

LINC Commission Meeting

March 18, 2015



Representatives from the Office of the Mayor, Turn the Page KC, Live KC, and Village Partners-Urban Impact Partners from William Jewell College came together Monday, March 2, to read to LINC students during the Before & After School program at Primitivo Garcia Elementary in Kansas City Public Schools. Fifty students selected a book to read during the three-hour after-school program.

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.



Wednesday, March 18, 2015 | 4 – 6 pm
Kauffman Foundation
4801 Rockhill Rd.
Kansas City, Mo. 64110

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Announcements
- II. Approvals
 - a. **February minutes (motion)**
- III. LINC and Reading
 - a. Kansas City Mayor Sly James
 - b. LINC reading overview
 - c. Panel LINC site coordinators
- IV. Superintendents' Reports
- V. Human Trafficking
 - a. Nancy Thoma Groetken, HHS Regional Administrator,
Administration for Children and Families
- VI. Reports
 - a. **Northwest Communities Dev. Corp**
(Howard Penrod and Allen Garner)
 - b. **Summer update**
- VII. Other
 - a. **Conflict of Interest forms**
- VIII. Adjournment



THE LOCAL INVESTMENT COMMISSION – FEB. 23, 2015

The Local Investment Commission met at the Kauffman Foundation, 4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, Mo. Co-chair **Jack Craft** presided. Commissioners attending were:

Sharon Cheers
Herb Freeman
Rob Givens
Anita Gorman

Rosemary Lowe
Mary Kay McPhee
David Ross

A motion to approve the Jan. 26, 2015, LINC Commission meeting minutes was passed unanimously.

Superintendents' Report

- **Beth Heide** (Director of Human Resources, Center School District) reported the district is in the process of seeking a superintendent to succeed David Leone, who is retiring. The district is also building a partnership with University of Missouri to develop positive interventions for struggling students
- **Mark Enderle** (Superintendent, Fort Osage School District) reported the number of district high school students enrolled for college in the fall is the highest at this point of the current school year than at the same point in prior years. This is the result of a college readiness program that is used by the Independence School District and was featured at a past LINC Commission meeting.
- **Kevin Foster** (Executive Director, Genesis Promise Academy) reported the school present its charter renewal application to the state board of education and has been renewed for five years. The school is partnering with 20 daycare providers to coordinate programming for kindergarten preparedness. Genesis will share a LINC-produced video on its partnership with U.S. Tennis Association at its May fundraising event.
- **Dred Scott** (Assistant Superintendent, Independence School District) reported voters will decide in April on an operating levy increase to support the district's increasing student population. The district is also preparing for summer programs.
- **Gayden Carruth** (Executive Director, Cooperating School Districts of Greater Kansas City) reported the legislature is in session; a student transfer bill is expected. The 2014-2015 Education Policy Fellowship Program is in its fifth month and is offering a strong program for participants.
- **Jerry Kitzi** (Director of Early Learning, Kansas City Public Schools) reported the district is partnering with the Urban Neighborhood Initiative and his supporting the Paseo Gateway CHOICE grant application. The district is planning summer school and enrichment programs to include middle and high school as well as elementary students.
- **Mark Tolbert** (Chairman, Lee A. Tolbert Academy) reported the school has a full enrollment of 550 students and a waiting list of 250. Kindergarten roundup will be held in February. Tolbert encouraged others to let legislators know of the importance of implementing Common Core standards.
- **Dennis Carpenter** (Superintendent, Hickman Mills School District) reported the district through its Pathways Program is developing a plan to give high school students a "small school" experience. The district is also developing a "choice opportunity" program at Burke Elementary which would provide participants with greater technology and increase

assessments while raising requirements on both students and parents.

Early Education

A video produced by LINC on the early learning initiative in Hickman Mills School District was shown.

Hickman Mills School District superintendent **Dennis Carpenter** reported on the district's research-based initiative to provide pre-K education for all four- and five-year-olds at Freda Markley Early Childhood Center and Ervin Early Learning Center. The effort is part of a commitment to student improvement rather than remediation, and emphasizes intentional teaching rather than constructive play. The effort involved redistributing grade levels at school buildings and recruiting quality teachers by putting pre-K teachers in the same salary framework as regular teachers.

Carpenter introduced Ervin principal **Shonda Fowler** and Freda Markley principal **Teresa Tanner**. LINC President **Gayle. A. Hobbs** introduced Ervin Caring Communities site coordinator **Jimmarie Revels** and Freda Markley Caring Communities site coordinator **Sharon Perkins**. LINC provides before and after school care at each of the sites.

Discussion followed.

LINC Deputy Director of Community Engagement **Brent Schondelmeyer** reported LINC is planning to participate in a U.S. Dept. of Agriculture demonstration project to provide food benefits for children during the summer for families in the Center, Hickman Mills and Kansas City school districts. This summer's effort would continue an initiative begun in 2011. In Missouri, the project this year would include Kansas City, St. Louis, and Mississippi County.

LINC Deputy Director of Operations **Robin Gierer** reported on efforts to support LINC part-time staff through financial initiatives in partnership with Next Step KC including small dollar loans, free tax preparation, and financial literacy. Gierer introduced **Marisa Martinez** of Next Step KC.

The meeting was adjourned.

LINC and Reading



The Local Investment Commission is focusing considerable time and effort promoting reading.

That has involved new **collaborations**, supporting other **initiatives**, more **reading time** during after-school programs and taking major steps to address **summer reading loss** – often referred to as “the summer slide.”

