

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
February 08, 2002
Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber) Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky) Cheryl Coleman, Bright Circle Preschool Karla Kenton, Parent Member Maria Martinez, Parent Member DoctorDave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities	Kathryn Boyd, Osage Co. Darryln Johnson, Kansas Children's Campaign Chamla Brown, Kansas Children's Campaign Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made. Due to a lack of a quorum, approval of January minutes will occur next month.

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CAMPAIGN

Darryln Johnson, Campaign Coordinator spoke about the Kansas Children's Campaign. The Kansas Children's Campaign improves the lives of children and families in Kansas by educating and inspiring voters to elect public officials of any party who will make children a priority. Darryln Johnson explained the Kansas Children's Campaign is nonpartisan. They do not endorse candidates, individuals or parties. They educate voters as to where the candidates stand on children's issues. They also educate candidates on the issues for children.

There is a statewide network of community leaders and grassroots volunteers working to unite Kansans around ways to help children by 1) providing information to the media, 2) distributing materials to voters, candidates and political contributors, 3) sponsoring candidate debates, 4) conducting scientific public opinion polls, focus groups and town meetings. The web site for the Kansas Children's Campaign is www.ks4kids.com.

The target counties are Johnson, Wyandotte, Shawnee, Riley, Sedgwick and Finney. These counties are the ones that represent a large number of frequent voters, are of greatest need, and have more political influence.

PUBLIC FORUM

None

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Doug Bowman reported the Senate Republicans came up short of 21 votes to pass the Fiscal Year 2002 recission bill. Therefore this bill did not go to the Senate floor. This bill would have cut state agency budgets for the current fiscal year.

The Fiscal Year 2003 budget being looked at is similar to the Governor's first proposal. Then the legislature will address possible enhancements to revenue. The cigarette tax increase has momentum. The Council may want to consider joining the coalition to support this tax. The Governor proposes a .65 per pack increase, this would give us up to \$110 or 120 million more dollars. Gambling revenue is possible with slot machines being added to race tracks. Sales tax is not likely; neither is the penny on fuel tax. Half of the total state budget is education, about 52%.

Doug Bowman explained some conservative legislators called a press conference to announce the creation of a new fund in state government called "Tax Me More Fund" with money being sent to the state voluntarily. Ellen Mellard created a "tax me more for kids" card with a dollar attached to give to the legislators, with children as the focus.

Doug Bowman passed out a fake dollar from the Disabled, Elderly, Workers Coalition with a logo of a dewdrop. The Disabled Elderly Workers dollar indicates their willingness to pay an additional dollar of tax in order to protect the State's most vulnerable citizens from unfair budget cuts.

Sharon Hixson asked about special activity related to advocacy day. Doug Bowman mentioned child Advocacy Day will be held at the Expo centre on February 19th. A legislative reception will occur the previous evening. Doug Bowman also answered there has been discussion with the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies to organize to fill the capitol steps on March 4th with shoes. Shoes will be delivered to the legislators with messages about the kids who filled those shoes and how they were impacted by state-funded services.

Alice Womack mentioned the April 27th "Wage Hike" going on in Wichita which focuses on child care provider wages to keep quality and access for children who are in lower income families.

Doug Bowman reported there have been hearings in the House Appropriations subcommittee on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment budget. In the next Interagency Coordinating Council meeting packet Doug will pass out testimony he gave about the Infant-Toddler program. He focused on the half million additional dollars recommended by the Governor.

The Social and Rehabilitation Services budget is in the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee with hearings held all week. The Social and Rehabilitation Services budget includes Child Care, Smart Start, Healthy Start and Foster Care.

The Kansas Department of Education budget was finished in the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee and will go to the Full Committee next week.

Doug Bowman discussed Bills. Senate Bill 151 allows state employees to get financial help for family health insurance. Children of state employees are excluded from HealthWave.

Senate Bill 421 allows the Secretary to charge fees for services to children. Testimony focused on family preservation services.

Senate Bill 516 concerns the local district and their efforts to obtain parent consent. If they have not heard anything in 60 days, then a default consent is assumed. Additionally the parents rights to due process are forfeited.

Senate Bill 116 prohibits local government from suing firearm manufacturers.

Doug Bowman will put a written report together including bills.

Carolyn Nelson mentioned the Kansas Action for Children website KAC.Org gives current legislative information.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

No report.

TEACHER LICENSING

Doctor Dave Lindeman reported there is a slight possibility that early childhood licensure will come to discussion again. Martha Gage sent an e-mail to the chair of Associated Colleges of Central Kansas stating there have been board members who received feedback that the birth to grade three early childhood licensure was not a good thing. Doctor Dave Lindeman followed up with his State Board member. She had not heard of any changes and stated her intent to keep the birth through grade three issue. The faculty of Institutions of Higher Education have expressed interest in the curriculum development. Doctor Dave Lindeman asked for persons to call their state board representative to reinforce the birth to grade three age level. Doctor Dave Lindeman asked the Interagency Coordinating Council to write a letter to go to the Board thanking them for their leadership and vision. Doug Bowman will get this letter to them next Tuesday when they meet. (Note: Instead, Mister Bowman spoke to them in person as part of their public forum). Doug Bowman explained local schools have statutory permission to operate a child care center and charge prevailing rates, but not preschool. Local schools can collect fees for child care and run them through their budgets. Doug Bowman stated that it would take a change in law to

