Dear Partners –

As an organization dedicated to improving early childhood health and development for Southwest Kansans, I am writing regarding the quickly changing public health threat caused by the COVID-19 outbreak. During this uncertain time, our priority is protecting the health and safety of the young children and families we serve, our staff, our partners and our communities. As a result, all Russell Child Development Center offices have been closed the week of March 16-20 and we have begun working remotely. All staff are working as scheduled and available via email, text and phone and we encourage families to communicate directly with their designated service providers. As more information becomes available we will determine whether offices will remain closed or will be manned by essential staff. As always we remain committed to our mission of delivering high quality early learning services.

We continue to accept referrals and to assist families in accessing needed resources. Home visits and other activities will be conducted via Zoom or by phone whenever possible. The way we carry out our work may look different for a while but please be assured we are actively working to deliver the most effective services possible within the constraints we have all been given. This is our effort to practice social distancing in an effort to help minimize the spread of COVID-19. In accordance with the CDC’s recommendation of limiting meetings to fewer than 50 people through May 9th, we are cancelling all group events and activities.

We encourage you to follow [http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/coronavirus/index.htm) to stay up to date on quickly changing developments and to take all recommended precautions.

We will continue to monitor verified and accurate county, state and federal level guidance and base pending decisions and plans upon this information. Please watch for new announcements and changes as we navigate these challenges together.

On behalf of the board and staff of RCDC we appreciate your patience and partnership. Stay healthy and safe!

With great hope for our future,

Deanna