

**Appropriations Committee  
Presentation  
01/21/2011**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Presenters**

**Kansas Healthy Marriage Institute  
Board Members**

- Joyce Webb Ph.D.
- Mike Duxler Ph.D.
- Sandy Pickert R.N., M.P.H.
- Sherdeill Breathett

**Friends University MSFT Program**

- Dan Lord Ph.D.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Undeniable Trends**

- U.S. Department of Health & Human Services—1990's
  - Family structure strongly related to child well-being.
  - Children in healthy, two-parent families do better.
  - Social problems can be prevented when children grow up in healthy families.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee  
Date January 31, 2011  
Attachment 2

**Research**

- Builds more wealth and creates a broader tax base
- Reduces the risk of crime and creates safer communities
- Reduces domestic violence and child abuse
- Reduces incidence of abortion
- Reduces premarital sex/unwed childbearing
- Reduces incidence of divorce
- Results in greater health and longevity
- Supports higher work productivity

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Research on children**

- Reduces child abuse
- Creates greater environment for achievement
- Increases health
- Reduces drug use
- Reduces teen pregnancy rates
- Reduces effects of living in poverty
- Reduces crime

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Welfare Reform**

Welfare reformed—1996

- 3 of 4 purposes of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant related to healthy marriages
- Mandate to promote two-parent households
- Bush Administration--\$240 million annually to states

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-2

**Significance of Healthy Marriages**

"Our emphasis is on healthy marriages—not marriage for the sake of marriage, not marriage at any cost—but healthy marriages that provide a strong and stable environment for raising children. It is about helping couples who choose marriage for themselves gain access to the skills and knowledge necessary to form and sustain healthy marriages."

--Wade F. Horn, PhD  
Former Assistant Secretary of the ACF

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Significance of Healthy Marriages**

"Each year, family fragmentation costs American taxpayers at least \$112 billion dollars. These costs are recurring—that is, they are incurred each and every year—meaning that the decline of marriage costs American taxpayers more than \$1 trillion dollars over a decade... Reducing these costs is a legitimate concern of government, policymakers, and legislators."

*The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and All Fifty States. Institute for American Values, 2006, p. 20.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Significance of Healthy Marriages**

"With divorces lingering at nearly 50%, and each divorce generating a social services burden conservatively estimated at \$30,000 per divorce, marital outcomes are critical to the overall stability of American society."

--Schramm, David G. (2006). *Individual and Social Costs of Divorce in Utah. Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Vol. 27(1), pp. 133-146.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-3

**What marriage initiatives are about**

- Media campaigns about healthy relationships
- Education in middle and high schools
- Marriage education, relationship skill-based classes (includes parenting, financial management) for non-married parents
- Pre-marital education and skill training for engaged couples
- Fatherhood programs
- Marriage mentoring programs
- Programs to reduce disincentives to marriage

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Helping Children & Families**

Healthy Marriage Initiatives are **not** about:

- Trapping anyone in an abusive or violent relationship
- Forcing anyone to get or stay married
- Running a federal dating service
- Withdrawing supports from or diminishing in any way, either directly or indirectly, the important work of and services for single parents.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Summary of marriage findings**

- Every state has made some effort
- Strengthening marriage as a public goal
- Marriage and divorce laws changed
- Significant TANF dollars dedicated
- Longest running, most successful—Oklahoma
- Many communities/county collaboratives have had great impacts

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-4

**Administration for  
Children and Families**

"... Finally, preliminary research shows that marriage education workshops can make a real difference in helping married couples stay together and in encouraging unmarried couples who are living together to form a more lasting bond. Expanding access to such services... should be something everybody can agree on..."