This presentation will include:

- Report from **Kansas City Mayor Sly James** & chair of Turn the Page KC
- Broad overview of LINC’s expanding reading efforts
- Panel of LINC site coordinators discussing school level reading initiatives

LINC Reading Initiatives

LINC offers a wide variety of programs, activities, and events that support the development of children's reading skills.

The examples below are representative of the variety offered through LINC Caring Communities.

Ervin Early Learning Center

Hickman Mills School District

LINC Site Coordinator: Jimmarie Revels



Seeds of Literacy. Staff read a book, poem, or use picture book, then follow up with worksheets that coordinate with the book, and end with question and answer session. Program involves recognizing key ideas and details in a text, asking questions and prompting children for critical thinking; reading comprehension; retelling familiar stories, identifying characters, settings, and major events; word building and blending of words; making word walls. Program is aligned with Missouri Common Core Reading Standards for Literature.

Staff work with three groups on Seeds of Literacy every day for 30-40 minutes. Material is adjusted as needed to fit each group. LINC teachers are provided Seeds of Literacy materials to continue supporting children's reading outside of the program time. Staff are building relationships with school teachers to identify students with special needs and develop appropriate ways of assisting them.

Drop Everything And Read (DEAR). The children read or look at picture books for 15 minutes daily on their own.

Daily reading. Staff read to children daily and include books in their lesson plans.

Mid-Continent Public Library. Staff are working with librarian Debbie Atwood to develop a curriculum to meet the needs for the students at Ervin.

Faxon Elementary School

Kansas City Public Schools

LINC Site Coordinator: Yolanda Robinson



Power Hour. For grades K-3, LINC staff, or students confident in reading, read aloud to students as a group every morning. For grades 4-5, students have the option of free-

style writing or meeting with school instructional staff for reading tutorials on the computer.

Turn the Page KC. Volunteers read with LINC students once a week, and once a month Turn the Page KC offers a family literacy night for parents to read with children.

Black History Month. Staff developed lesson plans that challenged students to read about events and people in African-American history. Students presented the historical facts they learned during a Black History program.

Reading play. Faxon promotes literacy through physical and manipulative play with board games such as Scattergories, charades, hangman, ABC basketball, and spell-out-loud kick ball.

On-the-spot reading. Faxon uses on-the-spot learnable and teachable moments. The walls at Faxon are hung with maps, bold letters, phonics and literature where at any moment staff will stop their students to challenge them in their efforts.

Peer reading. Students who are strong readers are paired with other students to read together. Students read for 15 minutes and then have two minutes of physical activity.

James Elementary School

Kansas City Public Schools

LINC Site Coordinator: Eric Lanier



Adopt-a-Book. James Caring Communities has partnered with John Cutter from Adopt-A-Book to give over 500 books to children this year at no cost.

Reading Buddy. At least once a week, older students read to younger students in the Reading Buddy program.

One-to-one reading. Ms. Patience, a dedicated LINC staff, comes in early every Tuesday and Thursday to read one-to-one with 1st and 3rd grade students. For students with difficulties reading in the classroom, the one-on-ones help them feel more confident and eager to continue developing a love for reading.

Read Across America Week. James supported the NEA's annual Read Across America Week. This year children wore themed clothing paired with a Dr. Seuss book read to them by the LINC staff.

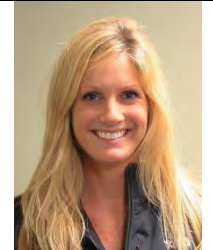
- Monday: Crazy Socks Day, Wear your "craziest" socks to school!
Book of the Day: Fox in Socks
- Tuesday: Red or Blue Day, Wear a Red or Blue shirt to school!
Book of the Day: One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish

- Wednesday: Wacky Wednesday, Wear your most “Wackiest Tackiest” clothes to school!
Book of the Day: Wacky Wednesday
- Thursday: When I Grow Up, I ‘m Going To Be... Day, Dress like a professional person
Book of the Day: Oh the Places You Will Go
- Friday: Dr. Seuss’s Day, Wear your favorite “hat” to school!
Book of the Day: The Cat in the Hat

Primitivo Garcia Elementary School

Kansas City Public Schools

LINC Site Coordinator: Sarah Weber



Turn the Page KC. On Mondays from 4:30-5:30pm, LINC students read with their reading tutor for an entire hour. Volunteer reading tutors from William Jewell College use Turn the Page KC’s techniques of "Read TO, Read WITH, and Read BY" for fun and effective reading with the children. Tutors are recruited by an AmeriCorps VISTA volunteer.

Garcia Caring Communities started this reading tutoring program this school year. LINC students have the same tutor from week to week; establishing consistency allows the volunteers and students to get to know each other, be more open to discussion, and further enjoy reading.

LINC collaborated with a reading specialist from William Jewell College to assess afterschool reading activities. The specialist administered a simple assessment to determine students’ reading level and comprehension. We will be using the assessment to measure reading improvement over the year, and how we can improve the program.

Chouteau Elementary School

North Kansas City School District

LINC Site Coordinator: Adrian Wilson



- **Reading Challenge.** Chouteau Caring Communities presents this family literacy initiative, held once in winter, once in spring, to engage parents and children in reading together. Students and parents are offered incentives (e.g. bikes, e-

readers, gift cards) to attain the goal of reading a certain number of hours and minutes of reading, which includes student reading to parent, parent reading to student, and student and parent reading independently.

