

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

MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2007

Topeka and ITV

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member
Susan Carriger, Provider Member

Sharon Hixon, Public Member
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE Representative
Tom Laing, Public Member
Alice Womack, SRS Representative
John Meetz, KS Insurance Department
Gayle Stuber, KSDE Representative
Nancy Krase, Provider Member
Dr. Letitia Holub-Taylor, Provider Member
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Senator Julia Lynn, Senate
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller, House
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Scott Brunner, KHPA Representative
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PARSONS

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Regents Rep.

MEMBERS PRESENT IN HAYS

Maria Martinez, Parent Member

MEMBERS PRESENT IN CLEARWATER

Deb Voth, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, Senior Admin. Assistant

Carolyn Weinhold, HSSCO/SRS
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE Representative
Vera Stroup-Rentier, TARC
Nancy Jefferson, Cloud Co, IT OCCK
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co, TARC
Julie Deal, Cloud Co, Infant-Toddler
Patty Gray, KSDE
Kendall Burr, Wyandotte Co, ITS
Anne Aytes, Nurturing Families, Inc.
Bobbi Mariani, SRS
Jennifer Crow, KS Coalition
 For School Rediness
Ryan Weir, KDHE
Joe Porting, KDHE
Peggy Miksch, KITS

DODGE CITY UNAVAILABLE

Technical problems

NON-MEMBER PRESENT IN HAYS

Doug Greer, Hays Children's Center
Kathy Kerstenbrock-Ostmeyer, N.W. KS

NON-MEMBERS IN CLEARWATER

Rita Rice
Debbi Mai, Butler County

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Tom Laing moved and Sharon Hixon seconded that the minutes of November 2, 2007 be adopted as written. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kendall Burr spoke representing Wyandotte County Infant-Toddler and wanted to bring to the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), as a point of information, some struggles and challenges related to categorical aid funding. They are still working through appropriate channels and do not want to jeopardize any discussions that they are having and hopeful for a good resolution. They did receive notice, as a result of the audit, to pay back about \$124,000 of categorical aid funds. The audit was appealed and was denied. They continue to work with the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) and are hopeful for a good resolution.

Sharon Hixon commented that the Funding Committee has addressed these concerns. Note the Funding Committee report found below.

Linda Mitchell offered a thank you from both Julie Broski and herself who were supported in going to the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) Conference in Washington, D.C. It was their first time to attend that conference and they thoroughly enjoyed it. She noted how many parents were in attendance. She and Julie are going to share some things about this trip in January.

KDHE PRESENTATION

Ryan Weir and Joe Porting of KDHE provided copies of the KDHE plan for the Local Program Determination Process. As part of the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) monitoring process they have a new system for the determination of state status in implementation of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This system will be used on the national level for every state and territory. OSEP requires states to use this process at the local level. The determination levels are a series of indicators that evaluates Kansas and other territories and states in the implementation of IDEA requirements. Each state is required to categorize local agencies into one of four categories: Meets Requirements, Needs Assistance, Needs Intervention, or Needs Substantial Intervention. Beyond that, there are not yet substantial guidelines as to how local programs are to be categorized. Ryan described the process Kansas is utilizing in expectation of feedback from those present at the meeting today. The work to develop a process for Kansas began with a small task force that included three Part C local coordinators, an ICC member, Families Together, and a representative from Kansas In Service Training System (KITS). They developed a rubric as a tentative outline.

The Kansas Department of Health & Environment (KDHE) will use the rubric for each of the local programs, then compare it to the State Target and determine whether that target was met. Basically, then it would be known if the performance target was met or not met. Of the 14 indicators, those not met are added up and the total number of not met rankings then determines the overall network determination. A zero score equals meets requirements, 1-4 equals needs assistance, 5-8 equals needs intervention, and 9 or more, needs substantial intervention.

KDHE staff then took the planned process to the second stakeholders group for input. This second group asked that the sources of information for the data be included. That was the only major change made by the second group. The Council had several questions and some comments were made. On December 21, 2007, this information will be posted on the KDHE Website.

Task	Who	When
Post on KDHE Website	Ryan Weir	December 21, 2007
Data on Local Networks		

INTERIM COMMITTEE REPORTS

Doug Bowman reported that the Autism Task Force's preliminary report had been submitted to the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC). This report asked for more resources for the Tiny-K system. In answer to a question, he clarified that the recommendation is specifically designated for high cost intensive services.

Tom Laing suggested that the Council invite the Autism Task Force Chair, Mr. Bill Craig, to our January ICC Meeting. Consensus was unanimous to invite him to come to the January 2008 meeting.

Peggy Miksch, of KITS, asked for any suggestions of autism research, to be added to the review process. The Best Practice Sub-Committee will be examining research on which to base recommendations regarding best practices for intervention.

A consensus decision was made to send questions regarding autism issues to the Advocacy Committee, with the offer of additional help from Dr. Dave Lindeman, Tom Laing, and Dr. Letitia Holub-Taylor, to gather these issues and make recommendations.

The LEPC also finalized their interim report. Included, was a draft resolution to be introduced next January urging the Governor to name Education as the lead agency for Part C of IDEA.

The House Appropriations and the Senate Ways and Means Committee will meet December 17, 2007, for a sneak preview of budget requests from state agencies.

CCECDS COMMITTEE REPORTS

Nancy Krase reported for the Advocacy Committee. Concerns were raised around information available to 36 local network coordinators on the Autism Medicaid Waiver.

SRS sent out an email to the Developmental Disabilities (DD) Providers about the Medicaid Waiver. Doug Bowman will forward this to Part C networks, Gayle Stuber will forward to Education, Carolyn Weinhold will forward to the Head Start Community.

