marge Williams**, Hickman Mills superintendent, reported that the partnership has been positive.

Rev. John Modest Miles reported on the effort by Morning Star Development Corp. to raise \$6 million to build a youth center in the Morning Star neighborhood, which has been devastated by

high crime and lack of economic development. Portions of an HBO documentary on the neighborhood's troubles were shown.

Nick Haines, KCPT public affairs reporter, discussed a special one-hour program *Foreclosed: The Growing Mortgage Crisis in KC* scheduled to air on Wed., Sept. 17, at 7 p.m. The special production will include video segments about Kansas City area foreclosures, live interviews with those involved in the issue and also a call-in feature so that those facing foreclosure can talk to trained counselors and get assistance. LINC helped produce the program.

The meeting was adjourned.

Saturday, Oct 18, 2008

KC district ponders closing schools

By JOE ROBERTSON - The Kansas City Star

If the Kansas City School District seriously wants to balance its budget for the current school year, a draft proposal lays out a hard route to get there:

Close seven more schools.

Because the district is still wrangling with a budget that ordinarily would have been completed before the start of the fiscal year in July, those schools wouldn't be closing next school year. They'd be closing in the middle of *this* school year.

"It's just a draft," board president Marilyn Simmons said. "We're going to need a workshop. This is going to be open to the public to have a discussion."

The seven schools that administrators identified as examples of underenrolled schools that could be closed: Westport Middle School; Blenheim, Cook, Douglass, Knotts and Longfellow elementary schools; and the Douglass early childhood center.

Simmons said she does not want to close more schools. In fact, she has new ideas for two of those buildings.

But the financial strain is bearing heavily on the district's resources, interim superintendent John Martin said. And the board's ideas for structuring the district — including its transition to K-8s — keep shifting.

The pressure increased when enrollment figures for 2008-09 showed steeper declines than expected. The district anticipated losing about 2,500 students because of the boundary change with the Independence School District. But preliminary data from the Kansas City district showed that it lost 4,176 in K-12 enrollment, falling from 22,479 to 18,303.

An interim administration, already scrambling from behind in budgeting, saw the task only grow larger. The board's finance and audit committee asked to see a draft that trimmed \$17 million.

"I asked for the hard proposal," committee chairman Ray Wilson said. "And we got the hard proposal."

Martin said closing the seven schools would allow the district to trim the equivalent of 101 support and administrative jobs, and cut \$6.3 million.

The declining enrollment also gives the district room to trim an additional \$4 million by eliminating 50 positions in other schools, plus eight administrative and support positions. Some positions are vacant now, but some people could lose jobs, Martin said.

The draft did not call for any reductions in the number of classroom teachers.

The budget proposes expenditures of \$275 million, leaving \$43 million in reserve.

The continuing shifts in the district's planning were evident even as the administration was raising the idea of school closings. In the same meeting this week, Simmons talked about plans she wanted to see for two schools on the closing list.

Longfellow Elementary, she said, could be one of a group of K-5 elementary schools emphasizing arts to serve as feeders into the middle and high school arts programs at Paseo Academy. Westport Middle, she said, would be an ideal location for a proposed engineering and construction academy.

"We need to create pathways to move in a positive direction and bring people back," she said after the meeting.

The district's efforts to create new programs have counteracted efforts to reduce the number of schools. Four buildings have stayed open as eighth-grade centers as the district completes a transition to mostly K-8 elementary schools.

The district also reopened Southwest High School as an early college campus and opened three buildings, including Southeast High School, to create the Afrikan Centered Education Collegium Campus. Both programs have been bringing at least some students into the district from charter schools or other schools.

The district lost seven schools that were taken in by the Independence School District this year, reducing the number of operating schools to 63. Otherwise it would still be operating at least as many schools as in the 2005-06 school year, when Kansas City had 69 schools serving a K-12 enrollment of 25,766.