- **Summer reading program.** Mid Continent Public Library donated books which were taken to Walnut Grove Apartments, where a lending library for tenants was established. In addition, volunteers came once a week to read with children.
- **Breakfast with Books.** Three times a year, Chouteau Caring Communities offers this family literacy initiative for parents to eat breakfast and read with children during the school day.
- **Family reading night.** Coterie Theater offered the "To Whom it May Inspire" interactive reading presentation to help parents engage in reading with kids.
- **Lights on Afterschool.** Mid Continent Public Library donated books for a giveaway to students.
- **Turn the Page KC.** Mayor Sly James read to Chouteau students, for the third year in a row, on January 6, 2015.

Hickman Mills shifts resources to kids' earliest years

By JERRY LaMARTINA
Special to The Star

The Hickman Mills School District has stepped into the early childhood education limelight, sporting its new Ervin Early Learning Center.

The school provides free, all-day pre-kindergarten instruction, along with kindergarten, to more than 800 children. The district spent \$10.5 million to renovate the former middle school building that houses the center, which celebrated its official opening on Friday. About 100 people attended.

"To my knowledge, this is the only school in the state that offers full-day pre-K, free and with bus transportation," said Kansas City Councilman John Sharp, who lives nearby and attended the event.

Renovation started in May 2014, and the first phase opened in August for pre-kindergarten. The project was completed in January, when kindergarten instruction started. The district now provides all of its early childhood schooling at the Ervin Center and the Freda Markley Early Childhood Center, which offers pre-kindergarten instruction only and has nearly 300 students.

Providing instruction at the two schools will cost about \$3 million a year, district Superintendent Dennis Carpenter said. The district had to cut back on some instruction services, including tutoring, in order to channel funds to its early childhood programs.

Carpenter said the emphasis on early childhood education, though, is crucial to students' ongoing learning. He said he'd often referred to the district "as a resurgent school district that tried to build a model based on



Five-year-old kindergartner Malaika Taylor read to visitor Laura Burke in the kindergarten commons Friday during the grand opening of the Hickman Mills Ervin Early Learning Center, 10530 Greenwood Road, Kansas City.

reacting to rapid change, with necessary remediation. Now we're being proactive."

Money spent for schools like Ervin also eventually helps decrease crime, incarcerations and students' mental health problems, he said.

"There are essential things that are necessary to provide an early childhood program," said Shaunda Fowler, the Ervin Center's principal. "Research shows that learning is a lifelong process, and it benefits the local community, society and the nation as a whole. When you think in terms of what it means for students who typically don't go to pre-kindergarten — they'll get social skills, and literacy and math skills."

LaRaya Griffith, a

5-year-old kindergartner at the Ervin Center, stopped reading aloud a book called "A Fly Went By" just long enough to critique her school.

"I like learning and I like reading," she said.

Brittany Murphy's 6-year-old son, Jason, also attends kindergarten at the Ervin Center.

"I love the building," Murphy said. "I worked for Jumpstart for four years, and you learn a lot about how kids at early ages learn. They like lots of bright colors and letters and words displayed on the walls."

Jumpstart trains community volunteers and college students to help preschool-age children in low-income neighborhoods.

Councilman Sharp said he



Five-year-old kindergartner LaRaya Griffith also enjoyed a book in the kindergarten commons Friday during the grand opening of the center.

loved the building, too.

"I can walk here," he said. "I live right down that way. It's great to see the Hickman Mills School District be a leader again in public edu-

cation."

Kansas City Mayor Pro-Tem Cindy Circo also attended Friday's event.

"This school is extremely important," Circo said, "be-

cause there's so much data about the importance of early learning. These kids are a sponge, and it'll help them throughout their schooling."

A FORMER MIDDLE SCHOOL HAS BEEN RENOVATED TO BECOME THE ERVIN EARLY LEARNING CENTER. HICKMAN MILLS SPENT \$10.5 MILLION TO RENOVATE THE BUILDING AND IS SPENDING \$3 MILLION A YEAR ON KINDERGARTEN AND PRE-KINDERGARTEN AT ERVIN AND THE FREDA MARKLEY EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER.

Support for Victims of Human Trafficking

If you suspect someone is a victim of trafficking, call the **National Human Trafficking Resource Center** at **1.888.373.888** to obtain information and to access supportive services through the Trafficking Victims Reauthorization Protection Act of 2000 (TVPRA). This hotline will help victims safely and securely rebuild their lives by connecting them to basic services including:

- **Housing**
- **Health care**
- **Immigration assistance**
- **Food**
- **Income**
- **Employment**
- **Legal assistance**

Victims of human trafficking who are non-U.S. citizens are eligible to receive benefits and services through the TVPRA to the same extent as refugees. Victims who are U.S. citizens are already eligible to receive many of these benefits.

**National Human Trafficking
Resource Center:
1.888.373.888**

For more information about
human trafficking visit
www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking.

Understanding Victims of Human Trafficking

Understanding the mindset of human trafficking victims is important to helping them restore their lives.

Consider the following points when helping someone who could be a victim of human trafficking:

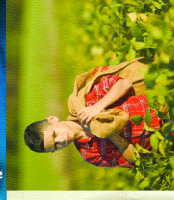
- Many victims do not speak English and do not understand American culture
- Some victims do not know what city or country they are in because they are often forced to move
- Most victims have a strong sense of distrust because they fear deportation
- Many victims do not see themselves as victims and do not realize what is being done to them is wrong

Confidentiality is vital for victims of human trafficking. Enlist the help of a staff member who speaks the victim's language and understands the victim's culture.

