

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

December 6, 2002

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
<p>Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber) Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky) Deb Voth, Rainbows United, Wichita Julie Stell (representing Commissioner Sebelius) Representative Ethel Peterson Senator Karin Brownlee Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Maria Martinez, Parent Member Karla Kenton, Parent Member Mark Tremaine, Parent Member Susan Kunard, Johnson</p>	<p>Terrell Mann, Wyandotte County Peggy Miksch, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Children, Youth and Families Kim Strunk, Developmental Disability Council Kathy Boyd, Osage County Benith McPherson, Rainbows Paco Price, Rainbows United Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff</p>

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made. Ellen Mellard moved to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from November 1, 2002, after a few minor changes made on page five. Seconded by Deb Voth; passed unanimously.

Sharon Hixson congratulated Representative Ethel Peterson on her victory re-election to the House of Representatives.

PUBLIC FORUM

There was no presentation. Sharon Hixson expressed appreciation for the document (additional to the minutes) summarizing the Council meeting with one page of highlights. We will continue to mail out the highlights unless directed otherwise.

USE OF COUNCIL RESOURCES

Doug Bowman passed out a handout (see attachment A). The meetings that Doug attends are grouped by Quarterly, Bi-Weekly, Monthly, Annual and Occasional meeting attendance. The meetings marked as ** Doug serves as Legislative Liaison, in some capacity. Those meetings marked ## Doug will cease attending.

Deb Voth reiterated concern that Doug's participation in meetings should be the representation given at meetings by Doug is focused on birth to five children with special needs and not

legislative process. Carolyn Nelson suggested that for the meetings listed with the double asterisk, Doug is looked at as the State Interagency Coordinating Council representative. Marnie Campbell stated Doug's attendance at the Kansas Division for Exceptional Children Board and the Education Stakeholders meetings is to represent the State Interagency Coordinating Council.

Maria Martinez asked how many of these organizations are aware of the State Interagency Coordinating Council agenda. Would they benefit from coming to our meeting? Doug stated we could send out the agenda electronically upon request. Interagency Coordinating Council staff and Council members will be asked to prepare a written report of their representation of the Council at various meetings they have attended during the month.

RECENT BUDGET CUTS

Carolyn Nelson reported the Governor's proposal for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to satisfy the shortfall in the current year (2003) budget required a transfer from the Division of Environment into the State General Fund of \$500,000 in Solid Waste Management funds and \$500,000 in Waste Tire Management funds. Kansas Department of Health and Environment must come up with an additional General Fund cut of \$1,098,834. The Division of Health will absorb either a large proportion or all of the additional cuts. This may include tiny-k: Kansas Early Intervention Services. Secretary Graeber and Doctor Michael Moser have not yet announced the programs in Health that will receive the cuts.

Alice Womack, Social and Rehabilitation Services, passed out a handout for Social and Rehabilitation Services budget cuts (see attachment B). The Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services responds to allotment, cuts budget by \$26.6 million. Total eligibility reduction of \$1.4 million state general funds. For early education programs, these cuts were projected early with amendments made to grants already. The largest impact now is the reduction of child care eligibility from 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level to 150 percent Federal Poverty Level. Social and Rehabilitation Services is in the process of notifying the field, so families will have a 30 day notice rather than the required 10 day notice. Early HeadStart took a \$300,000 dollar cut. It is imminent there will be layoffs at Social and Rehabilitation Services.

Doug Bowman added there were other substantial cuts within Social and Rehabilitation Services including, mental health centers, Community Developmental Disability Organizations, HealthWave premiums and Waiver Programs.

Marnie Campbell reported Dale Dennis announced 1,000 teachers have lost their jobs since last school year. The Budget Director recommended that Special Education, including the infant-toddler and Preschool categorical aid be reduced from the current 85% to 75% reimbursement. Cuts in the agency operations fund amount to 9%. Positions will not be refilled after vacant.

