

Healthy Children Collaborative

Built Environment Subcommittee

Agenda

January 15, 2008

3-4:30 pm

JVCHC Benton Dental Clinic

618 N. Benton

Training Room

- I. Call to order**
- II. Approval of Minutes from November 27, 2007 Meeting**
- III. Current Bicycle Pedestrian Initiatives**
- IV. Next Step**
- V. Next Meeting Date – February 19, 2008**
- VI. Other Business**
- VII. Adjournment**

HEALTHY CHILDREN COLLABORATIVE

HEALTHY CHILDREN COLLABORATIVE BUILT ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

November 27, 2007
3:00 p.m.
JVCHC Benton Dental Clinic Training Room
618 N. Benton, Springfield, Missouri

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dawne Gardner, MoDOT District 8	Jon Mooney, Chair of Healthy Children Collaborative
Daphne Greenlee, Safety Council of the Ozarks	Curtis Owens, Ozarks Transportation Organization
Coy Hart, OTO Bicycle Pedestrian Advisory Committee	Lori Tack, Ozark Greenways
Debra Hickey, Springfield R-12 School District	Dan Watts, Southwest Missouri Council of Governments
Natasha Longpine, Ozarks Transportation Organization	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Introductions were made of everyone in attendance.

2. REVIEW OF HEALTHY CHILDREN COLLABORATIVE

Jon Mooney discussed the origins of the Healthy Children Collaborative from the Community Partnership Collaborative process. The goal of the Collaborative is to reduce obesity in children, sustaining the results through adulthood. The Collaborative has seven subcommittees which will provide information to the larger group. The majority of the subcommittees as well as the larger group will focus on making an impact around the schools. The committees include Policy and Research, Health Care, Built Environment, Educational Institutions, Community Education, the Workplace, and the Vision for the Community as a whole.

3. DIRECTION FOR BUILT ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Built Environment Subcommittee will look at the infrastructure and layouts which may promote or impede activity in school children. This meeting discussed infrastructure related causes of childhood obesity, the reasons for those causes, barriers to change, and some possibilities for addressing the problem. Many members of the subcommittee participate in groups who have already discussed many of these issues.

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BARRIERS TO ACTIVITY:

Example – The Ozark School District will bus all students, but 80 percent are still driven to school by parents.

School sites outside of neighborhoods (regional schools)

Riding in the car is a privilege

Safety of walking to school – perception]

Sidewalk obstructions and conditions

Communication within Walking School Bus

What-ifs/Lawsuits

Time

Sprawl – Commutes

HOW TO ADDRESS:

Marketing in popular publications – 417, Go Magazine, Springfield Business Journal

“Cool” Factor

Marketing of safe routes for children to use

Walking school bus in pilot schools, then take district-wide

Use college kids to lead the children

Focus on Trails/Parks/Sidewalks

FURTHER DISCUSSION:

Many specifics are laid out in existing plans by Ozark Greenways and the Ozarks Transportation Organization. Springfield Public Works has also assembled walking maps to hang in each elementary school, though availability to parents is dependent upon the principals.

Safe Routes to School is a program which provides funding from the State level. Several years of funding will be combined this year for an availability of approximately \$6 million statewide. Funding is available for both infrastructure and non-infrastructure projects relating to Safe Routes to School. Entities that seek both will generally receive a higher rating. Applications will be accepted from schools, state agencies, local agencies, regional agencies, law enforcement agencies or non-profit organizations that will partner with the schools to apply for the grants. The Missouri Department of Transportation will be having a workshop to further discuss the application process January 16, 2008 at the MoDOT District 8 offices.

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With many elements already in place to address the built environment, the Built Environment Subcommittee would like to see more action as opposed to further planning. The idea of sprawling communities and regional schools have not necessarily been addressed, however and should likely receive more attention.

4. NEED FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

This was not discussed, however a number of people who might have been able to participate otherwise were involved in another meeting. Future meetings with the group should yield more participation.

5. FUTURE MEETING SCHEDULE

The next meeting will be scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2007 maintaining the current location of the JVCHC Benton Dental Clinic.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was discussed.

7. ADJOURNMENT