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Administration for Children and Families**



LOOK BEYOND THE SURFACE



Can you recognize victims of human trafficking among the people you help everyday?

**As a social service provider,
you can help liberate victims
of human trafficking.**

Human Trafficking is Modern-Day Slavery

Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery, widespread throughout the United States today. Trafficking of humans is the second largest criminal industry in the world after drug dealing, and is the fastest growing. Many victims of trafficking are made to engage in prostitution, pornography or exotic dancing.* But trafficking also occurs in forms of labor exploitation, such as domestic servitude or restaurant work, sweatshop factory work or migrant agricultural work.

Force, fraud and coercion are the methods used by traffickers to press victims into lives of servitude and abuse:

- **Force** – Rape, beatings, confinement
- **Fraud** – False offers of employment, marriage, better life
- **Coercion** – Threats, debt-bondage, psychological abuse

Victims of trafficking can be found in:

- Commercial sex
- Domestic situations (nannies or servants)
- Sweatshop factories
- Construction
- Farming or landscaping
- Fisheries
- Hotel or tourist industries
- Panhandling
- Janitorial services
- Restaurant services

Identifying Victims of Human Trafficking

Victims of trafficking may look like many of the people coming to your organization for assistance everyday. Victims are young children, teenagers, men and women. By looking beneath the surface and asking yourself these questions, you can help identify potential victims:

- **Is the person accompanied by another person who seems controlling (possibly the trafficker)?**
- **Is the person rarely allowed in public (except for work)?**
- **Can you detect any physical or psychological abuse?**
- **Does the person seem submissive or fearful?**
- **Does the person have difficulty communicating because of language or cultural barriers?**
- **Does the person lack identification or documentation?**
- **Is someone else collecting the person's pay or holding their money for "safe keeping"?**

Gaining the trust of a victim of human trafficking is an important first step in providing assistance.

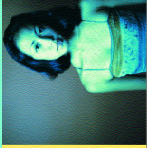
* Any child engaged in commercial sex is a victim of trafficking.

Sample Questions to Ask Potential Victims of Human Trafficking

If you get the opportunity to speak to or question the person alone, asking the following questions can help you determine if you are dealing with a victim:

- Can you leave your job or situation if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you been threatened if you try to leave?
- Has anyone threatened your family?
- What are your working or living conditions like?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat, sleep or go to the bathroom?
- Is there a lock on your door so you cannot get out?
- Does someone prohibit you from socializing or attending religious services?

Before questioning a person who may be a victim of human trafficking, discreetly separate the person from the individual accompanying her/him, since this person could be the trafficker posing as a spouse, other family member or employer.



Community Networks and Net Neutrality: The KC Digital Drive Perspective

by [Aaron Deacon](#) | Mar 11, 2015 | [Fiber to the Community](#) |



But does the Internet need saving? (Photo by Josephe Gruber – Flickr)

Wow, well, that got political pretty quickly. The FCC made two notable rulings at the end of February regarding community broadband and net neutrality, and, depending on which side of the aisle you were on, you probably either rejoiced or wanted to rip the cables out of your walls.

Now, looking back, it seems that the increased rancor around regulating the Internet is part talking past each other, part ideology, and part honest disagreement over which approach is best. And I think that's true for both of the hot button issues.

I want to make clear in this space that KC Digital Drive, as an organization, does not have a position on whether the FCC's Title II [reclassification of broadband](#) was a good move. Same goes with the specific [exemption of municipal networks](#) in Wilson, NC, and Chattanooga, TN, from state laws that forbid those networks from expanding their service areas. I haven't surveyed all of our board members, but I can say for certain that there is not universal agreement. And I can say with some degree of assurance that most of us honestly don't know how this will shake out.

I'll touch briefly here on each of these issues, and then provide a handful of annotated links that seem to take an interesting angle on the debates.

On Community Networks

Google Fiber installs cables in a neighborhood.

We work with two organizations, [Next Century Cities](#) and [Coalition for Local Internet Choice](#) (CLIC), that advocate for cities' rights to have the broadband networks they want and need, preferably fiber optic ones, which offer high capacity at reasonable cost. When it comes to how cities exercise their rights and whether the states or the feds ought to protect them — we choose not to take a stand.

Luckily for us, Kansas City didn't need to build a community network in order to get access to world-class fiber. We got Google Fiber followed by a host of others, including AT&T and Consolidated Communications, offering it at competitive pricing. Chattanooga, on the other hand, chose to build its own network.

The fact is, there is yet no proven, 100% successful path for cities to get broadband. I'm not sure what to make of Provo, for example, [which spent \\$39 million on a network it couldn't maintain](#) and then sold it to Google for \$1 and Google Fiber. That's an awful lot of public money for a private asset, but Provo finally has the modern day infrastructure it desired.

We believe these networks themselves are fundamental for competitive local economies in the modern age and that cities without fiber infrastructure should fight to get it ... even though some might not do it well.

On Net Neutrality

This is such a loaded phrase. And one that comes with, what seems to me, a lot of emotion and often little understanding of how the Internet works — from a technical, business or regulatory perspective. I don't know that I've met anyone who says they don't want a "free and open Internet." Fast lanes? We need *some* fast lanes, because they make sure important traffic gets where it needs to go. And it's surprising to me that people feel so sorry for "little" old Netflix.

The fact is, the Internet is a big hairy beast, and it's growing and changing dramatically every year. The powers behind the Internet have forged makeshift arrangements as it's been built, and it's worked pretty well so far. Ultimately, net neutrality is a question about who makes the rules and acts as the watchdog over these makeshift arrangements.

