



TESTIMONY

of the

CONNECTICUT CONFERENCE OF MUNICIPALITIES

to the

APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE

February 18, 2009

CCM has a long-standing and very fruitful relationship with the Connecticut Commission on Children (COC).

For many years, CCM and COC have worked together to provide resources and best practices to Connecticut's towns and cities to support a healthy start for all children, thereby strengthening families and municipal quality of life. The two organizations brought their respective strengths and roles to this ongoing partnership – CCM as the leading membership organization representing local government in Connecticut and COC as the chief policy coordinating body for children in state government.

Towns Help Kids Succeed Initiative

The two organizations collaborated under a grant from the National League of Cities to provide technical assistance to municipal leaders on promising practices for family success and positive youth development through a joint effort called "Towns Help Kids Succeed." This initiative provided municipal CEOs with valuable information on policies and programs for children in the areas of health, education and safety, and worked closely with mayors and first selectmen interested in implementing those promising approaches.

Childhood Obesity Initiative

In 2005, CCM and COC joined together again to lead the childhood obesity initiative

The primary goal of the CCMCOC Childhood Obesity Initiative was to heighten awareness among municipal leaders of this growing epidemic by providing background information and data to help such leaders understand the problem and its importance to their communities.

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Through a series of forums, which presented strategic options and potential partnerships as well as examples of promising practices for municipal leadership and action, mayors, first selectmen and other municipal officials were empowered to address childhood obesity in their communities.

CCM looks forward to continued work with COC on issues of concern to towns' and cities' children and families.

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For more information, please contact Jim Finley, Gian-Carl Casa or Ron Thomas of CCM at (203) 498-3000.