

**GOVERNOR'S Child Health
Advisory COMMITTEE**

November 27, 2006

Secretary Roderick L. Bremby
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Curtis State Office Building
1000 SW Jackson
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Secretary Bremby:

On behalf of the Governor's Child Health Advisory Committee, it is my pleasure to submit the Committee's recommendations related to childhood obesity. These are presented in partial fulfillment of the Committee's mandate to "advise the Governor and the Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment on various issues involving children, including: obesity, newborn screening, immunizations and education."

The Committee reviewed the attached summary recommendations of the Childhood Obesity Work Group, comprised of members of the Governor's Child Health Advisory Committee and the Governor's Council on Fitness. Building on the Work Group results, the Child Health Advisory Committee submits the attached recommendations for addressing childhood obesity.

Childhood obesity is a serious issue with many health consequences that often continue into adulthood. We applaud your and the Governor's attention to this issue and encourage continued discussion and action. Please let us know if you need additional information.

Sincerely,



Dennis Cooley, MD
Chair, Governor's Child Health Advisory Committee

C: Jennifer Crow, Office of the Governor
Howard Rodenberg, MD, Director of Health

Enclosure

GOVERNOR'S Child Health Advisory COMMITTEE

"The Child Health Advisory Committee advises the Governor and the Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment on various issues involving children, including: obesity, newborn screening, immunizations and education."

Childhood Obesity Recommendations

- 1. Implement population-based surveillance system using body mass index (BMI)**
 - a. Venue: Schools
 - b. Measure: BMI

- 2. Increase minutes and quality of physical activity and improve nutrition among school-aged children and children ages 0 to 5 years in schools, homes and communities.**
 - a. Venues: Schools, early childhood programs (e.g., Special Supplemental Nutrition Program Women, Infants and Children [WIC]; Parents as Teachers [PAT]; Head Start), preschools, childcare providers, after-school programs, communities, parents/parent education
 - b. Population: School-aged children, children ages 0 to 5 years
 - c. **Action Step # 1:** Request funding and implement competitive RFP process to fund innovative programs. (Split awards between schools/school-aged children and applicants serving age 0-5 years.) Evaluate success. Replicate successful programs across the state.

- 3. Encourage all competitive foods in schools to be healthy and regulated.**
 - a. **Action Step #2:** Restrict food and beverage vending machine access during school hours. (*Note: Intent of Committee action step is to make food and beverage vending machines unavailable to students during school hours.*)
 - b. **Action Step #3:** Implement Healthy Schools awards program (or modify current Governor's Healthy Schools award program) for schools achieving Exemplary Status on the Kansas Model Policy Wellness guidelines.