Deb Voth talked about how the budget cuts impact those at the local level, using Rainbows as an example. The projection from education would amount to \$150,000 cut to the birth to five program. Sedgwick county funding has been cut by \$2 million in state aid. The child care subsidy will be lost for some kids, in those currently inclusive environments will lose those placements. Social and Rehabilitation Services cuts will also result in fewer staff dealing with more families in severe crisis situations.

Deb Voth discussed the budget cut impact on Wichita State University, as it implements developing a curriculum for teacher licensing. With additional budget cuts this will be challenging. Deb made a motion the State Interagency Coordinating Council write a letter of support to Wichita State University Dean of Education and all other Universities. This letter would support the benefits of the new combined curriculum in early childhood and special education. It will emphasize improved teaching practice for children from birth to five. Seconded by Marnie Campbell; passed unanimously.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson
Carolyn Nelson handed out a copy of her report (see attachment C). The Federation for Children with Special Needs received notification that their National Parent Leadership Development Project for Interagency Coordinating Councils has been funded by the United States Department of Education for three years beginning on October 1, 2002. The Institutes support state team building and help teams identify collaboration activities with key organizations within and between states.

Peggy Miksch reported that the Council requested that Kansas Department of Health and Environment work to establish a statewide identity for the 37 Infant-Toddler Networks. From a list of twelve recommendations, it was decided to adopt the name tiny-k. The State office will use the name: tiny-k: Kansas Early Intervention Services. Local networks have the option of using the name as the State offices or using their own name and attaching the tiny-k as appropriate for their community.

Peggy Miksch attended the 2002 Office of Special Education Programs National Early Childhood Conference. It was emphasized at the conference that it is the responsibility of Part C Coordinators to maximize every funding stream in order to meet the needs of infants and toddlers with developmental delays. Peggy requested the Council to consider revisiting the issue of asking private insurance companies in Kansas to provide monetary support for tiny-k: Early Intervention Services.

Susan Kunard indicated that Johnson County tiny-k has been successful asking parents to sign permission forms that enable Johnson County to bill insurance companies for some direct services. Greenbush has been contracted to do the private insurance billing for the Johnson County Network.

Carolyn Nelson asked everyone to mark their calendars for the September 25-26, 2003 statewide Infant-Toddler Mental Health Conference. It will be held in Wichita. Cards will be sent out early next year, with registration information following in May or June 2003.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell
Marnie handed out the report for Kansas State Department of Education (see attachment D). Marnie passed out a handout on Good Start, Grow Smart (see attachment E). The Bush Administration's Good Start, Grow Smart initiative ("No Child Left Behind" for Younger Children) addresses three major areas: 1) Strengthening Head Start, 2) Partnering with States to

Improve Early Childhood Education, 3) Providing Information to Teachers, Caregivers and Parents. The Federal Departments of Health and Human Services (Head Start and Child Care Bureaus) and Education (Early Childhood Programs) set up four Early Childhood Academies. Programs from Texas and Florida presented basic Early Childhood information for birth to five. In limited state planning time, states were asked to fill out a survey to see if they had content standards for birth to five, consistent with K-12 standards. Kansas does not have content standards in early childhood, but has K-12 standards. In the announcement of the academies, it was stated that Federal/State programs provide more than \$18B/year to fund pre-K.

The Student Support Services' retreat is scheduled for December 9th and 10th. The focus will be on how to respond to new requirements resulting from No Child Left Behind, and potential restructuring.

The Early Childhood Higher-Education Options consortium continues to meet monthly, as does the 2-Year College group.

The statewide team developing a School Readiness definition with accompanying indicators has written a proposal to the Kauffman Foundation for funding to bring in consultants to help with the conceptual framework and to be sure the indicators will actually measure what's important.

Marnie handed out the Kansas Inservice Training System newsletter (see attachment F).

