

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

**December 15, 2006
Kansas Department of Education**

Welcome

Topeka Site

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Scott Bruner, Kansas Health Policy Authority
Representative
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Interim Commissioner Dale Dennis, Education
Secretary Gary Daniels, SRS
Richard Morrissey, KDHE Representative
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
Dr. Dave Lindeman, Regents Representative
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
John Meetz, Kansas Insurance Department
Richard Martinez - Chair, Parent Member
Ellen Mellard, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Kerry Ottlinger, KSDE
Patty Gray, KSDE
Mason Vosburgh, KSDE
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Jennifer Crow, Governor's Representative
Representative Melody Miller, House Member
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Julie Broski, Parent Member

HAYS SITE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member

NON MEMBERS PRESENT

Susan Bowles, EL Co.
Mary Ellen, CI Co.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Kyle Kessler, SRS
Doug Bowman, CCECDS Coordinator
Brenda Kipers, Secretary
Bill Craig, Lakemary
Mary Ann Keating, TARC
Ed Henry, Twin Valley
Dawn M. O'Brien, Leavenworth tiny-k
Ann Aytes, Leavenworth, tiny-k
Peggy Miksch, Geary County ITS
Carol D. Stewart
Marcia K. Corey, Retired ECSE
Mary Schultz, Reno Co. Infant/Toddler Program
Jennifer Harris, RN, Kid-Screen, L.C.
Michelle Ponce, SRS
Bobbi Marriani, SRS
Lorraine Bockorny, Rainbows United
Lesli Girard, Families Together
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee County ITS
Donna White, TARC
Cathie Huchins, TARC
Ed Stewart, NEKESC
Lori Eigenman, TARC
Mary Caffrey, Marysville Co. ITS
Mike Bilderback, Wamego Special Ed Coop.
Debby Maxon, SEKESC
Michelle Luppen, Marysville Co. ITS
Bob Scott, Coffey Co. Sp. Ed. Coop.
Jennifer Barnhart, Three Lakes
Amy Herring, Wyandotte Co. ICC
Kim Strunk, KS Council on DD
Kimberly Shaw, Wyandotte Sp Ed Coop.
Claudia Shannon, Wyandotte Sp Ed Coop.
Larry Meyer, Greenbush
Dana Romary, Ottawa/Wellsville IT
Ralph Bencham, Greenbush
Lona Foust, Riley Co ITS
Alice Walker SRS
Margy Hornback, KSDE
Colleen Riley, KSDE

Doug Greer, Hays Area Ch. Ctr.
Jim Johnson, BT Co.
Anita Delke, SH. Co.
Andrea Ziegler, SH Co.
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, NW KS. Ed. Svc. Ctr.
Kathy Cork, RS Co.
Becky Rogowski, EL Co.
Vicki Runge, DSNWK

LENEXA SITE

NO ICC MEMBERS PRESENT

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

List not available

WICHITA SITE

MEMBERS PRESENT

Nancy Krase, Provider Member
Linda Mitchell, Public Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Marla Flentze
Susan Sipe
Bob Coleman
Frieda Noller
Shonda Hayes
Deb Voth
Lee Paco Price
Debbie Mai
Chelie Nelson
Nancy Kessinger
Vickie Burgess McArthur
Susan Harsh
Stephanie Harder

WICHITA SITE

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Suzanne Chapel-Miller
Connie Phillips
Kay Bartal
Carla hines
Nancy Juhlin
Roxanne Brotsky

DODGE CITY SITE

MEMBERS PRESENT

None

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Tasset, Director Arrowhead West (Part C)
Deanna Berry, Director Russell Child Dev. (Part C)
Shirley Goldsberry, SKACD #613 Asst. Director
Mike Miller, SKACD #613 Director
Barb Johanssen, SKACD #613//AWI Health
Marda Hastings, USD 443 Early Head Start/P.A.T.
Joyce Kaup, ECSC Arrowhead West, Inc.
Fran Brownell, ECI Arrowhead West, Inc.

LAWRENCE

Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member

Chairman Martinez welcomed everyone. Introductions were made of the Council members present
CCECDS-December 15, 2006

in Topeka and in various sites around the state.

Ellen moved that the minutes from December 1st be approved with an edit to the list of those in attendance. Tiffanie seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Chairman Martinez emphasized that today's meeting will be for the purpose of gathering information, and not to make a final decision. He asked that everyone strive to be positive, and to focus on the goal of serving young children and families. Because of the number of persons wishing to speak, we will limit everyone to three minutes each. Finally, anyone wishing to provide written comments can do so. Staff will distribute.

