

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011

The mission of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services is to ensure that a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services is available in Kansas to all children with or at risk for developmental delays from birth through age 5 and their families.

INTRODUCTION

The Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is based in both federal law and state statute. We serve as an advisory body to state agencies and others with most of our members appointed by the Governor. Our area of focus concerns children with disabilities or developmental delays aged birth through five years and their families.

ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS - STRATEGIC PLAN

Public Awareness Committee- (Co-Chairs: Sharon Hixson & Nancy Krase)

1. Engage in meaningful, two-way communication with at least 25% of Local ICCs. This will be measured by local ICC representatives attending a State ICC meeting, local ICC input into public forum, and State ICC attendance at local ICC meetings.
2. Engage in meaningful, two-way communication concerning the value of early intervention with targeted audiences; including legislators, policy-makers, candidates, business partners, local communities, and other collaborative partners.
3. Assist in planning the collaborative Parent Leadership Training. Explore creation and implementation of a one-day, regional version. Coordinate with similar initiatives.
4. Plan and implement tiny-k Day. Explore supplementing with local activities.

Policy Committee - (Co-Chairs: Tom Laing and Julie Broski)

1. Monitor Maintenance of Effort developments, possible end of ARRA funding, and other fiscal matters.
 2. Seek update on seclusion and restraints issues.
 3. Explore the strategy of billing private insurance for tiny-k service.
 4. Monitor services for possibly under-served populations: homelessness, foster care, tribal jurisdictions, and those in need of social/emotional services.
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Family Voices – Julie Broski, Chair

1. Develop web presence for this specific aspect of Kansas ICC
2. Develop user-friendly materials on Kansas ICC, Local ICCs, and parent roles
3. Recruit parents to participate in Local ICCs. Collaborate with Families Together
4. Work with Public Awareness on possible regional parent leadership training
5. Develop and test new technologies to improve connectivity between parents

Transitions Task Force – Dr. Dale Walker

1. Request and review data following children who meet their IFSP goals in Part C prior to reaching age 3 and are discharged from Part C prior to age 3.
 - a) How many or what percent of children in Part C meet their goals and are deemed ineligible for Part C services prior to age 3?
 - b) How many or what percent of children who meet their Part C goals prior to age 3 and are discharged prior to age 3 or are receiving special education services in grades 1 – 3?
 - c) How many or what percent of families of children who are exited prior to age 3 years from Part C are unable to find, afford, or are waiting for child care when children are exited from Part C until age 5 when they are eligible for kindergarten?
 2. Request and review data for children deemed "not eligible" for Part B services who have received Part C services through age 3.
 - a) How many or what percent of children receiving Part C services are found to be ineligible for Part B at age 3 years?
 - b) What percent of children who are found to be ineligible for Part B are receiving special education services in 1st – 3rd grade?
 - c) How many families of children who are exited prior to age 3 years from Part C are unable to find, afford, or are waiting for child care when children are exited from Part C until age 5 when they are eligible for kindergarten?
 3. Use information gathered to support Part C and Part B with reviewing and addressing areas of need to improve the transition process between Part C and Part B. Provide guidance and assistance to Part C and Part B in the development of guidance materials that Part C and B could use to support local programs with transition efforts and compliance with OSEP guidelines related to transition.
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ACTIVITIES

Council activities are largely directed by the Strategic Plan (see above) and our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state agencies. Much of our activity occurs at the committee level.

HIGHLIGHTS

A list of specific Council accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2011 includes:

As a result of the advocacy efforts of the State ICC and many other partners, the 2011 Kansas Legislature maintained level state appropriation/funding for Part C and other early childhood programs for FY 2012, in spite of the drastic economy (MoU#9).

In Topeka, a highly successful Parent Leadership Conference was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners on October 1-2, 2010. Over two hundred parents benefited from the basic tutorial in policy-making and how best to influence policy decisions at the local, state and federal levels. (MoU#1).

The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan (SPP) for Part C of IDEA. Particular emphasis was given regarding the data surrounding transition at age three. Several ICC meetings included information focused upon these issues. The ICC signed and approved the Part C SPP, as part of the February 1 submission to the US Department of Education. (MoU#3).

A highly successful *tiny-k* Day “Under the Dome” advocacy event was conducted on March 8, 2011. Over half of the Kansas legislators received a personal visit from a constituent who informed him/her of the importance of Part C services and the need for more state funding (MoA#8). A particular highlight was the delivery to the entire Johnson County delegation a customized DVD with comments from constituents concerning the value of early intervention services. This DVD was largely created by members of the ICC Family Voices committee. (MoU #9)

Technical assistance and support in many different forms was given to several Local ICCs. Staff attended ten local meetings benefitting six different Local ICCs. Among the topics of discussion were the role of the Local ICC in local services, potential changes in local lead agencies, and updates on activity in Topeka. (MoU#5).