It's easy to reduce the question to "trust the market!" or "trust the regulators!" Or to ask who it is that you want making sure things are fair: the corporations that provide your Internet or the FCC.

The poor brand reputation of the cable and telco behemoths doesn't help them out much here. But the reality is that all of our networks—roads, railroads, waterways, electric grid, sewer systems, telephone lines—seek the right balance. And the line shifts over time because it's really hard to predict the future.

So, by all means, fight for what you think is the right approach, but—as [I wrote in the Star](#) the other day—let's keep a close eye on the practical outcome here in KC and push for what works.

Further Reading

Celebrity entrepreneur **Mark Cuban** has been a vocal opponent of Title II regulation and has posted widely, basically saying he thinks government regulation will mess things up by making rules about things regulators don't understand. Here is [one good interview in the Washington Post](#). Cuban also gets into a debate with venture capitalist Fred Wilson (and others) over [on Wilson's blog](#) (go down to the comments for dialogue). Wilson trusts government regulators more than the entrenched cable and telco titans to get it right. Both seem to agree that what we want is for it to stay the way it's been.

US Ignite's Joe Kochan (a good friend and partner of KC Digital Drive) explains that the Internet has "never been fully open, nor fully free" and that the [technology of the Internet is changing](#) faster than the rules we've created can accommodate. He suggests the technology now can be used to make some of the regulatory questions moot.

Jeff Hecht, writing a mostly accessible piece for the **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE)**, [digs even deeper into the technical backbone of the web](#) and argues that "the big technology question in the debate over Net neutrality is which approach to packet management [how Internet traffic is broken down into little bits that are each routed for maximum efficiency] would give the best performance now and in the future." This piece is less prescriptive and more technical than Joe's but hits some of the opportunities and challenges of how advancement alters the network itself and the kinds of things we send over it.

Back at the **policy level**, here's a brief look from the NY Times at FCC Chairman [Tom Wheeler's attempt to sell the new rules](#) to a global audience at the Mobile World Congress. Says Wheeler: "We're not going to regulate in the way that people are worried about." FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai (from Kansas) issued a dissent basically saying (and I paraphrase), "[Oh, yes you are, and by the way...OBAMA!](#)" Like Cuban and Wilson above, they want the same rules we've had. For Pai, that means Title II

regulation is a solution looking for a problem, while Wheeler thinks the problem is just around the corner and the FCC needs to get out ahead of it.

Tim Wu, a Title II cheerleader and the guy who coined the term net neutrality back in 2003, [makes the claim in the New Yorker](#) that neither the market nor the big telco/cable companies will actually dislike Title II as its detractors claim.

The New Yorker also offers a [pretty concise analysis of the municipal broadband decision](#), while this older piece from Wired [focuses on municipal barriers to private broadband investment](#)...the kind Kansas City famously cleared away to make room for Google Fiber.

Finally, the Washington Post believes there is a good way around all the bickering over regulation: [legislation](#).

Conclusion

In the end, we at KC Digital Drive choose not to focus too much on taking sides in the debate out of Capitol Hill because, like so much of technology, it's complicated. And it's really, really hard for legislators and regulators to make rules at a pace that keeps up with technology. So we'll keep watch and advocate for what works, and we'll try to keep our local leaders up to speed as best we can.

Immunizations COUNT, Keeping our KIDS Healthy

March 4, 2015

What Have Vaccines Done For Us?

“For most of us, measles and whooping cough are diseases of the past. You get a few shots as a kid and then hardly think about them again. But that’s not the case in all parts of the world — not even parts of the U.S.” – Michaeleen Doucleff, NPR

There are several diseases that parents and families today are fortunate enough to not have to worry about – polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, , mumps. For those who are old enough to remember those diseases, fear is the common emotion. Today, that fear seems to have shifted. With several serious illnesses of the past being virtually unknown to parents, the fear is focused on the vaccines that prevent these diseases.

Recent events such as the measles outbreak in 2014 remind us that although many diseases are thought to be eliminated, they can recur at any time if our population does not continue utilizing vaccinations. The increase in life expectancy during the 20th century is largely due to improvements in child survival; this increase is associated with

reductions in infectious disease mortality, due largely to immunization. However, infectious diseases remain a major cause of illness, disability, and death. Immunization recommendations in the United States currently target 17 vaccine-preventable diseases across the lifespan.

Measles Quick Facts

Measles was once eliminated from the U.S. and now has **infected 162 people in 17 states**

Prior to the measles vaccine CDC estimates that annually:

- 3-4 million** people contracted measles
- 48,000** were hospitalized
- 4,000** developed brain swelling
- 400-500** died

Missouri had a **measles outbreak in 2014** that infected **26 people**

An International Issue

The map below illustrates recurring preventable diseases worldwide. When vaccinations are not properly utilized or are not accessible, diseases of the past re-emerge. [Click here to visualize](#) changing disease patterns over time.

The Art of Saving a Life



In order to bring to light the history behind and importance of vaccinations, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation sponsored over 30 artists of all mediums around the world to express their artistic vision of how vaccines help spread positive change around the world. [The Art of Saving a Life](#) project not only led to the production of truly moving art, but also to an international conversation about the power and positivity of vaccinations.

For those who enjoy and value art, [take a look at the powerful artwork](#) this project has inspired.

