

KANSAS COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD
DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
MINUTES - April 13, 2007 - ICC Meeting at Topeka SRS Learning Center

Attendance:

Richard Martinez, Chair, parent member
Ellen Mellard, provider member
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller
Senator Julia Lynn
Jennifer Rojas, parent member
Alice Womack, SRS rep.
Linda Kenney, KDHE rep.
Colleen Riley, KSE rep.
Scott Brunner, KHPA rep.
Dr. David Lindeman, Regents rep.
John Meetz, Insurance rep.
Susan Carriger, provider member
Julie Broski, parent member
Tifanie Krentz, parent member
Maria Martinez, parent member
Dr. Eva Horn, public member
Dr. Linda Mitchell, public member
Deb Voth, provider member
Tom Laing, public member
Tom Kohmetscher, provider member
Nancy Krase, Head Start rep.
Sharon Hixson, public member

Frieda Noller - USD 259
Anne Aytes – Nurturing Families
Kyle Kessler – SRS
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer -NW Ks
Peggy Miksch – KITS
Kris Grosche – NE Ks ITS
Doug Bowman, CCECDS staff

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Patrick Woods

Richard Martinez called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

Maria Martinez moved approval of the February 23, 2007 minutes as distributed. Tom Laing seconded the motion. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Public Forum: Kathy K-O spoke to us by telephone commenting on the proposed recommendation to the Governor for designated lead agency of Part C of IDEA. She further noted a trend toward a unified approach to delivering services. Kathy supported recommending Education as the lead agency.

Mr. Bowman read a letter from the Special Education Advisory Council. They recommended Education as lead agency.

Executive Committee Report - Doug Bowman reported on the last several meetings. Further information was given on the topic of voting procedures and conflict of interest.

Funding Committee Report - Dave Lindeman reported that the funding committee has been working on categorical aid issues. He read a letter from Interim Commissioner Dale Dennis stating that no changes were expected for Part C networks.

Advocacy Committee Report - Tom Kohmetscher reported on a successful advocacy day for *tiny-k*. It was held on March 13, 2007. About half of the networks were in attendance, contacting over half of the legislators.

Agency Reports – Insurance and KHPA both gave no report, but agreed to jointly present at the May meeting on SB 11. This proposed legislation includes health care reforms under consideration.

Alice Womack reported for SRS. Upcoming public hearings for the state plan in child care were discussed.

Colleen Riley reported for Education. Five candidates have been selected by the Board for further consideration as the new commissioner.

Linda Kenney reported for KDHE. She detailed cuts in the contracts and supports found in the Part C budget, IF the Governor does not approve the \$250,000 increase found in the budget bill currently on her desk for approval.

Doug Bowman gave a legislative report. He detailed some of the items found in the Budget bill on the Governor’s desk. In addition to the \$250,000 increase for Part C, is a similar amount for Parents as Teachers. A \$1.6 Million expansion of Early Head Start is also under consideration.

Many issues were deferred for later consideration when the Legislature returns later in April. Among those items are: more funding for *tiny-k* networks, the Governor’s Healthy Kansas First Five initiative for health care, expansion of the pilot projects for Universal Pre-K services to more communities, special education funding to make up for lost Medicaid revenue, and others.

Mr. Bowman also discussed the status of SB 384. This bill calls for study over the summer by the 2010 Commission on the topic of possibly creating an Office of Early Childhood. The bill seems likely to fail this session, but an interim study is still possible.

Tom Laing made a motion to write a letter to the Legislative Coordinating Council. This letter would state that if a study of early childhood takes place, it should occur in a standing legislative committee – like the Joint Committee on Children’s Issues. Seconded by Senator Lynn. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Task	Who	When
Letter to LICC	Staff	May 4, 2007

Lead Agency Recommendation

Chairman Martinez discussed how he hoped the discussion would proceed.

Alice Womack presented a possible SRS organization chart and spoke to where Part C would fit into SRS. Colleen Riley did the same for Education, sharing an organizational chart and discussing where Part C would fit.

Ellen asked each agency to discuss the fundamental question: “What is Part C?”

Both Colleen and Alice spoke about a system of supports for families. Both spoke about providing technical assistance and supports to the various communities, and the need for autonomy by those locals. Both emphasized the need to maintain local control.

Tiffanie commented on how the lack of resources was most problematic, regardless of who served a state lead agency. Both agreed with her. Colleen further added that the lack of appropriate professionals was also very challenging.

In response to a question from Senator Lynn, both stated they saw no need for additional staff at the state level to administer Part C.

Both have similar process for legislative and budget initiatives. Both reported support for Part C that is strong at the top of each organization.

In response to a question from Dave Lindeman, Alice confirmed that SRS does have current staff with expertise in IDEA services in a child care setting.

Deb Voth commented that transitions at age three years will continue to be a challenge regardless of who is designated lead agency, unless wholesale changes are planned in local networks. Both responded that changes are not expected.

Colleen Riley further commented that the emphasis from the US Department of Education will require further attention to these transitions.

Tom Laing made a motion that we proceed to vote. The motion was seconded by Senator Lynn. Motion Passed Unanimously.

Linda Mitchell made a motion that we use the paper ballots prepared by staff, BUT that we disregard any options other than Abstain/KSDE/SRS. Tom Laing seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

The vote for making a recommendation to Governor Sebelius on the matter of designating a state lead agency for Part C of IDEA was as follows:

FOR SRS

Scott Brunner
Susan Carriger
Linda Kenney
Tom Kohmetscher
Nancy Krase
Tiffani Krentz
Tom Laing
Maria Martinez
Richard Martinez
John Meetz
Melody McCray Miller
Jennifer Rojas
Alice Womack
Deb Voth

FOR KSDE

Julie Broski
Sharon Hixson
Eva Horn
David Lindeman
Julia Lynnz
Ellen Mellard
Linda Mitchell
Colleen Riley

NOTE: at a later ICC meeting this vote total was reduced by one – to comply with ICC ByLaws

The recommendation will go forward to the Governor based on a 14-8 vote for SRS.

Chairman Martinez thanked everyone for their support. He made special mention of all the agency staff members who devoted much time to providing information.

Meeting Adjourned. Next ICC Meeting will be May 4th in Topeka