

**KANSAS INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

MINUTES
APRIL 4, 2008, 1:00 PM

PUBLIC LIBRARY
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
Sharon Hixon, Public Member
Nancy Kruse, Provider Member
Dr. David Lindeman Board/Regents Rep.
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, USD497
Karen Beckerman, SRS
Linda Kenney, KDHE

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, Sr. Admin. Assistant
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE
Anne Aytes, Leavenworth County, NF
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Misty Van Nash, Families Together
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co. ITS
Tamara Kessler, Parent
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Julie Kissler, Community Action HS

MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

Deb Voth, Provider Member
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT ON
PHONE

None

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Scott Bruner, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member
John Meetz, KS Insurance Department

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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with a welcome and introductions.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Several edits were made. Tom Laing made a motion that the March 2008 minutes be approved as amended. Susan Carriger seconded the amended minutes; vote passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Carolyn Weinhold announced that the Parent Leadership Conference is moving to the Kansas Museum of History on October 24 through October 25, 2008. Carolyn is striving to get more parents involved in the planning. There will be the very popular breakout session: children with special needs.

Susan Carriger has been selected to go to Russia, November 7 through November 16, 2008. She is seeking grants and scholarships.

Julie Kissler of Community Action Head Start spoke about the Family Services & Guidance Center (FSGC), and how Infant Mental Health grant funds supported families. Often, parents wonder what they did wrong, or how they might handle a child's problem. The FSGC specialists know how to handle autism and other difficulties very well. As a direct result of grants for Infant Mental Health - United Way, Head Start, TARC and others, work collaboratively. The mental health specialist also assists in maintaining children in the classroom with ongoing visits to the family home.

Ann Aytes of Leavenworth County spoke up expressing great satisfaction in the use of the Family Services & Guidance Center's comprehensive evaluation services.

Julie Kissler commented on the fact that of the 17 children in her classroom, nine (9) children have special needs. The FSGC specialist was brought in for aggression problems. This specialist seems to be always there if more help is needed; we have received reports of great improvements on aggression from the school since then.

Tammy, a parent, commented that she does not like to punish, but appreciates the FSGC mental health specialist being there saying, "you're doing it right", to help guide her.

FOLLOW-UP ON CHILDREN'S CABINET

Doug Bowman reported on the Children's Cabinet. The Governor's Budget cut \$1 million in tobacco funds for Infant Mental Health. When asked by Doug, Mr. Redmon remarked that if the Legislature re-instates the tobacco funds (after the Children's Cabinet recommended it not be funded), the next year might be awkward.

Tom Laing stated that if the funding is still in SRS – however the Legislature chooses to fund it, if the agency is directed to administer this program, the agency will do it.

Kathy Johnson stated that this uncertainty makes it difficult for families to be supportive and advocate.

Doug Bowman will try to get Jim Redmon to join SICC for a meeting in May or June 2008 to answer questions about the Children's Cabinet, and accessibility of their programs. Discussion ensued about the fact that there is not anything in the Children's Cabinet wording specifically for children with disabilities.

SICC ANNUAL REPORT

Doug Bowman stated that he was ready to hand out the 2-page report with appendices, and after the Council's approval, will deliver copies to the Governor, House and Senate. Carolyn Nelson remarked that SICC should also distribute to OSEP and NECTAC.

Dave Lindeman made a motion to approve the ICC Annual Report with amended changes, with all Appendices, noting that meeting minutes are accessible on the ICC website. Carolyn Nelson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Task	Who	When
Send Out Amended SICC Annual Report Full Packet (All Appendices).	Doug Bowman & SICC Staff	Deadline: April 18, 2008

CHAIR REPORT

Linda Mitchell demonstrated the website for the Early Intervention Alliance Group (EIFA), shown at the Washington, D.C. conference she recently attended. She gave the website for EIFA, www.eifamilyalliance.org/, for anyone to join.

Carolyn Nelson stated that she believes that many parents are on this group now, since the Federal ICC is gone.