By comparison, the Springfield School District, which is now the second largest in the state, after St. Louis, operates 52 schools for 23,968 children.

Wilson expects the district to shore itself up and turn around the enrollment decline, but he believes the district still needs to make real cuts soon.

"We've got to make some decisions that will stick," he said. "I want to get where we don't have to keep coming back every year having to be cutting."

School closings may be too much to ask this year, he acknowledged.

Teachers union president Judy Morgan thinks closings would be too drastic.

"That would be too disruptive in the middle of the school year," she said. "That would be something maybe for next year."

Other changes may complicate the field, however. Next year, the district would be finishing its transition to K-8 schools, after three years of adding one grade per year to elementary schools that had been K-5 schools.

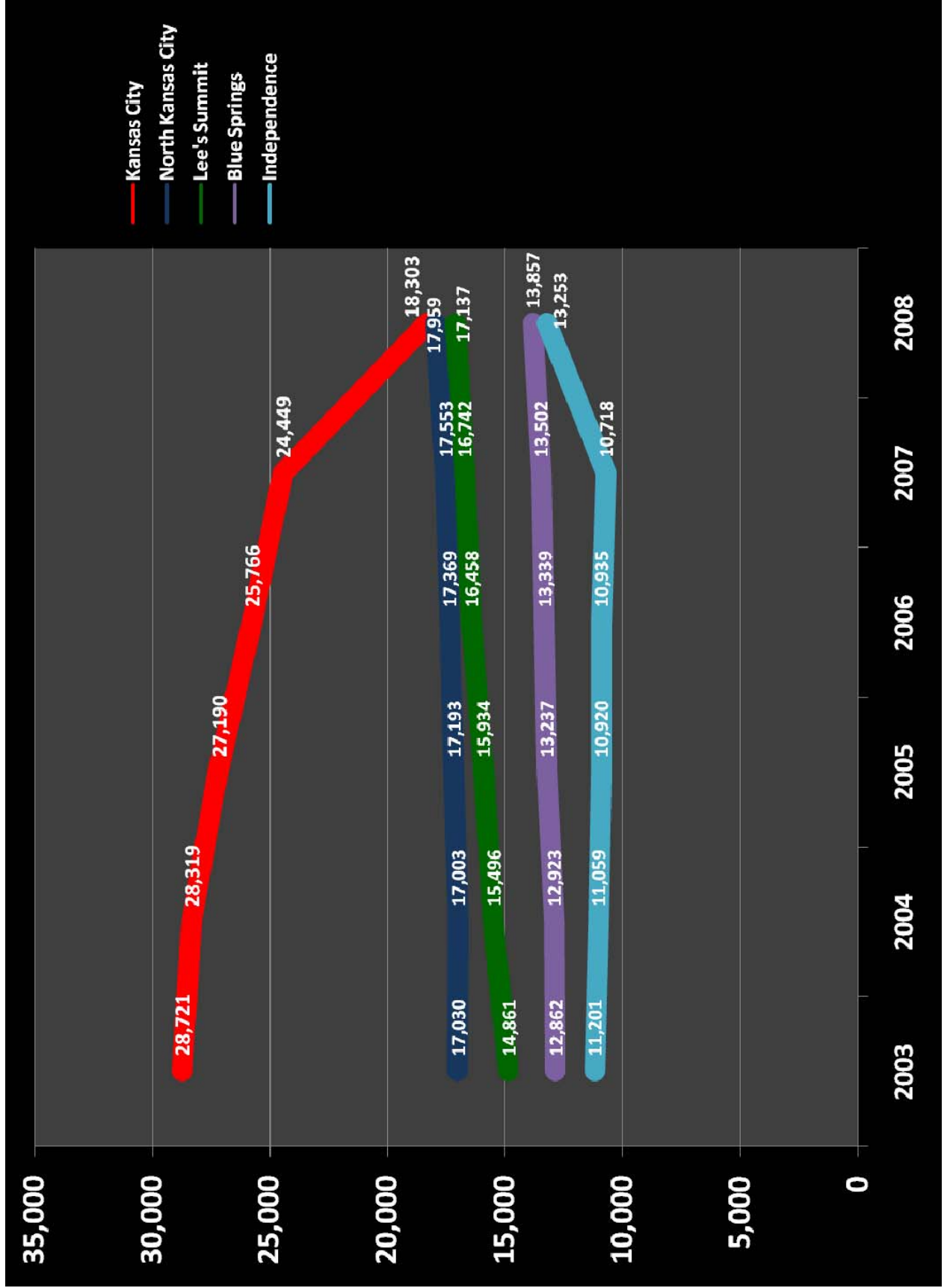
But the board's new leadership, which took the reins in April, has said that the nearly across-the-board switch to K-8s was a mistake and that some of the elementary schools should be returned to K-5s — a position that Simmons restated.