Answers to specific questions may not be available today. Questions will be gathered and answers will be widely distributed.

SRS PRESENTATION

Secretary Daniels started by commenting on how he sees Infant-Toddler Services and the ICC as being consistent with the broader SRS mission. He particularly likes the emphasis upon early intervention, prevention, and the family-centered aspects.

Roughly 85% of the SRS budget flows to local service providers for the delivery of direct services to over 150,000 Kansans. Recent history has shown effective advocates have been successful in garnering enhanced appropriations.

The Governor will likely announce in January a Medicaid waiver for young children with autism spectrum disorders. Secretary Daniels believes this is just the first step in acquiring additional resources for many Kansas children through the creation of a universal Medicaid waiver for all children being served by Part C.

Alice Walker then discussed a document detailing the SRS proposal (See Attached). She complimented the current Part C staff for the good work done to date. Alice also called for continued collaboration regardless of what the Governor decides.

The SRS proposal called for no changes in the relationship with local *tiny-k* networks.

In response to a question, Secretary Daniels spoke to the support of the new Secretary Don Jordan.

EDUCATION PRESENTATION

Acting Commissioner Dale Dennis spoke to the importance of Part C. Our decisions should ultimately be: what is right for our children. Commissioner Dennis stated that it would be advantageous for Part C to be a part of Part B where these children will be for much of the next 18 years. Staff is established to assure accountability. He further stated that future, federal regulations for Part C will be closely "aligned with" those for Part B.

Commissioner Dennis also pointed out that state categorical aid was one of the largest sources of revenue for Part C services. The 2006 Legislature has already set the appropriation for education for the next two years. Special education reimbursement is estimated to increase \$1,500 per teacher for each of the next two years. With the recent court settlement, it is unlikely that future legislatures will change this.

Commissioner Dennis then briefly commented on the recent letter written to the ICC from the 2010 Commission. (See Attached)

Dr. Margy Hornback, Colleen Riley, and Gayle Stuber then presented on the proposal from the CCECDS-December 15, 2006

State Department of Education. (See Attached)

Ms. Riley began by giving some background on herself. Dr. Hornback spoke to the leadership provided by the KSDE staff. Assurances were given that nothing will change at the community level in regards to revenue streams and local lead agency designation.

Dr. Hornback complimented KDHE and its staff for the building of the Infant-Toddler networks within the communities.

KSDE does believe that providing early intervention services to young children should NOT require the assignment of diagnostic labels.

Due to the sudden onset of this opportunity, KSDE will work to engage collaborative partners in the creation of a transition plan for changing lead agency. Stakeholder input is critical to a successful transition outcome.

Gayle Stuber spoke of recent work on developing early learning guidelines. Our basic principles include: parents and families are crucial to early learning, every child is born ready to learn, and every environment is a learning environment.

Ms. Riley commented again on the categorical aid revenues (over seven million dollars) accessed by Part C providers. She further commented that KSDE has supported the State ICC and the Make A Difference Information Network, as well.

KSDE is ready, willing, and able to become the lead agency for Part C. They have been a partner, and will continue to be a partner, regardless of the Governor's decision.

In response to a question, both KSDE and SRS assured that there are no current plans to change revenue streams.

In response to another question, KSDE noted that the federal regulations to implement the 2004 re-authorization of IDEA as it relates to Part C are not now available.

PUBLIC FORUM

Bill Craig, CEO of Lakemary Center, serves four Eastern Ks counties as lead agency for Part C and father of an adult son with disabilities. When his agency took over the program from the local school system, the number of children identified for services rose dramatically. He supports SRS as state lead agency.

Connie Phillips, of El Dorado, spoke about collaborations and maximizing various resources. She supports SRS as lead agency as state lead agency.

Suzanne Chapel-Miller, of Rainbows United in Wichita, spoke about early brain research. She supports SRS as state lead agency.

Marla Mack Flentje, of Wichita, had served on the first Council two decades ago and gave us an historical perspective. The original decision was specifically NOT to designate Education as state lead agency. She suggested the current Council follow that same logic, and recommends SRS.

Jennifer Barnhart, Director of Special Education for Three Lakes and local lead agency for Osage and part of Franklin counties. Dr. Barnhart spoke highly of the KSDE staff and the efficiencies to be gained by a seamless system of services. She supports KSDE as state lead agency.

