

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

April 4, 2003

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
<p><i>TOPEKA SITE</i> Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky) Peggy Miksch (representing Secretary Bremby) Robert Tomlinson (representing Commissioner Sandy Praeger) Mark Tremaine, Parent Member</p>	<p>Debby Maxon, Greenbush Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Infant and Toddler Services Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Kathryn Boyd, Three Lakes Infant and Toddler Services Dana Romary, Ottawa/Wellsville Infant and Toddler Services Linda Kenney, KDHE Ed Henry, Clay/Wash/Marshall Infant and Toddler Services Patty Miller, Staff</p>
<p>HAYS SITE: Karla Kenton, Parent Member</p>	
<p>WICHITA SITE: Deb Voth, Rainbows United – Wichita</p>	<p>Debbie Mai, Rainbows United Paco Price, Rainbows United Cayla Wasson, Rainbows United Vanessa Lohf, Sedgwick County Infant and Toddler Services Joyce Trower, Salina Infant and Toddler Services</p>
<p>OVERLAND PARK (REGENTS CENTER): Marnie Campbell, (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Susan Kunard, Johnson County Infant and Toddler Services</p>	<p>Terrell Mann, Wyandotte Infant and Toddler Services Doug Bowman, Coordinator</p>
<p>GARDEN CITY SITE: Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center</p>	<p>Deanna Berry, Russell Child Development Center. Jennifer Tasset, Arrowhead West Infant and Toddler Services</p>
<p>PARSONS SITE: Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities</p>	

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made.

Ellen Mellard moved to approve the draft March 7, 2003, meeting minutes. Seconded by Deb Voth; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Terrell Mann, Wyandotte County, discussed she is searching for resources for Medicaid children not receiving coverage for wheelchair readjustments. Medicaid will not cover readjustments as children get older. Marnie Campbell mentioned assistance through Special Health Services and Assistive Technology Regional Access Sites. You can reach the service by calling 1-800-KAN-DO-IT.

Doug Bowman mentioned he received child care licensing concerns from Kathy Johnson. It has to do with exceptions for children whose developmental age is below the chronological age of peers. We need to follow-up with Kansas Department of Health and Environment colleagues in child care licensing to discuss process. After discussion it was decided to have this issue as an agenda item for the next Council meeting.

DISCUSSION OF FISCAL CRISIS IMPACT ON SERVICES TO YOUNG CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Doug Bowman asked how the budget crisis impacts not only Infant-Toddler services, but also other services. A handout was passed out showing two versions of budget information for the 37 Local *tiny-k* Networks. The budget has been sent to the Governor that includes a \$300,000 increase in tobacco funding for *tiny-k*. This increase was carved out of an increase scheduled to go to SmartStart.

Special education, which is currently 85% of excess cost, will likely be less. Deb Voth asked if the legislators have received feedback from special education directors? Marnie Campbell answered the organization has distributed information.

Sharon Hixson asked about funding for section 619, federal preschool incentive money. Marnie Campbell answered Kansas Department of Education is working on issues around reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. There are side-by-side comparisons out with existing law and the proposed new law. Some issues being considered are a three year Individual Education Plans instead of annual and discipline.

Peggy Miksch stated one proposal being discussed around reauthorization is the parental choice provision that would allow children to stay in Part C from three to five years of age.

Additional topics discussed under reauthorization included a proposal that States would require an evaluation of a child under age three who is involved in a case of child abuse or neglect. Peggy mentioned this could potentially increase the number of referrals and increase costs in terms of child find.

Doctor Dave Lindeman asked about not permanently reauthorizing Section 619. There was some discussion at the federal level which considered not permanently reauthorizing Section 619,

however; recent reports have it back in the law. Some states use Part B money to support preschool programs. Other states use only preschool grant funds for preschool programs. Marnie explained it is up to the locals to determine funding.

Ellen Mellard met with the director of Northeast Kansas Education Service Center to discuss how reductions in funding would affect their *tiny-k* network. They would be cutting back on staff and services, therefore meeting the needs of children is uncertain. Ellen asked how the funding formula is configured and Peggy answered her. Peggy is also looking at issues such as urban versus rural, and variables that may exist. A task force is meeting to come up with recommendations for an equitable funding formula based on data.

Terrell Mann reported Wyandotte County Part C network is losing three certified staff and one classified staff. Ed Henry stated children will be receiving less services with their budget cuts.

Deb Voth stated Rainbows United is taking a big cut too. Ellen Mellard voiced concern of not meeting childrens' needs and is concerned about signing the assurance form. Debby Maxon mentioned if the local sites cannot assure Greenbush that they can provide quality services, then Greenbush is hesitant to sign assurances to Kansas Department of Health and Environment and the feds that quality services are being provided.

