

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

February 7, 2003

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
<p>Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Bremby) Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Carolyn Weinhold (representing Secretary Schalansky) Deb Voth, Rainbows United, Wichita Julie Stell (representing Commissioner Sandy Praeger) Representative Ethel Peterson Senator Karin Brownlee Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities Doctor Chet Johnson, University of Kansas, Child Development Unit Maria Martinez, Parent Member Karla Kenton, Parent Member Mark Tremaine, Parent Member Susan Kunard, Johnson County</p>	<p>Debbie Mai, Rainbows United Peggy Miksch, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Children, Youth and Families Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer Northwest Kansas Education Service Center Karen Rossetti, Johnson County Judie Deal, Cloud/Republic Dawn O'Brien, Leavenworth Julie Flory, Douglas County Kris Grosche, Douglas County Cayla Wasson, Sedgwick County Sonja Ostrander, Rainbows Susan Harsh, Butler County Paco Price, Rainbows United Kathy Boyd, Osage County Ruth Jones, Osage County Whitney Coupe', Osage County Ed Henry, Marshall County Thomas Kohmetscher, Sumner Ginny Butts, Sumner County Dena Bracciano, Douglas County Lorraine Bockorny, Sedgwick Mary Rupe, Sunflower. Pattie McGurk, Sunflower Lona Foust, Riley County Tara Roberts, Pottawatomie/Wabaunsee County Kathy Johnson, Shawnee County Amy Davis, Parent Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff</p>

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made. Susan Kunard moved to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from January 10, 2003. Seconded by Ellen Mellard; passed unanimously. Sharon complimented Debbie Mai and Doug for their work to organize the advocacy training help immediately prior to the Coordinating Council meeting.

PUBLIC FORUM

Doug explained the purpose of the public forum.

Debbie Mai discussed the advocacy committee activities. Debbie explained the advocacy committee held an advocacy training day to increase awareness and education about young children and their families. Over half of the networks had representation at the training. They toured the Capitol including the House and Senate chambers. Debbie passed out a handout of an advocacy toolkit. Included in this toolkit are basic tips to assist in writing letters and making phone calls. Debbie explained the name has changed from infant-toddler to *tiny-k* Early Intervention Services. Debbie stated Matt Fletcher, InterHab, provided handouts on how to work effectively with the media and these handouts were passed out. The toolkit includes a Kansas fact sheet, communication list, and statistics. The next step is to encourage the local networks to create an advocacy plan within their communities. Debbie informed us there will be a media blitz held on February 21st, 2003.

ADVOCACY FROM A LEGISLATOR'S PERSPECTIVE-REPRESENTATIVE PETERSON

Doug Bowman explained the advocacy committee asked that there be representation by the legislative members to Representative Peterson and Senator Brownlee, members of the Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, explain what they believe to be effective advocacy strategies that work for them.

Representative Ethel Peterson explained the best way to meet with her is to make an appointment. If calling, please leave a detailed message so that Representative Peterson can be prepared when calling you back. You may also send your information in by letter. Senator Karin Brownlee responds to e-mail faster than phone call and/or letters. Karin Brownlee explained Executive Summaries of documents is another option to use. Karin explained that mass produced letters are not the best way to send your information. When delivering your message a positive manner makes an impact.

COALITIONS: KEEP & BIG TENT

Doug Bowman explained Kansas Early Education Partners provides a large coalition for those concerned about early learning opportunities in the state. Doug explained there are four or five partners ready to contribute resources for a paid lobbyist. There were four programs identified that were designated as most at risk. These programs identified are Smart Start, Early Head Start, Child Care Subsidy and Quality Initiatives. Marnie Campbell reported that Social and Rehabilitation Services has prioritised entitlement programs. Doug stated the Kansas Early Education Partners coalition meets by phone each week.

Deb Voth mentioned the funding committee will be working on a letter to the Kansas Early Education Partners coalition. Deb Voth and other Interagency Coordinating Council members attended a two-day early childhood strategic planning session in Tecumseh. Deb Voth asked for direction from the Council to state the intent of letter regarding birth to five initiatives for children with disabilities. The letter should be supportive of all early childhood programs, but cognizant of the fact that there are programs that are mandated programs which are under funded. Doug Bowman and Deb Voth will work together on this letter.

Doug Bowman stated the creation of the BIG TENT Coalition. This group focuses on disability issues, as well as medical providers, and the medically under served. There is an emphasis on

adult issues, but infant-toddler includes early childhood issues. BIG TENT documents include the tiny-k services. Doug asked the Council if he should continue participating as a collaborative partner or monitor from a distance. Doug Bowman and Deb Voth will work together on a letter expressing concern regarding funding issues. The Council expressed an interest for a speaker from BIG TENT.

COORDINATORS REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug gave additional information about the January 23-24 strategic planning meeting convened by Children's Cabinet, Kauffman Foundation, and the Kansas Health Foundation. Approximately 40 agencies, education, health, childcare, local providers and advocacy groups attended. The purpose was to look at how to bring together services for young Kansans in a cohesive, collaborative way. Doctor Chet Johnson attended the second day and worked with a group interested in consumer input to all kinds of services. Maria Martinez stressed that planning was good, but families need the help now. Doug Bowman assured that as information becomes available, he will pass it on.

Letters to the Kansas Congressional Delegation have been written, asking for (1) support of reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and (2) permanent reauthorization of Part C and (3) meeting the funding responsibilities for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. The third letter informs that a cut in state general funds going to tiny-k, would be violating federal regulation regarding maintenance of effort. Two of the six responded thanking us for the information and will do what they can to help children.