Martin thinks the board would do better to stay its K-8 course.

"Everything we need to do can be done within the K-8 structure," he said. "You have to wonder how many changes our structure will support."

To reach Joe Robertson, call 816-234-4789 or send e-mail to jrobertson@kstar.com.

Enrollment Trends for Largest Kansas City area (Missouri side) School Districts



Public school enrollment

Each September, Kansas and Missouri school districts count heads to determine their official fall enrollment. With the acquisition of six schools from the Kansas City district, the Independence district registered the biggest increase - more than 2,500 students. Otherwise, some of the biggest increases have occurred on the suburban fringe.

	2007-08	2008-09	Change
MISSOURI			
Cass County			
Belton	4,649	4,821	+ 172
Harrisonville	2,517	2,602	+ 85
Raymore-Peculiar	5,798	5,924	+ 126
Pleasant Hill	2,182	2,165	- 17
Clay County			
Kearney	3,579	3,575	- 4
Liberty	9,711	10,292	+ 581
North Kansas City	17,552	17,959	+407
Smithville	2,188	2,263	+ 75
Jackson County			
Blue Springs	13,653	13,857	+ 204
Center	2,349	2,346	- 3
Fort Osage	4,838	4,838	No change
Grain Valley	3,041	3,250	+ 209
Grandview	3,921	3,944	+ 23
Hickman Mills	6,891	6,873	- 18
Independence	10,708	13,253	+ 2,545
Kansas City	22,479	18,303	- 4,176
Lee's Summit	16,975	17,137	+ 162
Raytown	8,742	8,971	+ 229
Platte County			
Park Hill	9,787	10,120	+ 333
Platte County R-3	2,972	3,148	+ 176
KANSAS			
Johnson County			
Blue Valley	20,455	20,590	+ 135
De Soto	5,918	6,307	+ 389
Gardner Edgerton	4,183	4,390	+ 207
Olathe	26,350	26,897	+ 547
Shawnee Mission	28,158	27,831	- 327
Spring Hill	1,876	1,955	+ 79
Leavenworth County			
Basehor-Linwood	2,197	2,257	+ 60
Easton	663	691	+ 28
Fort Leavenworth	1,706	1,794	+ 88
Lansing	2,239	2,328	+ 89
Leavenworth	4,136	4,070	- 66
Tonganoxie	1,794	1,841	+ 47
Wyandotte County			
Bonner Springs-Edwardsville	2,466	2,388	- 78
Kansas City, Kan.	19,375	19,527	+ 152
Piper	1,575	1,635	+ 60
Turner	3,882	3,989	+ 107

Source: Individual school districts. Information collected by Donald Bradley, Dawn Bormann, Brian Burnes, Greg Clark, Bill Graham, Brittany Lane, Russ Pulley, Joe Robertson and Jim Sullinger.

Posted on Wed, Sep. 24, 2008

Some good news as school district slims down

By YAEL T. ABOUHALKAH
The Kansas City Star

The Kansas City School District is a favorite target of angry and frustrated taxpayers, parents and business leaders.