STAFF REPORTS

Doug Bowman announced that the week of April 21, 2008, the legislature is devoted to the committee work on Omnibus. Revenue estimators will be reporting in late April how many dollars can be spent for the Budget. If they come back with bad news about the economy, it could be a very difficult Omnibus Session. Among the items dealt with in this early version of the budget (or Mega Appropriations) are:

- the school finance package
- child care subsidy caseload increases of \$2.5 M

On the long list of items to be considered at Omnibus:

- early childhood block grants
- a possible increase for *tiny-k*
- re-instatement of the \$1 M cut to Infant Mental Health
- increased funds to address Parents As Teachers' waiting lists
- \$1.2 M increase in the new Kansas Pre-School Program

Doug Bowman asked for direction and suggestions for opportunities to influence the Omnibus Bill.

Discussion ensued with Linda Mitchell urging everyone to be an advocate. Nancy Krase commented that SICC should deliver our message, noting that coordinators will be meeting April 14, 2008 and Deb Mai will be at this tiny-K Meeting. SICC should push hard for \$2.1 million, with locals and parents mobilizing phone calls, emails, and postcards. The main points are about how under-funded Part C really is. SICC-made postcards were handed out to everyone to mail to Senators, Representatives, and others. Doug Bowman stated that the legislative session hopes to finish late this evening.

The Governor's Office has submitted a grant application to the National Governors' Association (NGA). Whether or not Kansas gets this \$10,000 award, work will occur this Summer/Fall on Early Childhood governance issues. The grant would pay for a facilitator to lead these discussions. At end of January 2009, this grant ends.

Discussion ensued over what particular persons would be appropriate contacts in the legislature, or are key individuals working on the Omnibus Bill, including Appropriations and the Ways and Means Committee. Several Senator's and House of Representatives' names were brought forward.

Doug Bowman mentioned that there is an Infant Mental Health Meeting on Monday. The Best Team for Child Care Licensing also meets the same day.

Dave Lindeman made a motion to get a letter written outlining the importance of this issue of Infant Mental Health to key players waiting on the Omnibus Bill. Tom Laing seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Task	Who	When
Ways & Means, Appropriations Committee: Send Support Letter on Infant Mental Health.	Doug Bowman & Executive Committee	Deadline: April 7, 2008

Linda Kenney commented that she has been on the Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC) since the beginning. It is a loosely affiliated group that seems to not have a definition or by-laws, a mission, or vision. It has now entered into legislative debates on

governance issues. The group should not be ignored and perhaps SICC can assist in formalizing the group before it goes forward.

Discussion ensued about ELCC and some SICC members felt that SICC should seek broader representation so all children and parents are represented.

Doug Bowman stated that the ELCC is to assist the Legislative Education Planning Committee (LEPC) on the topic of Early Childhood governance, as they produce a full report in January 2009 to the full legislature.

Gail Stuber commented that it takes time to get a good product because you go through the process. Collaboration is not easy.

Linda Mitchell thanked Linda Kenney for relating the Early Learning Coordinating Council's status to the Council's attention.

Linda Mitchell stated now there is a Governor's P-20 (Pre-School to Age 20) Educational Council. The language provided does not determine how far below school age it goes.

Tom Laing commented that the new P-20 Council should include Chair of SICC and made a motion that a letter be prepared and sent to the Board of Regents and to the Governor on this point. Deb Voth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Task	Who	When
Write/Send Letter to Governor/Kate Wolff, and Jeremy Anderson (Ref: P-20 Council)	Doug Bowman,	April 30, 2008

Task	Who	When
Letter to: Reggie Robinson (Ref: P-20 Council)	Doug Bowman,	April 30, 2008

Doug Bowman passed out the newly drafted SICC brochure and all members reviewed and critiqued. Several suggestions for enhancement and changes were made to Doug.

Tom Laing moved with the suggested changes to the brochure, that it be put on the SICC Website for public view. Motion was seconded by Susan Carriger; followed with a unanimous vote.

Task	Who	When
Change Brochure, Place On SICC Public Website	Doug Bowman,	April 30, 2008

ICC COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee

Dave Lindeman had no new news to report

Partnerships Committee

Maria Martinez had no news to report.