--President Obama  
Audacity of Hope, 2006, pg. 334

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Healthy Marriage/  
Relationship Questions**

- Can marriage/relationship education improve relationship quality, marital stability, and child well-being for economically disadvantaged couples?
- What are the effects beyond the family?
- Who benefits from marriage/relationship education?
- Can men and fathers be engaged in, and benefit from these programs?
- Is there a risk that programs may exacerbate or even contribute to domestic violence?
- What kinds of partnerships are needed for HMR programs to be successful with other populations?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Supporting Healthy Marriages**

The SHM project is motivated by three related but distinct research outcomes:

- *Children in low socioeconomic status (SES) families spend less time in two-parent families*
- *Children benefit from growing up with two parents who are in a stable, low-conflict relationship*
- *Marriage education interventions can have positive effects on couples and their children.*

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-9

### S.H.M. Research Design

**Time Frame**

*First Stage*--program implementation 2006 -, 2010  
*Second Stage*--post treatment collection of data 2008 - 2012  
*Third Stage*--2014 summary of results and recommendations

**Eligibility Requirement**

Low-income married couples, 18 years of age or older, with at least one child living in the home

**Random Assignment**

Recruited 6,400 low-income married couples across 8 national research sites

**Longitudinal**

All couples will be followed up to 36 months after intake.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### S.H.M. in Kansas: Marriage for Keeps

- 2006 Implementation Plan
- 2007 study began in 4 sites in Kansas  
Wichita (research site); Garden City, Salina and Kansas City (program services only)
- Over 750 Kansas couples completed the program
- Project partners exceeds 135 organizations throughout the state and nation including:
  - Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)
  - Newman University
  - Kansas Healthy Marriage Institute (KHMI)
  - Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV)
  - Catholic Charities of Kansas City, Salina and Dodge City

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Core Components of M.f.K.

- **Marriage Educations Groups (MEG)** - evidenced based healthy relationship curriculum--one night a week for 12 weeks
- **Marriage Assessment** - private meeting with couple to provide results and establish goals
- **Extended Activities** - date nights, family fun days, financial planning
- **Family Support** - periodic meetings following the workshops to foster integration of the skills

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-6

**Examples of Kansas Direct Service Providers**

- Kansas Healthy Marriage Institute
- Kansas African-American Healthy Marriage Initiative
- Catholic Charities - Marriage for Keeps
- Pure & Simple Health Education – Relationship education for teens and parents
- University of Kansas – Adoptive couples, Grandparents of pregnant teens

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Examples - Supporting KS Initiatives**

- Visioneering Wichita – Family Strengthening Alliance
- Kansas Marriage and Family Conference (June 2011)
- Documentary: "The Marriage Initiative in Kansas" in production

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Recommendation**

- Create an office/department for healthy family/relationships that would have a three pronged focus on healthy relationships in teens/young adults, healthy marriages, and fatherhood initiatives. Create infrastructure for this office including budget, positions, and vision/mission/goals.
- Develop state-wide strategic plan and model for addressing these goals in collaboration with national partners who have achieved success.
- Assess collaborative network of potential partners for strengths/resources to contribute to an initiative.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-7

**Recommendation**

- Strengthen state-wide infrastructure of relationships with collaborative partners that would help deliver educational sessions to targeted populations.
- Determine other objectives/strategies that help support above goals: changes in marriage license laws, publication of newly-married educational brochure, media campaign materials, etc.
- Determine curricula/training agendas for partners.
- Establish consistent state-wide outcome based evaluation for all service delivery and supporting initiatives.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

**Kansas Healthy Marriage Institute**

For more information:

Dr. Joyce Webb  
Webb PhD Associates

Dr. Michael Duxler  
Catholic Charities

webbphd@yahoo.com  
316-371-5914

mduxler@catholiccharitieswichita.org  
316-640-2348

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## WHY MARRIAGE MATTERS IN KANSAS

Social science research has come to a fundamental conclusion: *Marriage* is an important *social good*, associated with an impressively broad array of *positive outcomes for children and adults* alike.<sup>1</sup>

### Healthy Marriages & Family Formation REDUCES POVERTY.

- *Thirty percent of children* live in *single-parent families*<sup>2</sup>, and spend *51% of their childhood in poverty*.<sup>3</sup> In 2008, *22% of Kansas children* lived in *100-200% federal poverty level*; *42.7% qualified for free and reduced lunches*.<sup>2</sup>

### Healthy Marriages & Family Formation REDUCES CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, and HIGH RISK BEHAVIORS.