Some real estate agents for years have quietly used its problems to steer newcomers away from Kansas City, hurting the city's ability to grow.

But today let's review three facts that lead to this conclusion:

The Kansas City School District is not nearly as important to the city's future as it once was.

Don't get me wrong. Many elected officials, educators and parents fortunately are still demanding and working hard for schools to improve the education they provide to mostly minority students.

The district certainly deserves attention, money and support from residents. It continues to flounder with a squabbling school board, no permanent superintendent and no contract with its teachers.

Which brings us to consider these three facts:

The Kansas City School District does not have nearly as many students as it once did.

Enrollment in the region's most dysfunctional district has plummeted from 37,000 students in 1995 to around 22,000.

Just last year voters properly approved allowing several thousand students in the Kansas City district to move to Independence district schools.

Charter schools have bled away 5,000 or so children who once attended Kansas City district schools.

And the Kansas City district's student population — once the largest in the area — is now smaller than the Shawnee Mission and Olathe districts, and almost on par with the Kansas City, Kan., and Blue Valley districts. And the North Kansas City district is fast catching up.

The Kansas City School District is one of the smallest urban districts in the nation when compared with the city's overall population.

Other cities that compete with Kansas City for jobs and residents often face even bigger problems trying to reform their own large, low-achieving districts.

The Kansas City district educates a number of students equal to only 5 percent of the city's population of 447,000.

That percentage is far below other cities. Among examples:

In Milwaukee, the city's main district had 92,400 students in the 2005 school year, or 16 percent of the city's population.

The percentage was 16 percent in Memphis (120,300 students in that city's main school district), 14 percent in Baltimore (87,600 students), 13 percent in Cleveland (58,800 students), 12 percent in St. Louis (40,800 students) and 10 percent in Atlanta (50,700 students).

People who live in Kansas City have plenty of other school districts for their children to attend.

Case in point: The Liberty School District — which includes many Kansas City residents — has grown by more than 20 percent in four years.

Enrollment in the Park Hill School District, which also includes students from Kansas City, has risen about 5 percent. North Kansas City is still growing and has more than 17,500 students.

South of the river, the Raytown School District — which includes many square miles of Kansas City — has gained hundreds of students recently.

So is it all rosy for residents looking for an education that exceeds what's offered in the Kansas City district?

No. The charter schools have not been a panacea; they have their own low test scores, for instance.