Vaccines' Effect on Humanity

Vaccines are among the most [cost-effective clinical preventive services](#) and are a core component of any preventive services package. Childhood immunization programs provide a very high return on investment. For example, for each birth cohort vaccinated with the [routine immunization schedule](#) (this includes DTap, Td, Hib, Polio, MMR, Hep B, and varicella vaccines), society:

- Saves** 33,000 lives.
- Prevents** 14 million cases of disease.
- Reduces** direct health care costs by \$9.9 billion.
- Saves** \$33.4 billion in indirect costs.

Despite progress, approximately 42,000 adults and 300 children in the United States die each year from vaccine-preventable diseases. Communities with pockets of unvaccinated and under-vaccinated populations are at increased risk for outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

The most recent measles outbreak helps paint a picture of how preventable diseases can spiral out of control when even a few people aren't vaccinated. The outbreak occurred in mid-December 2014 when at least 39 people at Disneyland contracted the virus, which was part of an ongoing outbreak that has been linked to more than 102 cases in 14 states. This brings to light varying national perspectives on vaccines and vaccination.

Vaccination Quick Facts

Among children born 1994 - 2013, **vaccination has prevented:**

- 322 million illnesses**
- 22 million hospitalizations**
- 730,000 deaths**

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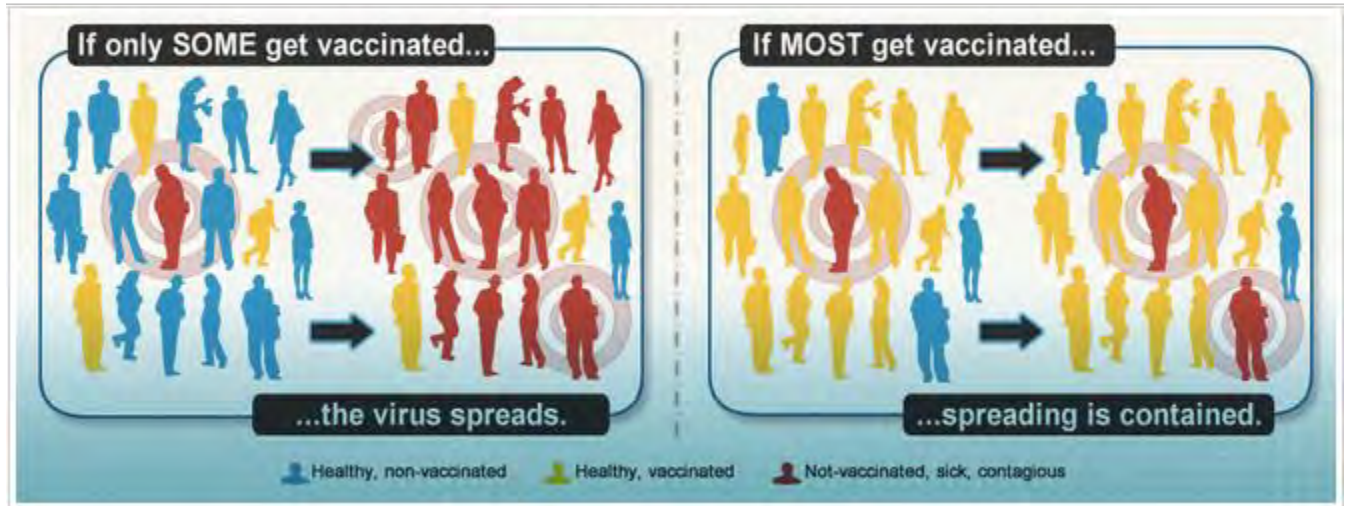
Center's for Disease Control and Prevention, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 2014. Healthy People 2020, 2014.

After a vaccine was developed, deaths due to Measles have decreased 99%

“Herd” or Community Immunity is a term used to describe what happens when the majority of a population is vaccinated. Children in the same community belong to a shared pool of infection risk. If enough children lack protective immunity, the children who cannot get vaccinated are at greatest risk. There are several populations of children that cannot get vaccinated either because they are too young, have compromised immune systems or are allergic to the vaccine.

As such, it is imperative that as many children that are able get vaccinated to help protect themselves and those who cannot receive vaccinations.

Herd Immunity explained



Center's for Disease Control and Prevention, 2014

Prior to developing vaccines, disease spread rapidly and complications from those diseases were more severe. The amount of infectious germs in a vaccine is only a fraction of what children's immune systems fight every day, and as the number of un-vaccinated children increases, the vulnerability of the entire population also increases.

For those interested in reading about the safety of immunizations, check out this great resource from the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Where Does Missouri Stand?

While the Healthy People 2020 Target for immunization coverage is 90%, according to the 2013 National Immunization Survey, only 67% of Missouri children age 19-35 months received the proper series of all recommended immunizations.