Advocacy Committee:

Nancy Krase stated that she has seen first hand how Head Start funnels staff and parents writing cards and how they impact the legislature.

Doug Bowman stated that on the *tiny-k* Day we were joined by representatives of 12 out of the 36 *tiny-k* networks that made contact with 29 of 40 senators, and 82 out of 125 members of the House of Representatives. Deb Voth encouraged using note cards with pictures of the families; bringing stamps was another way to expedite mailings. This makes parents' task easier.

AGENCY REPORTS

KSDE Report

Gayle Stuber reported for the Kansas Department of Education. The Special Education Services Team is working on several projects:

- a. Levels of determination for local districts (Part B); available mid-April 2008
- b. New staff on Special Education Team includes John Green (data) and Elena Rettiger-Lincoln (legislative and legal support).

The ongoing work on the early learning guidelines is developing two new sections of the document and continuing the training across the state.

The professional development work is a State Professional Development Leadership Team work day that is a pre-institute session connected to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) Professional Development Institute. It is a national institute and four or five members of the Kansas Early Childhood Professional Development team will be attending (and they come from several agencies and organizations, not just KSDE). The Expanding Opportunities work is continuing and the workgroup is waiting to hear about the application to the National Professional Development Center on Inclusion (NPDCI).

KDHE Report

Carolyn Nelson reported the hiring of a new Part C Coordinator: Tiffany Smith-Birk.

Ms. Nelson stated that at KDHE, the Part C Grant is due on May 24, 2008. KDHE finished a 5-year plan and now it is being analyzed at the federal level.

Carolyn had talked about the Head Start collaboration conference to be April 25, 2008 at the Tall Grass Country Club in Wichita Meeting. The morning sessions will be held by state agencies. Kathy Johnson addressed that her network is one group talking in the

afternoon which includes breakout sessions with four other networks covering braiding, blending services. The Wichita Head Start Collaboration Meeting April 25, 2008, is in the Training Calendar on the KITS Website.

SRS Report

Karen Beckerman talked about two items on this report; the SRS Strategic Plan rollout in February 2009. All SRS staff participated in an orientation to the strategic plan by reviewing four main areas of focus: communication, customer services, capacity enhancement, and using technology to basically address all of the three primary areas on how SRS can better serve their customers. The other area was the task work incentive enhancement. Due to a reauthorization in the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) program at the federal level, there was less flexibility put in, in the way the work activities can be counted for the State of Kansas. SRS is in process of implementing in May 2008, adjustments to earnings disregards changing from 40% to 60% for low income families. Also it is providing transitional assistance to families from the TANF program, with a stipend for 5 months while they are still unemployed, getting additional dollars and services.

Deb Voth asked if Karen could report back to SICC on what is going to happen with SRS child care assistance for children with special needs.

Dave Lindeman asked for clarification from the SRS Secretary regarding the FY '09 Budget and the Council's request for support to the tiny-k program. SRS has failed to respond and requested Karen Beckerman follow up again.

Task	Who	When
Status Of Future SRS	Karen Beckerman, SRS	May 2, 2008
Child Care Assistance To Special Needs Children For Deb Voth	Doug Bowman, SICC staff	
Task	Who	When
Report On Status Of SRS FY '09 Budget & Support To <i>tiny-k</i> Programs.	Karen Beckerman, SRS Doug Bowman, SICC	May 2, 2008

KHPA Report

No report.

Insurance Report

No report.

ANNUAL STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION IN JUNE 2008

Discussion ensued about the SICC June 2008 Conference Meeting or Strategic Planning session held annually. A possible facilitator will be used. We hope it will be Rae Anderson from the National Child Care Center. She knows that SICC has helped in the

past. It was also suggested having a resource table of documents at the conference, available for review.

Doug asked for feedback for the planning of this all-day long conference and for suggestions for lunch (possibly catered with all participating in cost at approximately \$8.00-\$10.00 per person).

Carolyn Weinhold suggested it would be very nice if SICC could fund more parents to attend as five are presently funded. She suggested that SICC should notify all Part C Networks, DD Council, Others, using email lists, to make sure they can plan to come to the annual planning event. SICC parent members should invite other parents with children with special needs, to get their input; especially, a parent with a child that used the autism waiver in order to tell SICC how to share that information with policy makers.