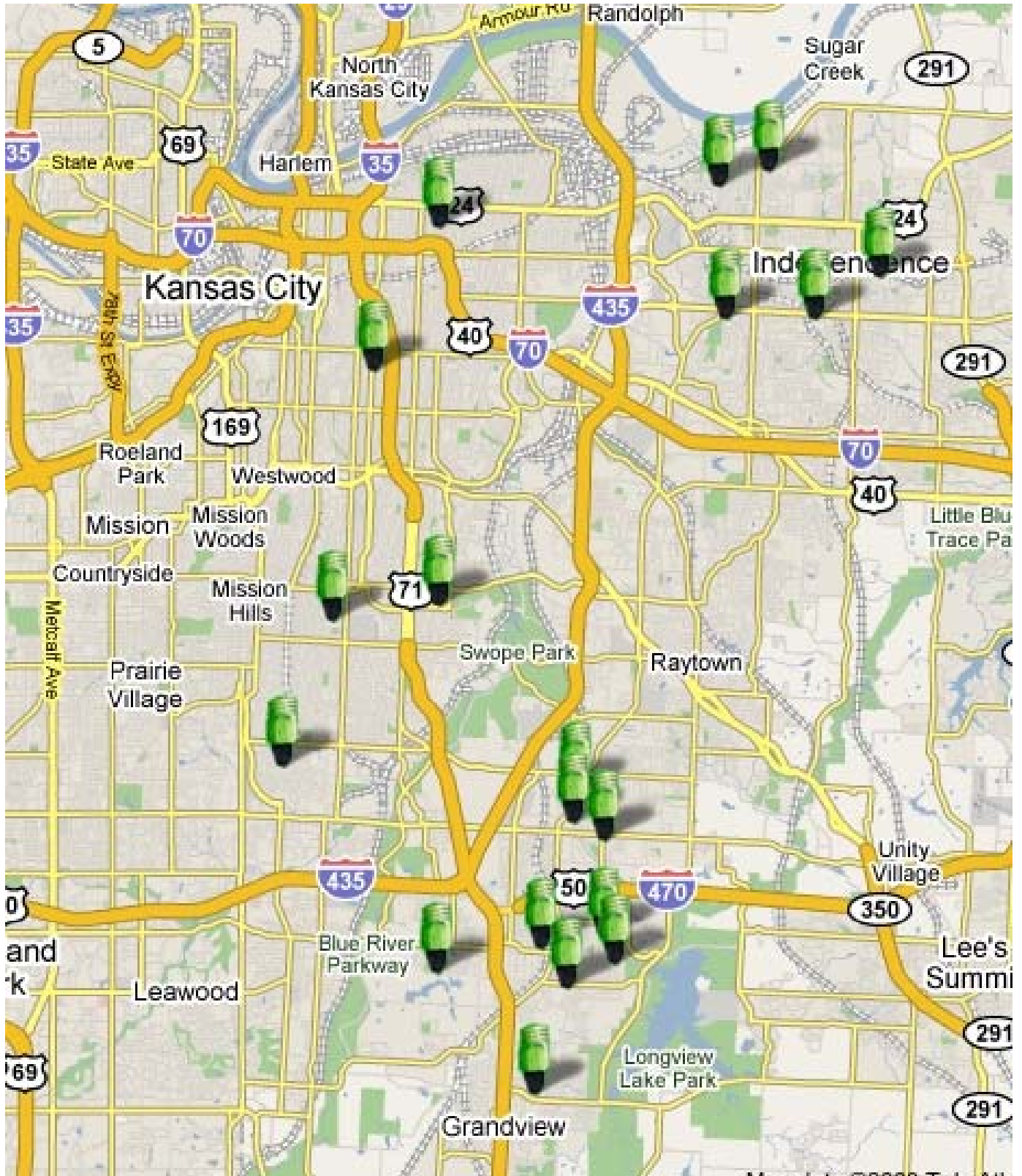
Some other districts with students who live in Kansas City — such as Center, Hickman Mills and Raytown — have large numbers of low-achieving students, too.

And, yes, the Kansas City School District is still the most troubled in this area.

But the fact that the district has slimmed down in recent years leads to one final positive point: It should be easier for local officials to improve in the coming years.

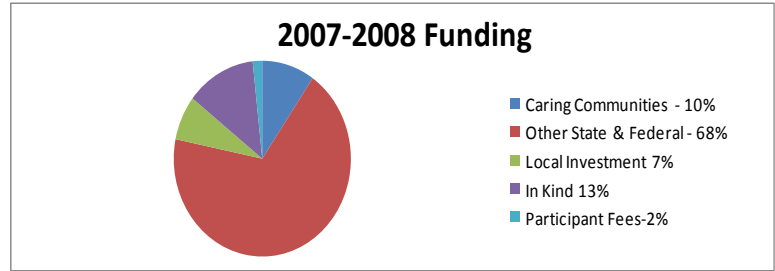
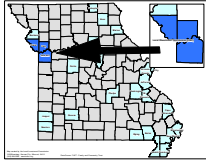
Editorial Board member Yael T. Abouhalkah can be reached at 816-234-4887 or at abouhalkah@kstar.com. Read his blog posts at voices.kansascity.com. He appears on "Ruckus" at 7 tonight on KCPT Channel 19.

