

# Immunization Initiative

## Quarterly Meeting- September 23, 2016

### Vaccine Hesitation

#### Small Group Discussion

**What experiences have you had with vaccine exemptions and what was most concerning/challenging?**

- Parents ready to go
- Arguments from parents
- South County Health Center- do not see any exemptions in clinic setting; walk-ins sees a lot. It is too easy to get an exemption. Mostly religious exemptions are requested and all you have to do is sign a paper that says “decision not to vaccinate.” Parents often just want what is needed and don’t ask questions
- Jefferson County Health Department makes exemptions easy by giving the paper work to the front desk to hand out
- Mistrust of vaccine
- Questionable religious exemption
- Parents wanting natural immunity by disease

**What are some solutions you believe would be effective in combating the barriers and challenges associated with vaccine exemptions?**

- Kansas City Health Department now only gives exemptions one day a week.
- Add more steps to the exemption- you have to watch a video, listen to an educational presentation, etc.
- Build trust
- Give information/educate
- Have a conversation about vaccine preventable diseases
- Information at a health fair

**In the last 6 months, what have you done to promote immunizations?**

- Promoting, tweeting, snail mail letters, clinic, health fairs
- Parent email about requirements
- Table of information at parent conference
- Reminder on twitter with link to the requirement
- Reminder with link on superintendents newsletter
- Letters snail mailed to parents
- Healthy Kids Express



**With what you have done, what would you say was the most successful strategy in your efforts to promote immunizations in spite of vaccine exemptions?**

- Exclusions
- Resources, accessibility of exemption forms
- JAMA article retracting Andrew Wakefield's link between autism and vaccine.

**With what you have done, what would you say did not work well?**

- Putting the exemption forms at the front desk and allowing parents to obtain them without speaking to a nurse.
- Talking to parents that are Christian Scientists

**What strategies and/or resources would you recommend for others to use to address vaccine exemptions?**

- Centers for Disease Control (CDC)
- American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)