A date for Tiny-K Day will be set soon for 2008 and work will begin on enhancing the tiny-K Name.

Dave Lindeman reported for the Funding Committee. He reported that KSDE had responded to a letter sent to them regarding recent audits conducted by the agency. Two issues were addressed – travel time and response time for audit exceptions. KSDE is in the process of clarifying travel time and categorical aid reimbursement. The agency is making adjustments to the current year's Reimbursement Guide to be posted on the agency website. KSDE noted that the response time issue appears to have been an issue of responding to the auditor prior to the ending of the audit and the auditor leaving the site and not an issue of time to respond following the audit. He also talked about additional funding enhancements for children aged 3 to 5, in addition to tiny-K.

Maria Martinez reported for the Partnership Committee. They have met and discussed their intent for improving informal communications with Partners and others by inviting each other to meetings, sharing information about their work, so that everyone is more informed.

COALITIONS

Mr. Bowman reported that the Coalition for School Readiness includes several ICC members. Big Tent Coalition has also included an increase for tiny-K as part of its advocacy agenda.

Carolyn Weinhold asked about ICC relationships with Kansas Action for Children. Doug Bowman answered that the relationship was informal.

Jennifer Crow gave an update of activities for the Coalition for School Readiness. Their Advocacy Council will meet next week with Sharon Hixon and Tom Laing in attendance.

She also reported on recent conversations with Speaker of the House Melvin Neufield. He visited Rainbow's United last month. Jennifer commended Rainbow's on their ability to demonstrate coordination of various early childhood programs. Representative Neufield seems to have a heightened interest in the birth to three age range. The Coalition will be meeting with Senate President Steve Morris next week.

The Coalition continues its work on long range cost estimates for early learning programs and is attempting to convince the Governor to accept them. Although Tiny-K data was not considered until late into this process, it should still be incorporated. Jennifer also reported that the Governor's budget recommendations for early childhood might be released early before the State of State address.

The Coalition is working to engage the Kansas Chamber of Commerce and will meet with them next week.

AGENCY REPORTS

Gayle Stuber of KSDE gave out handouts about the Expanding Opportunities Initiative, the Vision statement, and will email it to anyone else who needs it. They have had several meetings, developed an action plan to help in the state's efforts to make inclusion a part of all our work. This initiative provides assistance to the state – it is not a grant. This Vision-Mission will be shared at the Early Childhood Assistance Planning trainings to be held sometime in late January through February 2008, at different locations. The Kansas Early Learning Standards are out and also available. They are also taking training to university faculty members through the Early Childhood Higher-Education Organization (ECHO).

Carolyn Weinhold reported for SRS starting with the introduction of Bobbi Mariani of SRS as the new SRS representative to the Council and will now replace Alice at future ICC meetings. SRS and the Child Care Bureau will have a meeting in St. Louis next June with KDHE, Head Start groups, and several others. She also announced a Child Care Specialist has been hired at CCB. KDHE has consulted with SRS about Wyandotte County and current childcare services. They have been working with the local ICC to enhance quantity and quality of childcare.

John Meetz had no report from the Kansas Insurance Department.

Carolyn Nelson of KDHE reported about an effort to enhance early childhood mental health. There are 7 selected sites receiving small grants to coordinate services.

Our next meeting will be Friday, January 11, 2008 in Topeka, at the State Department of Education and at various Interactive ITV sites throughout Kansas.

**Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services Report
for the
Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
December 7, 2007**

Introduction of New SRS Representative to ICC

Bobbi Mariani, Director of EES is the new ICC representative from SRS replacing Alice Womack who is retiring on December 14, 2008. Bobbi has been the EES Director since March, 2003 and is that capacity oversees child care and all of the other early childhood programs housed within SRS.

Child Care Bureau Updates

Region V and Region VI will sponsor a joint "Partners Meeting" in St. Louis in June, 2008 to allow state teams (SRS, KSDE, KDHE, KACCRRRA, KHSA) to work on professional development planning and how it, together with licensing regulation supports the state's QRS system. SRS will formally invite partners when more information is received.

After school care is a now an area that the Child Care Bureau plans to focus on more intently. A school-age specialist, Bob Le Valle has been hired by the Child Care Bureau to facilitate this work.

Professional Development Planning

SRS is convening a workgroup to begin developing an interagency plan for professional development for child care providers. This is both a Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) State Plan requirement and a piece of the larger Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Plan. The plan will be developed in coordination with Jackie Counts at KU, the developer of the KECCS plan.

Wyandotte County Child Care Issue

KDHE, KACCRRRA and SRS staff have held several meetings to discuss child care issues in Wyandotte County and how state staff might assist. The issues surfaced at the KDHE BEST Team Listening Tours and through the Kansas City Early Head Start Program. According to KDHE data on availability of child care in relationship to the population needing these services, Wyandotte County has a need for additional child care providers. There is also a concern about the quality of existing programs. Plans are to have the local ICC convene community leaders and child care/early childhood programs and providers to discuss the issues and come up with solutions to address availability and quality of care. KDHE, SRS and R & R/KACCRRRA will also participate.

Improper Authorizations for Payment in Child Care Program

SRS has received Child Care Bureau approval to proceed with the quality control reviews of the Child Care Assistance Program that will result in establishment of an error rate for that program. Kansas is in round one of the federal quality control review project for child care subsidy programs nationwide. All states will be required to complete reviews

every three years, report results to the Child Care Bureau and submit corrective action plans for error rate improvement. States are also required to pay the Child Care Bureau for the federal share of any overpayments collected out of the current period/fiscal year of original payment.

MEETING ADJOURNED

Alice Womack's Retirement Party followed with well wishes from everyone.