LINC Lights On Events



Local Investment Commission

Established: 1992



FY08 Result Achievement: Children Safe in their Families and Families Safe in their Communities; Youth Prepared to Enter Productive Adulthood

September 2008

Community Profile:

LINC is the state community partner for a three-county area on the Missouri side of metropolitan Kansas City. The counties are Jackson, Clay and Platte, with a combined population of 945,000 (2006 population estimate).

LINC's efforts are directed by an active, diverse and engaged 36-member citizen commission. The work focuses both on citizen engagement and involvement through school or neighborhood-based Caring Communities sites, and on broad system reform efforts that improve the effectiveness and efficiency of supportive services for low-income children and families.

Major Collaborative Accomplishment:

LINC participates in a community-based child welfare system addressing prevention, protection, and youth moving towards independence.

The welfare of children is the responsibility of the entire community and should not be shouldered by a state agency alone.

LINC has developed partnerships within the community providing supports to children and families in need.

Independent Living: Responding to community concerns about the outcomes for foster youth who "age out" of the child welfare system, LINC entered into a partnership with the Division of Children's Services in June 2007.

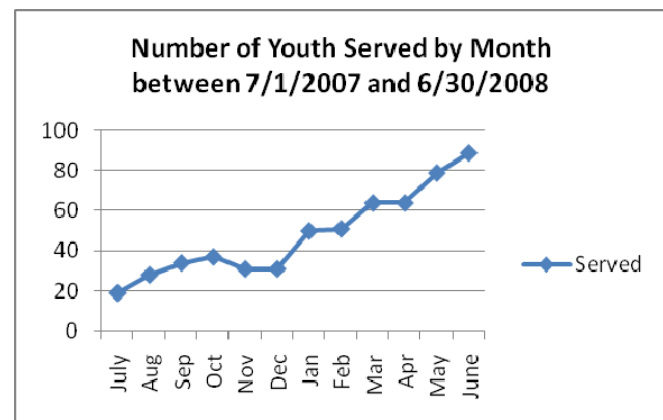
LINC manages the Independent Living Initiative which offers resources and training to those youth transitioning to independent adulthood from foster care. LINC is working with youth from Jackson, Clay, and Platte counties.

To be eligible for services youth must be:

- Likely to remain in foster care until age 18;
- Between the ages of 14 and 21;
- Former foster youth who have left foster care at age 17.5 or after, but have not reached age 21.

LINC offers foster youth access to existing strong connections and resources located within their communities.

Between 7/1/2007 and 6/30/2008, LINC served 165 youth.



Individualized services focus on academic achievement, job readiness, community services and supports, youth leadership, and independent living skills.

Survival Skills for Youth classes are available for the youth. This is a series of training and experiential activities designed to teach youth the life skills they need as they transition from foster care to the community.

Educational assistance includes help with graduation expenses, goal setting for higher education, and completing financial aid forms. Emergency funds used for auto repairs, utility assistance, food, and rent, are necessary short term solutions to help the young person succeed

Foster Youth Served

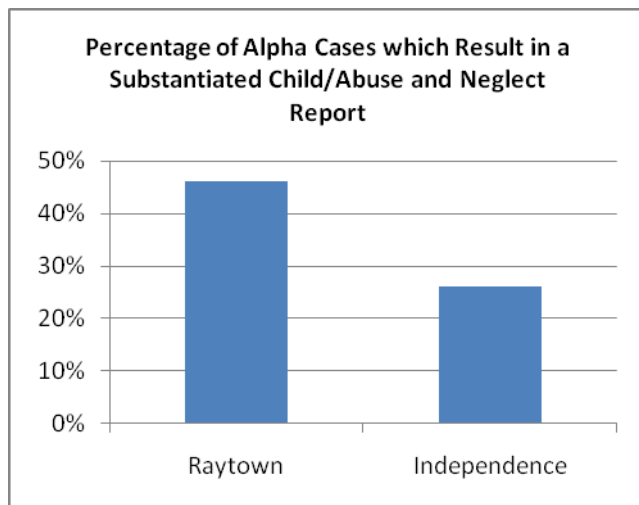
Attending High School	Received High School Diploma	Completed Survival Skills for Youth Program
132	42	34
Enrolled in Post-Secondary Education	Receiving Scholarships or Vouchers	Employed
22	18	48

Young people gain the information and access to supportive services, form strong connections to the community they live in, and are better prepared to make their own critical decisions.