Maria Martinez suggested a SICC orientation to support the incoming parents into sharing and talking. The conference can be intimidating.

Doug Bowman suggested SICC email early information on the Annual June Conference to help SICC in planning. Also, regular parent members of SICC should assist in bringing on board new parents by invitation to participate in the May Parents Conference Call by phoning in, and attending June Conference to assist in making new determinations, and improving parents' participation and helpfulness to all SICC members.

Ann Aytes and Misty Van Nash suggested inviting all parent members and parent guests to an early breakfast before the June 6th conference start time. This would get conversations going and collaboration started with all SICC members (question/answer period).

Nancy Krase asked that a digital copy be sent via email, of the revised Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC) Listing giving locations, names of workers, phones and fax numbers of all the 36 Local Networks for their use and information. Jean Wilson stated that this list will be e-mailed out early next week.

Task	Who	When
Email LICC Listing To All 36 Local Networks For Nancy Krase.	SICC Staff	April 8, 2008

Doug Bowman passed out copies of a proposal for an SICC Conference prepared by Julie Broski and asked all to review before the next SICC meeting on May 2, 2008, which will again be held in the Topeka City Library, Anton Room, and Suite #202. Doug also announced that the SICC June 2008 Strategic Planning Conference session will be held at the Association of School Boards, in their Meeting Room on the West edge of Topeka, near Wanamaker Road and staff will send out a map to help find the way before then.

Sharon Hixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tom Laing seconded the motion.
The vote was unanimous.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Kansas State Department of Education Overview

1. KSDE Special Educations Services Team Update:
 - a. We are getting a job description out for the Parents As Teachers coordinator. Until the position is filled, the grants, training work, and other work is being coordinated among members of the Early Learning Services team at KSDE.
2. Kansas Expanding Opportunities Initiative: The purpose of this initiative is to develop a cross agency strategic planning initiative around inclusion. The application for technical assistance through the National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI) was sent in during April. The partners are waiting to hear if the application was accepted.
3. The Kansas Early Learning Document is being updated and edited. Sections on ‘How to use the Guidelines” and “How to use the Standards” are in final development. The document should be ready for printing by early Summer. Training on the document will be done in May and June for KDHE Health Department staff. Further training is being developed to help programs align their current curriculum with the Early Learning Standards.
4. Early Childhood Collaboration:
 - a. Meeting for cross agency work on collaboration at the NAEYC professional development conference in June. KSDE, SRS, KDHE, Head Start will be participating.
 - b. KSDE/KITS Early Learning Services staff (Gayle Stuber, Patty Gray; Dave Lindeman; Peggy Miksch) participated in the panel presentation at the Head Start Collaboration Conference on April 25 in Wichita. The focus of this conference was blending and braiding teaching and funding. An overview of some of the KSDE early childhood programs (Four Year Old At-Risk, Section 619, Parents As Teachers) was provided. A series of Questions and Answers was handed out. (see attached).

**Early Childhood Collaborative Programs
Early Childhood Special Education, Four Year Old At Risk,
Head Start, and Early Childhood
Funding Questions and Answers
Kansas State Department of Education**

Q1. If an IEP team recommends placement in an EC classroom (i.e. community based or school based) can LEAs pay full tuition if the child's time in the EC classroom is considered special education instructional time?

A1. If the IEP team recommends it and documents this in the IEP, then LEAs are responsible for paying the tuition to the community based school.

Q1a. What funds can LEAs use to pay tuition?

A1a. Special education funds may be used to pay tuition.

Q2. If a child counted for Four Year Old At Risk funding is then identified as a child with a disability during the same year can the special education teacher be counted for categorical aid and the child counted for Four Year Old At Risk funding at the same time?

A2. Yes, if the special education identification occurs after the 9/20 enrollment count. However the following school year the child would be counted as special education on 9/20

Q3. Can districts provide educational services for Head Start eligible children in an EC classroom funded by the district and receive funds from Head Start to provide that service for Head Start eligible children?

A3. Yes, if that is the agreement with Head Start.