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES Services REPORT - Alice Womack
Alice elaborated on the Early Childhood Academies stating the emphasis of the Child Care Bureau, the State Plan beginning in July 2003 would have mandates that states would be mandated to have school readiness activities in professional development as part of the State Plan.

Alice handed out the Social and Rehabilitation Services report (see attachment G). Alice attended the Third National Meeting for School Readiness that was located in Rhode Island. As a result of the meeting an advisory group of the six members was formed to work on finalizing the school readiness indicators that have been developed, aligning indicators with K-12 standards, and gaining buy-in key agency heads for implementation/piloting of indicators.

Alice mentioned the 2002 Market Rate Survey of child care providers in Kansas is nearing completion. Future child care rate adjustments will be based on the results of the survey.

Social and Rehabilitation Services is in the process of responding to a \$26.6 million budget cut.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Julie Stell
Julie Stell reported Sandy Praeger will be the new Insurance Commissioner. Robert Tomlinson will be the new Assistant Commissioner.

COMMITTEE REPORT - Deb Voth
Deb Voth reported from the Funding Committee. A survey was mailed out to the 37 local networks asking about funding. A report will be generated after surveys have responded.

Deb Voth recommended that the Council write a letter to the Kansas Congressional delegation Congressmen asking for their support for a federal increase for funding of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act with a specific emphasis upon Part C and Section 619.

Deb Voth recommended that the Council write a letter regarding reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, particularly permanent authorization of Part C and maintaining the integrity of Section 619, preschool component of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Deb Voth recommended the Council write a letter regarding the federal budget and assuring adequate resources are invested in critical (and mandated) services.

Deb Voth made motion that the above mentioned letters be written. Seconded by Susan Kunard; passed unanimously.

Deb Voth made motion the Council to proceed with the legislative request that tiny-k receive the same level of funding that three to five year generate based on .5 of base per pupil amount, and that the Council send a letter to federal office of special education programs, if funding cuts result in the violation of the maintenance of effort provision in federal law. Seconded by Maria Martinez; passed unanimously with Carolyn Nelson abstaining.

COORDINATOR REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman passed out the Newborn Infant Developmental Screening proposal (see attachment H). Doug reported a taskforce has been working on a universal system of screening newborns for developmental disabilities factors. Doug Bowman met with Doctor Chet Johnson and the Assistant Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Doctor Lorne Phillips is understanding of the intent, and will not oppose our efforts. Maria Martinez made a motion to begin the process to introduce a bill of universal screenings of newborns with developmental factors. A list would be generated once a month from a data base of infants, which is generated from birth certificates, that have low APGAR scores. A letter would be mailed out to the parents. Seconded by Susan Kunard; passed unanimously.

Doug Bowman discussed the issue of local schools being able to charge a fee for preschool services. There should be no fiscal impact on the state. Ellen Mellard made a motion to pursue a bill to allow schools to charge for preschools. Seconded by Representative Ethel Peterson; passed unanimously.

Doug Bowman passed out a list for committees and taskforces for those to sign up if interested.

Doug passed out the Council 2003 meeting schedule (see attachment I).

Doug passed out a letter sent to Governor-Elect Sebelius congratulating her and informing her of the Council and its activities (see attachment J). There will be a follow-up meeting in the next week or two.

Doug discussed the 2003 Public Policy Strategies. This document highlights that all legislative actions will be monitored along with federal and state activities.

Doug discussed the Strategic Plan for calendar year 2003. Sharon Hixson states this is reflective of what the Council is working on. Carolyn Nelson made a motion to approve the strategic plan as drafted and the public policy strategies. Seconded by Mark Tremaine; passed unanimously.

Doug Bowman and Maria Martinez attended the 2002 Office of Special Education Programs National Early Childhood Conference. Kansas is above average, and listening to what the challenges other states are facing, we are thankful for the progress we have made.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

The next meeting will be January 10, 2003, from 9:00 am to 12:00 am, located in Topeka by Interactive Television, Landon State Office Building, Room 855-S.