- *Children raised outside an intact marriage* have increased likelihood for risk of *child abuse, school failure, work at lower paying jobs, and become unwed parents and/or divorce*.<sup>1</sup>
- *Children in single-parent families* experience increased *physical abuse* (77% greater), *physical neglect* (87% greater), *emotional neglect* (74% greater), and *educational neglect* (220% greater). Intact married families have lowest serious child abuse.
- In 2006, *\$230 million federal and state* dollars funded services for the *remediation of poverty, child abuse, and neglect in Kansas*. Of those services, nearly *\$83 million (36%)* supports *5,781 children in foster care*, totaling *\$14,309 per year or \$28,000 per child* over the course of foster care stay.<sup>9</sup>

### Healthy Marriage & Family Formation PREVENTS COSTLY SOCIAL SERVICE INTERVENTIONS.

- Marriage is associated with *greater wealth; reduced alcohol and substance abuse; longer life expectancy*, especially for men; *better physical and psychological health; lower crime and domestic violence; and lower rates of injury, illness, or disability*.<sup>1</sup> Marriage *increases the likelihood fathers have good relationships with their children, reducing adolescent delinquency*.<sup>1,11</sup>
- Breakdown of marriages spirals many families towards poverty. *Each divorce costs taxpayers* upwards of *\$30,000, costing Kansas taxpayers* over *\$300 million* for the *10,333 marriage dissolutions* in 2009.<sup>10</sup> For every \$1,000 that government spends providing services to broken families, it spends \$1 trying to stop family breakdown.<sup>22</sup>
- *Less than half of all teens live with their married biological mother and father*.<sup>1,11</sup> *Teen mothers* are more likely to *drop out of school, remain unmarried, and live in poverty*. Their *children* are more likely to have *low birth weight, grow up poor and in single-parent households, experience abuse and neglect, and enter the child welfare system*. In 2004, *childbearing teens* in Kansas *cost taxpayers* at least *\$91 million; \$51 million in state and local costs - \$12 million for public health care* (Medicaid and SCHIP) and *\$23 million for child welfare* annually. The average *annual cost* associated with a *child born to a mother 17 and younger* is *\$4,238*.<sup>4</sup> In 2009, there were *5,036 teen pregnancies* (26.8/1,000 rate) and *4,265 live births* in Kansas, at a cost of approximately *\$18,075,070*. *Eighty percent* of teen mothers receive some form of *public assistance*, such as food stamps, WIC vouchers, or housing assistance.<sup>5</sup> *Over 75% of unmarried teen mothers are on welfare within five years of giving birth*.<sup>6</sup> Daughters of teen mothers are more likely to become teen mothers and sons of teen mothers are more likely to be incarcerated. In 2006, *1,053 juvenile delinquents* were placed in *Kansas taxpayer supported* residential facilities.<sup>12</sup>
- Nearly *10,000 Kansas dropouts* of the class of 2008 *cost more than \$2.6 billion* in *lost wages, taxes, and productivity* over their lifetime. Had they graduated, the State of Kansas could *save more than \$125 million in Medicaid and expenditures* for uninsured care over the course of their lifetimes.<sup>7</sup>

### Healthy Marriages and Family Formation INCREASES JOB STABILITY.

- American *businesses lose \$6 billion* annually due to decreased productivity stemming from marriage and relationship difficulties<sup>13</sup>, *costing Kansas businesses* approximately *\$55 million* annually.<sup>14</sup>
- For every *\$1 invested* in employee wellness programs, including physical and counseling/mental health services, the *return* on investment is *\$6.85* for employers. Happily married workers have better physical and psychological health and are more productive, resulting in lowered liabilities and increased profitability.<sup>15</sup>