allow local schools to collect fees to offer preschool. We are interested for a couple of reasons. There is a need for quality preschool across the state, especially in remote rural areas. Revenue generated in child care centers could stretch their resources further. These child care centers would also be options to serve children with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. Doug Bowman looked at the statute that allows local schools to charge fees for child care, and a simple amendment would add language to allow schools to offer preschools at prevailing rates. Mister Rod Bieker, Kansas Department of Education counsel, indicated that preschools operating more than a few hours would have to abide by Kansas Department of Health and Environment preschool licensing regulations. Doug Bowman spoke with Representative Peterson and she will consider getting a bill introduced.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson reported the new Part C Coordinator will begin March 4, 2002. Her name is Peggy Miksch.

The Infant-Toddler Spring Conference will be held on April 18th in Salina. A flyer will be mailed out soon.

The Newborn Hearing Screening program will be hiring a data person soon. Interviews ended February 8th. This position will assist in looking at the screening failures as the numbers come in through the electronic birth certificate. Then they will be able to match up by county, counting all newborn births they then will be able to track and follow-up with Infant-Toddler programs to see if the numbers of children with hearing impairment correlates.

Carolyn Nelson mentioned she will have a conference call next Friday with the Birth Defects program. The hospitals report the birth defects to Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Carolyn Nelson mentioned Nebraska is seeing an epidemic of whooping cough. Keep this in mind when visiting families.

Carolyn Nelson stated the longitudinal study contract is coming up for renewal the end of March. It is difficult to get information from them. Due to the Kansas Longitudinal Study still being in process, outcome data is not complete. Carolyn stated they gather information based on the indicators and the outcomes that come from Office of Special Education Programs.

The Infant-Toddler information system data base has been installed. There will be a data system users group for the networks to review problems and/or changes.

A survey for Washburn University vision and hearing training has been done and does not indicate that Infant-Toddler staff use this service very much. Carolyn Nelson will meet with Bruce Passman February 18th to do more work and have something new set up by July 1st when

the Washburn contract ends.

The Kan Be Healthy Screening training will go through Washburn University with a change in emphasis. The screening that has been done in five days in the past will be condensed to 1 _ to 2 days. Carolyn Nelson explained there are no national standards for Early Periodic Screening Diagnostic Treatment tools and training.

SRS REPORT - Alice Womack

Alice Womack reported the Review of Quality Enhancement Grants through the child care development fund has been completed. Due to the budget constraints thirty-eight grants were awarded. The notices went out the end of January.

The Kansas Early HeadStart program was highlighted at a national conference and is being written up by the National Center for Children in Poverty at Columbia University.

Social and Rehabilitation Services has been asked to present at the American Association for Human Service Directors meeting in March. They will discuss foster care and early prevention.

Social and Rehabilitation Services may be receiving 1.2 million dollars in federal money with state match.

Social and Rehabilitation Services has expanded their child care apprenticeship program. This program educates child care providers and provides scholarship dollars to pay for classes.

Social and Rehabilitation Services was notified there will be 21st century grants available through the Kansas Department of Education for after school programs.

Social and Rehabilitation Services child care provider rate adjustment will be implemented February 1st, 2002. Adjustments have been made in accordance with data received on the 2000 market analysis. Rates will be adjusted to the 65th percentile for licensed home and centers and the 60th percentile for registered homes. The goal is to raise the rate to the 70th percentile next year.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT and FUNDING COMMITTEE - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported we continue to look at what we can do to improve access of Infant-Toddler networks to health insurance. The Kansas Insurance Department is still busy in the Anthem policy decision. Then we will initiate discussions.

Doug Bowman mentioned Tracy Wohl is working with the State of Connecticut for possible solutions on HealthWave access.

The Federal Grant Applications under Part C are being adjusted due to reauthorization. These should be out next week.

Doug Bowman mentioned staff from Rainbows United will produce Tiny-K stationary that will feature a logo and make this available to persons that wish to purchase it on an at cost basis.

COORDINATOR REPORT

Doug Bowman reported the Kansas Division for Exceptional Children Conference is scheduled February 28 and March 1st and 2nd. If you would like to attend please visit with Doug.

Doug Bowman will go to Parsons on February 18th to review exemplary practice grants so awards can be given at Kansas Division for Exceptional Children Conference.

Doug Bowman passed out a green copy of the Kansas Health Care Access Coalition legislative priorities and asked for feedback. Doctor Dave Lindeman made a motion to give approval and support to the coalition's efforts to lobby for an excise tax on cigarettes. Carolyn Nelson seconded motion. Doug Bowman will call other members by phone for feedback.

Maria Martinez reported she is on the Assistive Technology Board for Kansans. They have a new taskforce developing a recycling program for durable medical equipment. They are looking at what products consumers are looking for such as wheelchairs or other equipment.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on March 1, 2002, located in Topeka, Wichita and other sites by Interactive Television at the Landon State Office Building, 900 Southwest Jackson, 8th Floor, Room 855-S.