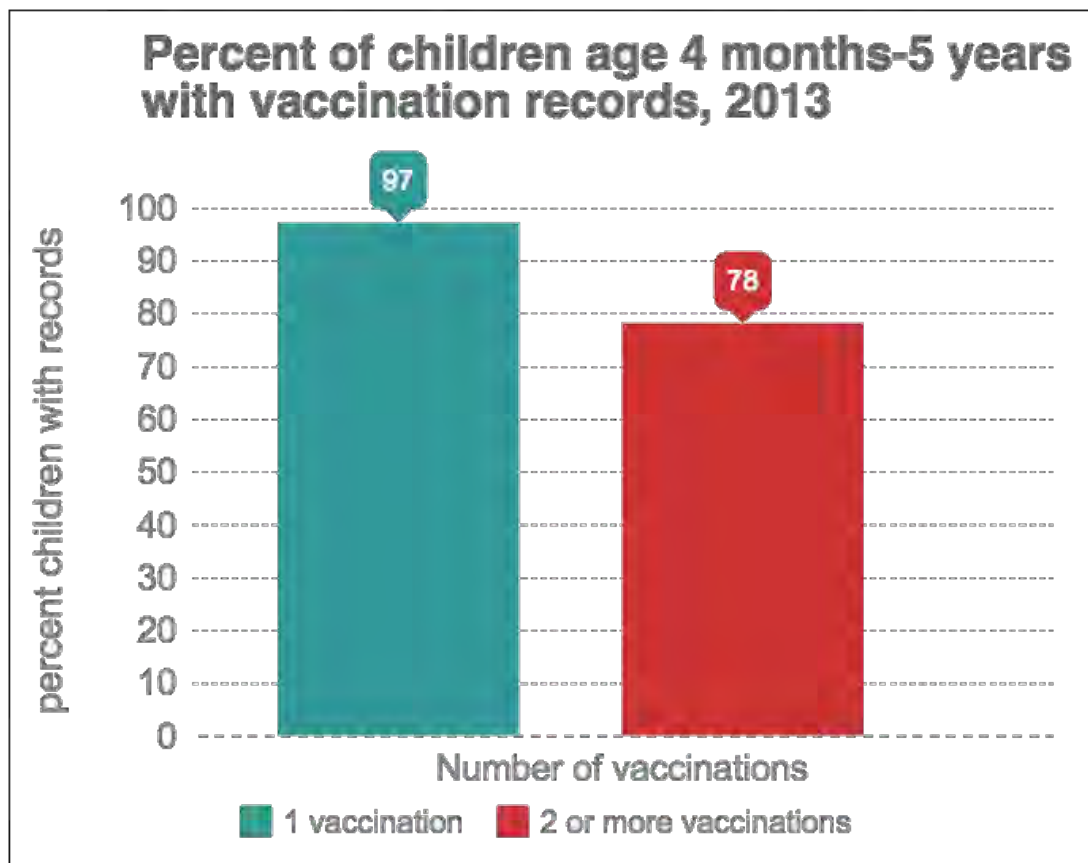
National Immunization Survey Children (19 through 35 months)			
2013 National		2013 Missouri	
Children Surveyed 13,611 <i>January - December</i>	Percentage of Children Vaccinated	Children Surveyed 188 <i>January - December</i>	Percentage of Children Vaccinated
4:DTaP	83.1%	4:DTaP	82.1%
3:IPV	92.7%	3:IPV	91.0%
1:MMR	91.9%	1:MMR	89.8%
3:Hib*	82.0%	3:Hib*	80.0%
3:Hep B	90.8%	3:Hep B	88.4%
1:Varicella	91.2%	1:Varicella	88.7%
4:PCV	82.0%	4:PCV	80.4%
4:3:1:3:3:1:4 ¹	70.4%	4:3:1:3:3:1:4 ¹	67.9%
2:Hep A	54.7%	2:Hep A	45.9%
Rotavirus**	72.6%	Rotavirus**	72.4%

Source: National Immunization Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

¹4:3:1:3:3:1:4 Vaccine Series: receipt of all doses listed above 4 doses of DTaP, 3 doses of Polio, 1 dose of MMR, 3 doses of Hib*, 3 doses of Hepatitis B, 1 dose of Varicella and 4 doses of Pneumococcal

*Full series Hib: ≥3 or ≥4 doses of Hib vaccine depending on product type received (includes primary series plus the booster dose).

**Rotavirus: ≥2 or ≥3 doses of Rotavirus vaccine, depending on product type received (≥2 doses for Rotarix® [RV1] or ≥3 doses for RotaTaq® [RV2]).



How is Missouri Working to Improve Vaccination Tracking?

All states have immunization registries that allow tracking of immunizations; whether they are administered by a health care provider, a pharmacist, a local public health agency or a hospital. In Missouri this registry is called ShowMeVax. It is a confidential, centralized web registry available only to those allowed by law – public health agencies, clinics, schools, child care providers and health plans.

As of December, 2014 ShowMeVax has more than 36 million immunization records for more than 4 million adult and child clients and more than 830 health care centers, 308 schools and 198 child care facilities use the registry.

What does the registry offer?

- A reliable way to get immunization records for school, camp, child care enrollment
- Reduces duplication and over-immunizations
- Reduces missed opportunities to vaccinate
- Allows for the recording of medical alerts and adverse reactions

Who already uses ShowMeVax?

830 Health Care Centers

308 Schools

198 Child Care Facilities

ShowMeVax, 2015

How can a registry help providers?

- They can look up immunization records
- There is no cost and it is easy to use
- If they have an electronic medical record they can submit data electronically into the registry
- Training and support are available for free

How can ShowMeVax be of value to you?

If your child(ren)'s immunization records have been sent to the registry by your doctor, clinic, pharmacist or hospital, you can call and request an official state copy of the record. So, when you are asked by your child's school, summer camp, or child care facility for immunizations records, you can provide this easily and quickly. Just [complete this request form](#) and the records can be faxed, email (encrypted for confidentiality) or mailed to you.

More vaccine providers need to join the ShowMeVax team in order to help collect accurate data on immunizations and improve the health of our state.

Ask your provider if they are submitting your children's immunizations into the registry, and if they are not, tell them about the benefits to them and to you.

What's the lesson from the past?