Susan Kunard stated for their network, concern is if they do not sign the assurance form then they will not have any money to work with.

Doctor Dave Lindeman raised the issue of providers reducing the number of therapy contacts due to reduced funding. Does this alter the Individual Family Service Plan? Will this occur in larger numbers?

Peggy Miksch explained if we do get the additional \$300,000, this would be same amount of total funding to networks as last year. Peggy asked Doug how per child had been affected? Doug answered last year there was approximately \$6 million sent out to the 37 local networks. The amount of children served went up 6.6% last year. This is half the growth rate historically shown. In the past, the rate of growth has been approximately 12%. The funding per child continues to slide backward.

Deb Voth stated since 1996 the December 1 count, the number of children served has gone up 88% or an average of 12 % annually.

Sharon Hixson asked for discussion concerning the question if we are able to meet the assurances and the state is able to meet assurances with this level of money, what argument do we use to ask for more money? Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned there are also other fixed costs increases, for example, workers compensation and health insurance.

Peggy Miksch stated if assurances are not signed at the state level then federal dollars would not flow. Peggy stated that under the current State system, if local networks do not sign assurances, then the contract will not be approved. In signing assurances it is understood that each Network will comply with requirements as stated under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in

reference to Part C. In response to questions from members of the Interagency Coordinating Council, Peggy will consider taking questions to the federal project officer, that is, historically the local programs have signed statements of assurance of service delivery. If that system were changed, would this be problematic? This would mean the only assurance to Office of Special Education Programs would come from Kansas Department of Health and Environment that services were being provided in accordance with federal law. Linda Kenney mentioned the local signing requirement may come from the state. In several other grants, the assurances are passed through contracts down to local agencies so they understand the federal requirements.

KaAnn Graham, Reno County, stated there are a lot of cuts being made across the state in regular education programs. There are long-standing schools that are closing.

Deb Voth discussed the local networks need to voice concern to legislators now and before they come back next year.

Peggy Miksch will meet with Carolyn Nelson regarding fiscal concerns then possibly follow-up with the federal project officer.

COORDINATOR REPORT

Doug Bowman reminded the Council the Legislators will be back in late April to early May for the Omnibus session.

Doug reminded us the House Appropriations Subcommittees had removed the entire infant-toddler services budget and had several tough questions. The Senate Ways and Means committee report had glowing verbiage and discussed the services we do. Ironically, the House stood firm on its \$300,000 increase to local networks, while the Senate started at level funding. This final budgeted amount with the \$300,000 increase has been forwarded to the Governor for approval.

Doug said we will keep informed as to what future decisions will be made with the tobacco dollars. Special education funds will be slightly lower and disseminated in the same way as always. Doug said in order for the parents as teachers program to work, each local school board needs to come up with a local match. This match may be problematic. Doug stated we need to watch that services for three to five year olds are in the best interest for kids. Also, watch the funding of Social and Rehabilitation Services child care, HealthWave, Medicaid and KAN Be Healthy.

House Bill 2231 which allows schools to charge fees for preschool services has cleared the House and is going to the Senate. Under current law, school districts may charge for child care services.

COMMITTEES

Funding Committee -

Doug reported the Funding Committee met by teleconference prior to the Interagency Coordinating Council meeting. Doug mentioned that categorical aid issues were discussed. Doug reminded the Council that the Governor's budget called for radical changes in special education money, and how it is distributed across the State, but the Legislature (both the House and Senate) has rejected this. The Council needs to discuss what a radical change in special education distribution would mean for services for young children birth through five.

Advocacy -

Doug asked the Council what kind of message do we want to give for legislative alerts in the next week. After discussion, it was decided to thank the legislators for the partial restoration of the funds that were lost in 1999. Doctor Dave Lindeman asked about other resources to help with issues of funding demands on financial resources.

Deb Voth said referrals to Part C for screening of children reported for abuse and neglect will increase the number of screenings and evaluations, which will add to local networks cost. Doug Bowman answered this may happen with the reauthorization. This will have a fiscal note and will have an impact on the local networks. Some members commented that this impact would be hard to estimate because we are most likely already serving a number of these children or these are children who would be referred for evaluation without the change in law.

Doug reported that the Newborn Screening committee will reconvene and prepare for the Fiscal Year 04 session since our proposed bill will be held over until next year.

Parent Involvement-

Doug stated he would like volunteers for the Operations and Parent Involvement committee. Several Council terms will expire in the summer.

Robert Tomlinson informed the Council that if you cannot sign assurances due to the inability of providing services with budgets that are given, to be sure and inform the legislators.

Doug Bowman will draft a legislative update to the local partners that will summarize where we stand when the legislature breaks.

