MUSC Children’s Hospital Boeing Center for Children’s Wellness

The Boeing Center for Children’s Wellness was established in 2010 in response to the number of children in our state who were obese. At that time, South Carolina ranked as the 3rd fattest state in the country based on prevalence of childhood obesity; 4 out of 10 SC children were overweight or obese. Since then the Boeing Center has worked with over 300 schools and child care centers. In this way we are able to improve the health and wellness of children from infancy through adolescence. We help participating schools and childcare centers implement evidence-based wellness strategies that improve nutrition, increase physical activity, and promote a culture of wellness. We also work with statewide partners to synergize our efforts and are included in the SC Obesity Action Plan (www.SCaledown.org). Together these collaborative efforts have paid off. Recent data shows that our state’s obesity ranking has improved for all ages of South Carolinians; from 5th lowest to 13th for adults, from 3rd to 8th for teens, and remarkably from 16th to 45th for preschoolers (www.stateofobesity.org).

Major accomplishments during the past year include:

- Expansion of the Docs Adopt School Health Initiative© in the 2016-2017 school year to 12 SC districts and an additional 23 schools in Pottstown PA, totaling 252 schools, enrolling 152,244 children, and including 114 doctors and 49 other health professionals
- Successful partnership with Palmetto Children’s Hospital as well as independent implementation by MacLeod Children’s Hospital of Docs Adopt School Health Initiative© in their communities
- Collaboration with SC Department of Education, SC DHEC and the Alliance for Healthier Generation to implement district wellness policies in 27 rural districts
- Intensive on-site quality improvement consultation provided by the South Carolina Program for Infant and Toddler Care program to 59 childcare centers as well as training programs for 389 childcare directors / staff
- Development of a Breastfeeding Friendly Childcare designation which has currently been awarded to 11 childcare centers