### Research Supports the EFFECTIVENESS of Healthy Relationship, Marriage & Family Formation Education.

- In 2009, *18,268 marriages occurred in Kansas*, *57%* involving first-time partners. Only *8%* of brides and *3%* percent of grooms were under age 20. (Kansans are delaying marriage.)<sup>8</sup>
- In 2009, *10,333 marriage dissolutions* occurred in Kansas, *affecting 911,883 minor children*, with at least one minor child involved in over half of all divorces. The Kansas *divorce rate* in 2009, an increase of *5%* over 2008, climbed *9% higher than the national average*. Nearly *36%* (4,380) of all Kansas marriages *do not last 5 years*.<sup>8</sup>
- Numerous studies show that *couples who participate in marriage education/enrichment programs have better communication skills, higher levels of marital satisfaction, better parenting skills, and increased stability* than couples who do not participate.<sup>1,18,19,20,21</sup>

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-9

To: Gov. Brownback and Cabinet Members

From: Mike Duxler Ph.D.; Dan Lord Ph.D., Joyce Webb Ph.D., & Sandy Pickert, R.N., M.P.H

Date: Jan. 17, 2011

RE: Strong couples/Healthy families Kansas

It is with great excitement that we present a collaborative effort to strengthen Kansas families through healthy relationships, fatherhood and marriages. Over the last six years, and with increasing urgency and dedication, there have been numerous programs developed and conversations among diverse groups to forge a culture in Kansas that inspires healthy relationships, marriages and families. Per your request, the bullet points below highlight 1) the history of the state's relationship and marriage education activities, 2) the involvement of SRS, and 3) offer recommendations for future direction.

1. In 2004, the Kansas Healthy Marriage Initiative (KHMI) was formed as a statewide non-profit organization dedicated to improving and strengthening Kansas families by mobilizing community involvement, forging partnerships, coordinating community services and disseminating healthy marriage information. In partnership with Catholic Charities and Newman University, KHMI successfully pursued the Supporting Healthy Marriage (SHM) research project. Known in Kansas as Marriage for Keeps (MfK), Wichita, Kansas was one of eight national sites that implemented a sophisticated random assignment, longitudinal study that focused on low-income married couples with children. The research project was launched in 2007 and was completed at the end of December, 2010. MDRC, a national research and evaluation firm, is leading the federally funded national SHM study and is expected to release its first preliminary report in 2012. In 2006, MfK leveraged this federally funded research project to secure a 5-year federal grant through the Office of Family Assistance. This funding allowed MfK to expand to serve rural as well as urban communities (including Garden City, Manhattan and Kansas City). During the past three years, over 900 low-income married couples have participated in MfK across Kansas. (KCSDV helped to create the domestic violence protocol for the program.). Most recently, Catholic Charities of Wichita received a small privately funded grant to serve at least 50 at-risk teens with relationship education. Through two grants administered by KU since 2006, comprehensive education and retreat opportunities were given to parents of children adopted through the State of Kansas foster care system to improve marriages and the stability of these high risk families. In addition, classes were provided for many child care and Head Start/Early Head Start professionals on healthy relationships and healthy family formation. Relationship education for teens (including high risk) and young adults, as well as seriously dating, engaged, and co-habiting couples, and single mothers and fathers has been provided by various non-profit community and faith-based organizations, and public and private schools in Kansas.
2. SRS advocated for the MfK project and was a primary partner in the development and implementation of the program. In close consultation with Secretary Daniels and other high ranking SRS officials, a protocol was developed to identify and recruit SRS clients who were eligible for the program. SRS also assisted in reviewing MfK's research design to ensure that no client would be penalized by a loss of benefits due to their participation. Approximately one-quarter of all participants in the study were SRS clients.
3. Relationship science has dramatically advanced in the past two decades, providing knowledge of primary adult relationships and its direct impact on childrearing. A continuum of family and marriage competence is now emerging that offers multi-modal strategies that can advance the creation and sustainability of healthy marriages and families within a community. This begins with educating our children on healthy relationships and giving our adults the tools by which to model this. Other states have developed service delivery systems to reach TANF clients, incarcerated parents, students (junior high through college), engaged couples, expectant parents, and married adults. Although we have suggested ideas and strategies for the future, we recommend strategic planning with a broad group of key stakeholders to evaluate the greatest opportunities to make a positive impact on Kansas families. We have the experience and enthusiasm to deliver meaningful, evidence-informed services to families now and for future generations.

Appropriations Committee

Date January 31, 2011

Attachment 2-10