Kathy Johnson, Shawnee County, mentioned testimony from parents to the Ways and Means committee. A handout from Salina was well done and has been shared with other children advocates. Kathy asked if there was a way to get a message to legislators to show a per child cost. Shawnee County figures reflect increase of children served with less money each year.

Joyce Trower, Salina, mentioned figures produced are what they receive per child, but actual cost per child is different. Information to legislators did have for their individual program how much more to break even for the complete cost including the indirect expenses that are allocated to their program.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell
Marnie Campbell's written report is attached (see attachment A).

- 1. Federal Continuous Improvement Monitoring Self-Improvement Plan** -- One of three areas showing "needs improvement" was that Kansas is well below the national average in serving preschoolers with disabilities in typical early childhood settings. Three desired outcomes have been identified to bring about an increase to Kansas percentages of children served in typical settings: (1) Strengthen data for accurate reporting of percentage of

preschoolers served in placement categories, (2) develop and disseminate policies that support increasing the number of children served in typical early childhood settings, and (3) develop a process at the state level for communities to assess early childhood services and implement an improvement plan to increase the percentage of children served in typical early childhood settings using a problem-solving model.

2. No Child Left Behind – Kansas State Department of Education workshops are being provided in various regions.

3. Medicaid/Medicare Teleconference – 233 others and Marnie listened to a teleconference March 31, 2003, concerning the President’s 2004 budget and the New Freedoms Initiatives. The most intriguing proposal was the “rebalancing” plan so that Money Follows the Person, basically a deinstitutionalization program that would be incentive to move people from Kansas mental hospitals into community-based services.

4. Joint Letter from Lynne Owen and Marnie – To clarify the requirements, especially for appropriate funding, for children placed in the 4-year-old at-risk preschool program, Lynne and Marnie co-signed a letter to go to districts along with the grant application package. There is a proposal to include the 4-year-old program as a part of the existing funding formula instead of allotting grant funds each year.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Peggy Miksch for Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson’s written report is attached (see attachment B). Peggy passed out a handout regarding Individuals with Disabilities Education Act reauthorization including an Infant-Toddler Coordinator Association update. See attachment C.

Kansas Department of Health and Education did receive a response to the submission of the October 2002 Self-Assessment from the Office of Special Education Programs. See attachment D. The Office of Special Education Programs determined there was not enough information in the report to assess if Part B is being notified of potential eligible children, if the 90 day meeting occurs and if there are transition goals on the Individual Family Service Plan. Part C was found to be in compliance in all areas.

The Office of Special Education Programs has issued a letter of clarification this month regarding respite care. See attachment E.

Peggy informed the Council Ryan Weir will begin work on April 14, 2003. He is replacing the position vacated by Tracy Wohl.

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Alice Womack

Alice Womack’s written report is attached (see attachment F). The Child Care Industry Study was released at a press conference at the March Forth Event at the Capitol on March 13, 2003. Impact of the study is the recognition of child care as an industry with the Kansas economy.

The Child Care Development Fund is due to the Federal Regional Office in Kansas City in July, 2003. Social and Rehabilitation Services will hold public meetings in Topeka, Kansas, Wichita, Garden City and Salina to receive input on the plan. The first public meeting will be April 24, 2003, during the quarterly child care meeting in Topeka.

Budget planning for Fiscal Year 04 is in progress.

The first statewide Fatherhood Summit is held April 24, 25, 2003 in Manhattan.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Robert Tomlinson

Robert reported the Kansas Insurance Department has education initiatives. Physicians and pharmacists are delivering education for proper use of their services and how this impacts insurance costs. Information will be forthcoming as the programs come to fruition.

Robert Tomlinson reiterated to the Council the need to inform legislators of inadequate funding issues.

Joyce Trower, Salina, reported some families are refusing to allow use of their insurance for billing of physical, occupational and speech language therapy due to the fear of reaching the lifetime cap for rehabilitation and/or any coverage for their child. Some states require that insurance be allowed to be used.

We have discussed a policy that says funding used for reimbursement of these services does birth to three not apply toward lifetime cap until after the child reaches age 3. Robert Tomlinson answered that in cases of a mandate the insurance industry indicates you must present a study that gives potential cost in premium increases and to the implementation of such a mandate.

Doug Bowman will work with Debbie Mai regarding access for the Salina material to the local communities.

Deb Voth will work with their grant writer to look for sources of grant possibilities.

Kathy Johnson mentioned Shawnee County was chosen as one of five in the nation for a community of excellence award.

ADJOURNMENT -

The next meeting will be May 2, 2003, in Topeka, at the Shawnee County Topeka Public Library, 1515 South West 10th, located in the Menninger Room, 2nd floor.