Q4. Can Head Start provide family support services to all children in a district funded EC classroom that includes Head Start eligible children and be reimbursed by the district for services provided for children that are in the EC classroom but not eligible for Head Start?

A4. If family support services are a high priority for the district, then districts may reimburse Head Start for this service. For the district to receive categorical aid for services provided to special education students, the provider must meet eligibility requirements for special education reimbursement.

Q5. If the district Superintendent wants to serve all pre-k children in their home schools, how can Special Education, Four Year Old At Risk and Head Start funding be braided or blended to meet this goal?

A5. The cost of the early childhood program would be paid with funds from Special Education, Four Year Old At Risk and Head Start in direct proportion to the percent of children from each source that are participating in the EC

program.

Q6. If a teacher has the appropriate licensure, can one teacher be the special education teacher and the Four Year Old At Risk teacher in the same classroom?

A6. Yes. Categorical aid will be paid on a pro-rated basis based on the number of special education students versus the number of Four Year Old At Risk students.

Q6a. How can the funds be braided/blended in this situation?

A6a. The cost of the program would be paid with funds from Special Education and Four Year Old At Risk in direct proportion to the percent of children from each source that are in the classroom.

Q6b. In cases where the At Risk teacher is also endorsed in special education, can a district apply for categorical aid independent of their cooperative or interlocal if they choose to serve special education students in their local At Risk program?

A6b. Yes

Q7. When Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers and Early Childhood (EC) teachers co-teach in a Four Year Old At Risk or Head Start classroom and there is a ratio of less than 50% of children with disabilities in relation to typically developing peers will categorical aid be pro-rated for the ECSE teacher?

A7. Categorical aid for collaborative EC/ECSE programs will not have categorical aid prorated for the ECSE teacher if following *two criteria* are met:

- 1. The district planning a collaborative EC/ECSE program has submitted the EC/ECSE Collaborative Program form included in the *Special Education Reimbursement Guide* by the date indicated each year; and**
- 2. Program implementation accurately reflects the description provided in the EC/ECSE Collaborative Program form submitted to the state.**

Q7a. Can this co-teaching model be pre-approved for full categorical aid for the ECSE teacher and any special education paraprofessionals placed in the classroom?

A7a. No pre approvals are necessary as funding is based on the two criteria outlined in A7.

Q8. When an ECSE teacher is an itinerant teacher in a Four Year Old At Risk or Head Start classroom and there is a ratio of less than 50% children with disabilities in relation to typically developing peers will the ECSE teacher's categorical aid be pro-rated for his/her time spent delivering services in this setting?

A8. No. If the ECSE teacher is providing special education services in this

setting, categorical aid will not be reduced.

Q9. Is there anything in the Four Year Old At Risk program guidelines that would prohibit the designation of the ECSE teacher as itinerant placing the sole responsibility for the general education teaching on the Four Year Old At Risk Teacher?

A9. No.

Q10. If children with disabilities are placed in a Four Year Old At Risk program and are served by an itinerant ECSE teacher for a set amount of time each week, can the time the child spends in the Four Year Old At Risk program without special education services be reimbursed with Four Year Old At Risk funds?

A10. No. The ECSE teacher generates categorical aid based on her/his FTE not on the amount of service provided per child and Four Year Old At Risk funds are generated by actual child count on September 20. In addition, each child in the program (special education and At Risk) generates .5 FTE of general state aid.

Q11. Can children in Four Year Old At Risk programs serve as peer models in integrated special education classrooms?

A11. Yes. Any child without an IEP may serve as a peer model in an integrated special education classroom.

Q12. Can the Four Year Old At Risk program exceed the recommended number of 17 students in a classroom by adding children with disabilities that are served by an itinerant special education teacher?

A12. Yes. However, the size of the classroom and the number of slots for the Four Year Old At Risk program should be carefully reviewed, as well as the intensity of needs – both for the 4-year-olds and those on IEPs. Some balance must be preserved, so that all children’s needs may be addressed. The teacher must be prepared to meet significant challenges. There may not be more than 20 total children in the classroom (with 2 teachers).