Peggy Miksch, Geary County Infant-Toddler Services, was encouraged about the positive solutions

and collaborations being discussed. As former Part C Coordinator, she wanted to affirm the strengths of the existing *tiny-k* local networks. Ms. Miksch submitted some questions that she wants to be addressed, but offered no recommendation to the Council.

Mike Bilderback, of Special Services of Wamego and local lead agency for Wabaunsee and Pottawatomie counties, spoke of his concerns that parents may choose to withdraw from ITS services because of the commonly held perceptions of SRS. He supports Education as state lead agency.

Larry Meyer, of Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, which provides support services to seven local networks, spoke of the continuity of a single agency. He supports Education as state lead agency.

Debby Maxon, also of Southeast Kansas Education Service Center, spoke about the efficiency of one agency. She supports Education as state lead agency.

Dana Romary, of Ottawa-Wellsville ITS, spoke about how much easier transitions would be for families at age three. He supports Education as state lead agency.

Kathy Johnson, of Shawnee County ITS and parent of an adult daughter with disabilities, spoke about how recent years have seen their child counts double while funding has decreased. She urges the Governor to consider that we would appreciate assurances of the following needs: for local control, for equal access to revenues, for more training, for strong collaborations, and for effective advocacy. She made no recommendations.

Robert Coleman, representing Region VI of Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators, relayed the conversation from last week's KASEA meeting. He lauded the KSDE staff for their presentation, their expertise, and enthusiasm. Schools are a gathering place, where families are at ease. He supports Education as state lead agency.

Amy Herring, Chair of the Wyandotte County LICC, spoke to the continuity of having one agency. She supports Education as state lead agency.

Andrea Ziegler, of Hoxly and the parent of a child receiving *tiny-k* services, is very pleased with the care provided for her daughter and family. Recently, she began working in the school system, and is very impressed by the professionals. She supports Education as state lead agency.

Vicki Burgess McCarther, of KCSL in Wichita and Chair of the LICC, spoke to how hard this decision is. She commended SRS for their "person first" services, their advocacy, and collaborations around Early Head Start. She supports SRS for as state lead agency.

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, represents Region VIII of KASEA, is Coordinator of Infant-Toddler for eleven counties, and is the parent of a child with disabilities. She spoke of the need for a seamless approach, and commended the support KSDE has shown to services for young children. She supports Education as state lead agency.

Lorraine Bockorney, CEO of Rainbows United, serving Sedgwick and Butler counties and parent of an adult son with disabilities, spoke of the need for everyone to collaborate. She commended the Governor for understanding the need for a change, and noted that the majority of states choose an agency other than Education to serve as lead agency. She supports SRS as state lead agency.

Marcia Correy, of Hutchinson, spoke of her concern for parents. They understand, trust, and are most comfortable with Education. She supports Education as state lead agency.

DISCUSSION

In response to a question, Dr. Hornback spoke to the accountability that exists when an outside entity holds any organization to its stated goals.

Ms. Mellard expressed extreme delight that so much attention was being given to the topic of early intervention. She also was interested in the concept of a co-lead agency.

There was some discussion around our timelines. (Subsequent communications with the Governor's office was for the Council to take whatever time is necessary to make a strong recommendation). It seems prudent to NOT drag this out forever.

In response to a question, Dr. Hornback spoke to the importance of gathering input from stakeholders and providers before crafting a transition plan.

Dr. Horn suggested that we synthesize the information from today's presentations and testimony. A list of further questions could then be presented to the two agencies.

Tom Kohmetscher asked about the accountability of KSDE to adhere to the Governor's wishes when they are not a Cabinet agency. Ms. Riley replied that there exist numerous statutes, regulations, and auditing procedures to ensure accountability. She also stated that regardless of what the Governor decided in designating a lead agency, Education will still be an important part in any collaboration serving young children and families.

Tom Laing asked that we consider any potential federal regulatory language that might have an impact on the recommendation we forward to the Governor. He asked that we attempt to gain clarity from the US Department of Education.

Dr. Lindeman briefly discussed with the Council his potential for a conflict of interest, because of his contracts with both KDHE and KSDE. He also suggests looking at the federal law (IDEA) and the requirements in the law for a state lead agency. This would help guide us in making a recommendation.

A list of questions will be submitted to both SRS and KSDE, after being approved by Council members. Preliminary answers to some of those questions may be available at the next ICC meeting. That next ICC meeting will be at 1:00 pm on Friday, January 5th, 2007. Staff have tentatively scheduled the Interactive TV system for that meeting.

MEETING ADJOURNED