We have made great strides in the United States in the last century to eliminate some of the most devastating and contagious diseases. Let's not return to the past when these childhood diseases were common. By continuing to get vaccinations for yourself and your family you are protecting everyone!

Kansas City's costly health levy is the most abused tax at City Hall

By YAEL T. ABOUHALKAH - The Kansas City Star

02/25/2015

Kansas City's health levy is the most abused tax at City Hall. This long-term problem affects tens of thousands of indigent patients while being a slap in the face to voters.

Take a look at a few numbers.

In the 1988 fiscal year, Truman Medical Center — by far the largest area provider of health care services for poor people — got \$18 million from the city. Smaller safety-net agencies got \$1 million. The levy generated \$8 million of that money, while the city added \$11 million in general funds.

City officials and others then mounted campaigns in 1989 and again in 2005, seeking large property tax increases to purportedly bolster health care for poor people. Compassionate voters have more than tripled the levy in that time.

The health levy now reaps \$50 million a year from taxpayers — more than three times what it did in 1988 after taking inflation into account.

Yet in the just-announced 2016 fiscal year budget, Truman Medical Center would get only \$24.3 million from the city — far less than the \$36 million in inflation-adjusted dollars it would need to keep pace with its funding in 1988.

Here's what has occurred: Over the years, city officials have taken advantage of the levy increases to divert millions of dollars from indigent care to pay for fire and health department expenses. City officials also stopped using general fund revenues for the Health Department, freeing up millions for other city agencies.

The scheme is still operating at City Hall, largely thanks to events when the levy was last hiked in 2005.

Mayor Kay Barnes and many other officials said more money was badly needed to pay for indigent care at Truman and neighborhood health-care clinics such as the Samuel U. Rogers Center as well as for better ambulance service.

"Save Lives!" was the hard-sell campaign slogan. Read one 2005 flier: "Without adequate funding, these health care safety net providers cannot possibly keep pace with the escalating costs of providing basic medical care and emergency services. Be a hero! Help save lives by voting YES."

Truman and other agencies said they needed the money because the city was using millions of dollars from the existing levy to pay Health Department expenses.

So are safety-net providers now receiving more city money?

Before the last tax increase, Truman Medical Center got \$23.3 million in the 2003 fiscal year. In the proposed 2016 budget, Truman is scheduled to receive \$24.3 million, as noted earlier.

Even though the property tax is creating almost twice as much money as it did a decade ago, city funding for Truman has gone up a puny 5 percent. Take inflation into account and it has actually decreased.

Meanwhile, Truman served 23,500 Kansas City patients using health levy dollars last year, up from around 18,000 in the mid-2000s.

One more point: The city's overall funding for Truman and the seven other health care providers in the new budget would be *exactly the same amount* as it was in 2003 — nearly \$29 million.

Even more bad news arrived in late January, when City Hall stunned the agencies by taking \$2 million in pledged funding for the current fiscal year away from them. Plus, the new budget calls for the \$2 million hit to continue as the city tries to prop up the Fire Department's financially struggling ambulance service.

The City Council ought to reverse the expected funding decrease, but that means battling the powerful Fire Department or hoping for a surge in ambulance revenues.

Agencies that care for indigent patients are frustrated and livid over the most recent events. The providers have tried to serve additional people by asking taxpayers for more money, only to find themselves largely stuck in place.

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Read more here: <http://www.kansascity.com/opinion/opn-columns-blogs/yael-t-abouhalkah/article11152526.html#storylink=cpy>

MISSOURI — KIDS COUNT —

mokidscount.org



Missouri KIDS COUNT has launched its new website, mokidscount.org, including stories, policy briefs and connections to new and improved data connections.

The website includes Missouri KIDS COUNT data book that highlights indicators and county rankings, a searchable archive of Missouri KIDS COUNT data available since 1993 and data reports and research paper.

Missouri KIDS COUNT is a diverse team of public sector, non-profit and private sector members; together we are the Annie E. Casey (AECF) KIDS COUNT partner in Missouri.

The Family and Community Trust, the AECF KIDS COUNT grantee, is a non-profit corporation with Board members drawn from the top leadership in state government and the private sector to promote and support collaboration and innovation in service delivery for Missouri's children and families through its 20 Community Partnerships around the state.

LINC is the the Kansas City area community partnership.

FACT is joined by its Missouri KIDS COUNT partners, the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED) and the Children's Trust Fund (CTF).

The screenshot displays the Missouri KIDS COUNT website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About Kids Count', 'Data & Tools', 'Public Policy', and 'MISOURI KIDS COUNT'. The main content area features a large article titled 'MISSOURI'S NEW APPROACH TO TRAUMA' with a sub-headline 'How Head Start Trauma Smart in Kansas City is Leading Translational Child and Youth Communities...'. Below this, there is a section titled 'It is through partnerships that we succeed!' with a sub-headline 'Who is Missouri's KIDS COUNT?' and a paragraph describing the organization's mission and partners. To the right of this text is an image of two women smiling. Further down, there is a section titled 'What can we do together?' with a sub-headline 'OSED will continue to make data visible, accessible, understandable and usable for everyone working to improve the lives of children through:' and a list of bullet points. Below this is an image of a group of children and adults. At the bottom of the page, there are two call-to-action buttons: 'VISIT OSED'S SITE TO EXPLORE THE DATA IN YOUR COUNTY.' and 'VISIT AECF TO EXPLORE DATA IN MISSOURI AND OTHER STATES.'. The footer includes the Missouri KIDS COUNT logo and logos for its partners: OSED, AECF, and the Children's Trust Fund.