Prevention: LINC's Caring Communities located in 48 sites across seven school districts actively identify the needs of families and connect them to services available within their communities.

The **Independence Child Welfare Initiative** augments the local child welfare staff by enlisting school district social workers to engage with families who have been hot-lined, but have not been determined by preliminary assessment to merit state investigation.

Independence School district interventions appear to be significantly reducing the frequency that families receiving school-based services will subsequently have a later call that merits state child abuse and neglect investigations.



Intervention and Education: LINC partners with the non-profit Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association (MFCAA) to provide a resource center to support children and families following successful adoptions.

Accomplishments between 7/1/2007 and 6/30/2008 included:

- **54 parents and children** participated in Parent Support Groups
- **50 respite homes** developed providing 183 units of respite care.
- **161 adoptive families** received crisis intervention services.
- **62 families** received mental health supportive services.

The MFCAA provided Advocacy, Training and Workshops, Information and Referrals, Youth Support Groups, Educational Services, and Medical and Behavioral Services.

Training: LINC provides extensive training in detecting, preventing and reporting child abuse and neglect for child care providers and school-age child care staff, and through research-based parent education programs.

LINC Educare trainings support these efforts by providing child abuse and neglect prevention training and many other workshop offerings. Attendance in these trainings exceeds **3,000 per year** as providers and community members learn how to better protect our children, how to prevent child abuse and neglect, and how to survive as single parents, just to mention a few of the workshop areas.

Conclusion:

These are examples of the collaboration that has tied all these services together to provide a safe and healthy environment for our children throughout their development.

List of Partners:

Missouri Dept. of Social Services
DSS Children's Division – Jackson County

Independence School District
North Kansas City School District
Hickman Mills School District
Fort Osage School District
Center School District
Grandview School District

City of Kansas City, Missouri
Drumm Farm Institute
Francis Child Development Institute
Kansas City Parks & Recreation Dept.
Don Bosco Community Centers
Family Literacy Center - Up With Parents Program
Families & Schools Together Parent & Community Partners
FAST National Training & Evaluation Center
Family Conservancy
Family Friendly Assistance.
Healthy Habits
Midwest Foster Care and Adoption Association
Parents As Teachers
Kansas City Young Audiences
National Council on Alcohol & Drug Dependency
Police Athletic League
Samuel U. Rodgers Community Health Center
Sunshine Center
Swope Health Services
Truman Behavioral Health

Missouri Public Policy Agenda

Show-Me Foreclosures! It's not hard

The wide-ranging impact of increasing foreclosure are abundantly clear in an ever widening number of arenas whether respect to financial markets (Wall Street and global markets), housing (construction and real estate) or communities (neighborhoods and vacant houses).

The seriousness of the problem is plainly evident. For the 10 quarters (January 2006 through June 2008) there have been 25,000 foreclosuresⁱ – most in Jackson County; much of that in the City of Kansas City, Mo.

County	2006				2007				2008		Total
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	
Jackson, MO	942	683	969	1,465	1,943	1,598	1,579	2,504	1,899	2,705	16,287
Clay, MO	133	60	16	305	367	249	322	510	442	424	2,828
Platte, MO	36	26	23	31	56	44	46	64	70	135	531
Cass, MO	11	53	51	77	58	56	72	73	122	221	794
Missouri Total	1,122	822	1,059	1,878	2,424	1,947	2,019	3,151	2,533	3,485	20,440
Johnson, KS	16	8	37	105	155	115	141	244	377	419	1,617
Wyandotte, KS	103	224	212	235	320	259	209	268	370	648	2,848
Kansas Total	119	232	249	340	475	374	350	512	747	1,067	4,465
Combined Total	1,241	1,054	1,308	2,218	2,899	2,321	2,369	3,663	3,280	4,552	24,905

Most of these foreclosures occurred among sub-prime loans, but with the weakening economy and resetting adjustable rate mortgages the **number is spreading**. (See “Risk Assessment for New Foreclosures in 2008” KC Federal Reserve, back side). Foreclosures can be found in every neighborhood and at every income level.