The Special Education Advisory Council again met jointly with the Kansas ICC on November 11, 2010. The goal was to coordinate advisory functions, especially in regard to children aged 3-5 years. Among our results was joint testimony on SB 359 and SB 111 concerning special education funding. (MoU#2) See Appendix

KANSAS ICC ROSTER

PARENT MEMBERS:

Richard Martinez (Topeka), Darla Nelson-Metzger (Topeka), Julie Broski (Overland Park), Jill Bamber (Leawood), Misty Van Nostrand (Lawrence)

PROVIDER MEMBERS

Susan Carriger (Overland Park), Nancy Krase (Wichita), DebVoth (Wichita), Tom Kohmetscher (Wellington), Dr. Leticia Taylor (Overland Park), Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostemeyer (Oakley)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Sharon Hixson (Hutchison), Tom Laing (Topeka), Dr. Eva Horn (Lawrence), Dr. Pamela Shaw (Shawnee), Dr. Dale Walker (Kansas City)

LEGISLATORS

Senator Laura Kelly (Topeka), Representative Barbara Craft (Junction City)

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. David Lindeman (Board of Regents), Linda Kenney (Kansas Department of Health and Environment-KDHE), Tiffany Smith (Kansas State Department of Education-KSDE), Michelle Ponce/Monica Remillard (Social and Rehabilitation Services-SRS), Scott Bears (Kansas Health Policy Authority – KHPA, Medicaid), Mary Duncan (Governor’s Office), John Meetz (Kansas Insurance Department)

KANSAS ICC MEETINGS, LOCATIONS, AND ACTIONS

July 29, 2010 in Wichita – The Council met in conjunction with the Special Education Leadership Conference. Mr. John Copenhaver of Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center led a discussion of the meaning of “advise and assist” and how states formally respond to questions posed prior to the upcoming verification visit by the US Department of Education staff. The ICC established a process for responding to these questions.

August 27, 2010 in Topeka – This was our Annual Strategic Planning Session. The Council reviewed the current Memorandum of Understanding. Committees and committee memberships were revisited. Information was provided and further discussion occurred regarding the upcoming verification visit for IDEA Part B at KSDE.

September 24, 2010 in Topeka – The previous year’s Kansas ICC Annual Report was approved. Several local partners led a spirited discussion on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding. Third party billing was questioned. Is the state utilizing this source of income to its maximum, and what hinders us from doing so.

October 22, 2010 in Kansas City – A report was given By Wyandotte County Infant Toddler Services on the status of early childhood services in Wyandotte County. KDHE provided information on agency Part C staff turnover, and how they intended to move forward. There was discussion around a possible change in Part C local lead agency for Leavenworth County.

November 11, 2010 – This was a joint meeting of the Council and the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). Mr. Dale Dennis covered state financial information related to educational funding, with emphasis upon special education, maintenance of effort, and ARRA funds. Discussion regarding last year’s Senate Bill # 359, led to a decision to prepare joint testimony for a legislative committee. A review of the mission and activities of each Council took place. Agency staff from both KSDE and KDHE gave an overview of SPP and APR outcomes. KHPA staff addressed a number of Medicaid questions that focused upon coding. A Transition from Part C to Part B task force was established. Families Together presented on a parent survey.

January 28, 2011 in Topeka – KDHE staff gave a presentation on the Part C Annual Performance Report (APR). A current legislative update report led to letters supporting Early Head Start and Special Education funding (See Appendix). KSDE staff gave a report on the verification visit for Part B. Medicaid manual changes were discussed.

February 25, 2011 in Wichita – The Council met in conjunction with the KDEC conference. A review of services in Butler County from was provided by Bright Beginnings. A legislative update was provided. Joint testimony was prepared by the Kansas ICC and the Special Education Advisory Council on SB #111, concerning school finance (See Appendix).

March 25, 2011 in Topeka – A report on the tiny-k Day 2011 was given. The work done to contact the Johnson County legislators was praised. A campaign for the tiny-k Foundation: “Bushels for Babies” was announced. A legislative update was given.

April 15, 2011 in Topeka – A legislative update was given. After hearing about a proposal to use income means testing for Parents as Teachers, the Council instructed staff and the Executive committee to write a letter expressing concerns (See Appendix). Several possible changes in local lead agencies for Part C networks were discussed.

June 17, 2010 in Topeka – This meeting served as our annual strategic planning session. Our work product was reviewed. Committee structures were re-visited. A presentation on the primary coaching method of delivering services was provided.

APPENDIX

Testimony before the Joint Committee on Children's Issues

Letter to newly elected members of the Kansas Legislature, basic information on the ICC

Joint testimony with Special Education Advisory Council on special education finance

Letter sent to Budget Conference Committee conferees regarding Parents as Teachers

Letters supporting Early Head Start and Special Education funding

Parent Leadership Conference Agenda

Testimony before House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means on KDHE budget

Other letters and testimony containing recommendations on policy

Minutes from the monthly meetings of the Council (These also available at our web site)

Kansasicc.org