Clarification for Four Year Old At Risk and ECSE Funding

Funding for the Four Year Old At-Risk program is based on the number of identified at risk children in attendance on September 20 and reported in the 9/20 enrollment count. Once districts have been notified that their program has been selected for funding, the approved number of four-year olds attending the district at-risk preschool program must be included in the enrollment counts when calculating the school district’s general fund.

Funding is weighted based on district demographics for at risk children. In addition to the weighted funding, each child that meets the criteria for the At

Risk program on 9/20 generates .5 FTE of Base State Aid per Pupil (BSAPP). While children identified for Head Start and/or Early Childhood Special Education do not generate funds for the at risk program; these children can participate and be included in at risk classrooms. Children with IEPs generate .5 FTE of Base State Aid per Pupil (BSAPP) in addition to special education funds.

SRS Report for State ICC Meeting April 4, 2008

SRS Strategic Plan. The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) rolled out a strategic plan to set the strategic direction for the agency's services and programs in late February 2008. By intentionally stating its focus, SRS aligns staff priorities, program delivery, customer service and policy development more effectively. This plan establishes key goals with accompanying initiatives steering the agency in its desired strategic direction. To accomplish the changes in service delivery and improved customer outcomes, the agency must foster an environment establishing the following values:

- Keep customer outcomes at the core of all efforts;
- Improve productivity nurtured by changes in technology and intentional capacity building of employees;
- Promote innovative and integrated approaches to customer needs (emerging practices);
- Use evidence based (tested, effective) practices to foster success in all arenas (service delivery, operations, customer service, staff development, etc.);
- Empower staff to exercise appropriate professional judgment to serve customers holistically;
- Support customer self determination as the guide for decision making; and
- Demonstrate dignity and respect in all interactions.

To begin the change process, the agency identified ten key strategic initiatives to begin the process of achieving the strategic goals. These strategic initiatives align with four areas of focus and seek to accomplish the strategic goals established. The four primary areas: 1) Communication, 2) Customer Centered Services, 3) Capacity Enhancement and 4) Technology. A team comprised of agency staff (and in some cases other relevant stakeholder representatives) will guide the implementation of each initiative.

EES TAF Work Incentive Enhancement. The reauthorized Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program established stricter work requirements for states by eliminating states' flexibility in defining work activities and increasing the verification requirements of clients' hours counted toward work participation. These changes increased the difficulty of meeting the TANF work participation rates. States may receive a fiscal penalty each year of from 1% to 5% of the TANF block grant for failure to meet the required participation rates. In response to this, effective May 2008 a TAF Work Incentive Enhancement will be implemented which increases of the TAF earnings disregard from 40% to 60% for low income employed families. It will provide transitional assistance when a family member gains employment in the form of

a reduced benefit for the first several months of employment. This Work Incentive Enhancement not only provides extended support to families but also allows the employed families to count towards the state's federally required work participation rate.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT
PART C INFANT-TODDLER SERVICES
APRIL 4, 2008

Tiffany Smith-Birk will begin duties as Kansas' Part C Infant-Toddler Coordinator this month. Tiffany's education and experience is in children's mental health and social welfare. Her current position is with SRS as their Early Childhood Mental Health Technical Assistance Director.

Annual grant information will be distributed to networks on April 14th at a Part C Coordinators' meeting. Unless additional SGF are allocated, dollars available for network SFY '09 grants will remain the same as the current year. Grants will be due to KDHE on May 23rd.

Federal grant dollars to Kansas Part C decreased for the upcoming grant year by \$5968. Total grant estimate is \$3,887.531.

Sometime within the next two weeks, the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) will be providing input on each state's Annual Performance Report. Concerns that will affect a state's determination (e.g., meets expectations, needs assistance, need intervention, needs substantial intervention) will be identified and discussed. Each state then has about 2 weeks to correct and resend before OSEP determinations are completed.

The annual Head Start Collaboration conference will be held on April 25th at the Tallgrass Country Club in Wichita. This conference is planned annually by Head Start, Early Head Start, KSDE Part B, KDHE Part C, Head Start Collaboration and others. Conference topic is blended teaching and braided funding for services.