During 2007, national and local press coverage reported extensively on the issue and documenting many of the abusive practices – inflated appraisals, teaser rates, predatory lending, poor underwriting and other practices. Despite that, the mortgage issues received little legislative and enhanced regulatory effort from state government.

Three separate bills – directed at more responsible mortgage lending and broker practices – were introduced during the 2008 General Assembly, but none received a public hearing.ⁱⁱ The bills, in general, promoted more responsible lending practices – i.e. verifying a borrower’s ability to pay – and strengthened licensing requirement and responsibilities for mortgage brokers.

These bills represent a sound basis for review and reform of Missouri mortgage lending practices and mortgage broker licensing.

We believe changes deserve support from the business community and should receive support from industry groups who will understand the need for responsible lending practices by borrowers and brokers.

ⁱ Data provided by RealtyTrac www.realtytrac.com for KCPT show “Foreclosed: the Growing Mortgage Crisis in KC”

ⁱⁱ HB 1667 (Rep. Jeff Harris), HB 2586 (Rep. Margaret Donnelly) and SB 727 (Sen. Charlie Shields)

Division of Youth Services

STATE OF MISSOURI

Really Rehabilitating Juveniles

IN THE MID-1990s stories of “super-predator” youth drove state juvenile justice systems in an increasingly punitive direction. Boot camps became the rage, along with efforts to charge juveniles as adults. Barbed wire, guards, and isolation cells were the treatment of choice.

That was the norm almost everywhere except Missouri, where officials believed that a system based on control, punishment, and isolation produces young people likely to be re-arrested and incarcerated.

The better way to increase public safety, concluded Missouri juvenile justice officials, was to address the core issues underlying delinquent behavior, emphasizing a “least restrictive environment.” Missouri sought to give young people in trouble what they often lacked: the structure, understanding, support, and help necessary to become healthy, contributing adults. Since the early 1970s, this approach has characterized the Missouri Division of Youth Services (DYS). The state closed all of its large, institutional “training centers” and replaced them with small residential treatment centers with family and dorm-like settings complemented by day treatment centers in the community. Young people wear regular clothes, and go about their day in a structured setting of activities aimed at helping them figure out how to get their lives back on track.

Stays at the residential facilities are opened for most, allowing the time necessary for the counseling, education, and work experience young people need to make it on the outside. DYS Director Tim Decker says the system is always looking for smarter ways to help young people become law-abiding and productive citizens, an overall strategy that is paying off in single-digit recidivism rates.

Although the Missouri system is now a nationally recognized model, it may be a politi-



cally tough sell in other states, requiring far-reaching systemic changes. Missouri’s DYS has been well served by a high-level, bipartisan advisory board of judges, former state legislators, civic leaders, and citizens, who have been successful at getting the appropriate resources to maintain a consistent philosophy of treatment and rehabilitation.

But the strongest arguments for staying the course are the program’s ground-level results. “I recognized that I had been headed down the wrong path,” says Terrence Barkley, a 17-year old from Kansas City. While with DYS, Barkley says, “I felt supported and encouraged, and having my family involved meant I’d be supported on the outside.” Barkley just recently graduated from high school at a DYS facility and is now a freshman in college. He hopes to work in the Missouri juvenile justice system when he graduates.

■ For information: Tim Decker,
Missouri Department of Social Services,
573-751-3324; tim.decker@dss.mo.gov