Doug stated if congress stays with the schedule, the reauthorization issues may be considered within the next year. The Bush budget for fiscal year 2004 did have an increase in Part B funding. Level funding for 619 and 10 million dollar increase for Part C. Doug mentioned we need to be ready for reauthorization issues as they arise. Deb Voth mentioned a concern of para educators under Title I, which requires a two-year associate degree, or pass a test the state has adopted. The issue is that the requirement may extend to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act with reauthorization.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported Social and Rehabilitation Services had agency budget presentations next week in Ways and Means Subcommittee with public testimony on Monday. The Department of Education budget may be the last one reviewed. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment budget has been in the House Appropriations Subcommittee this week. Testimony was given on Wednesday and recommendations have been completed. Doug stated he presented testimony on Wednesday. Doug handed out his testimony before House Appropriations Subcommittee. (See attachment A). Doug passed out written responses to questions on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment budget on Thursday. (See attachment B). Kathy Johnson attended the legislative hearings and expressed her concern for the *tiny-k* program.

Representative Ethel Peterson introduced bill number 2231 regarding childcare facilities. Representative Ethel Peterson stated language needs to be changed on the bill regarding screening for newborns. After discussion there were options given for ways to get the bill introduced with current language. Doug will monitor.

Deb Voth reported from the funding committee. Deb mentioned changes in the federal Medicaid program. Ability for schools to bill for professional administration of medical outreach services has been taken out. Deb Voth will follow-up on this issue.

Deb Voth reported on an e-mail about those accessing categorical aid by individual student contracts not being able to bill for transportation on top of individual contracts. This issue is being explored. A meeting to discuss all categorical aid issues is scheduled for February 21st in Topeka. If interested in attending please get in touch with Doug Bowman. You can be included in this meeting via conference phone.

Ellen Mellard asked about the funding formula for distribution to the Local Networks. Peggy Miksch stated she has scheduled a meeting in Salina to revisit this issue.

Doctor Dave Lindeman recommended someone come and speak to the Council about the impact on Head Start if the federal government block granted it to the states: what this means for current programs and how this affects current services for children with disabilities.

Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned the Department of Health and Environment is in the process of decentralizing approval for childcare training going to local agencies. Dave would like to know what the criteria for agency approval, course or training approval relating to training regarding children with disabilities in childcare.

Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned from the results of the survey that was done in December regarding funding to Local Part C Networks. The survey shows 65% of the local networks may go out of compliance. What are we going to do if this happens?

Doug Bowman passed out a list of persons on the House Appropriations Committee. They will meet at 9:00 am on Wednesday, February 12th, 2003.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson handed out a copy of her report (see attachment D). Carolyn Nelson asked about contacting Secretary Roderick Bremby regarding the Interagency Coordinating Council. Doug Bowman sent a letter to Secretary Roderick Bremby, Commissioner Sandy Praeger and to Governor Kathleen Sebelius asking about representation to the Council. Doug Bowman informed that Julie Stell will become the alternate person from the Insurance Commission, as Robert Tomlinson, Assistant Commissioner, will represent the Insurance Commissioner in the future.

Infant-Toddler has not been notified of the Federal grant award to Kansas for next year's budget. The President has proposed a \$10 million increase, but Congress has not acted on that proposal. Based on the formula the Office of Special Education Programs uses to distribute these funds, a \$10 million increase would equate to an increase in the award of less than \$100,000 to Kansas.

Sound Beginnings Coordinator Kim Sykes stated some networks have reported an increase in referrals due to newborn hearing screenings. Infant-Toddler staff is working with Jim North to enhance the data system.

Please see the attached brochure regarding training for early intervention providers who are working with families and their infant children who are deaf or hard of hearing. This training is scheduled on March 27th and 28th in Overland Park, Kansas. (See attachment E).

A group of Lions Club members will meet with Infant-Toddler and Children and Families next week to discuss a grant to purchase vision-screening equipment for Infant-Toddler networks and school nurses.

ZoAnn Torrey, Kansas State Department of Education sent out, over the Infant-Toddler listserv, a Program Assessment Rating of the Federal Department of Education. This determines recommendations for program elimination and funding levels. (See attachment F). It shows percentage of children participating in the Infants and Families program who demonstrate improved and sustained functional abilities, including progress in areas such as social, emotional, cognitive, communication and physical development. Studies are being done to determine progress of data. This is used to determine if programs in education will be eliminated and what the funding levels would be.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Marnie handed out the report for Kansas State Department of Education. (See attachment G). Marnie will be attending a Cognitive Development Roundtable meeting March 13th through 14th. Kansas State Department of Education made a request for funding to help with an appropriate conceptual model for School Readiness.

Marnie passed out a handout regarding the Governor's Fiscal Year 2003 and Fiscal Year 2004 Budget Recommendations. (See attachment H).

Marnie passed out a handout from Kent State University to survey preschool teachers. (See attachment I).

SRS REPORT - Carolyn Weinhold in the place of Alice Womack

Carolyn handed out the Social and Rehabilitation Services report (see attachment J). Secretary Janet Schalansky held a stakeholder's meeting on January 22, 2003 to review the Governor's budget recommendations.

The Kansas Childcare Industry Study is expected to be released in March 2003.

A revised state plan is being made toward school readiness standards that align with K-12 standards.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Julie Stell

Julie Stell handed out the Kansas Insurance Department Report. (See attachment K). Commissioner Praeger has been appointed Chair of the National Association of Insurance Commissioner's Health Insurance Task Force.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm.

The next meeting will be March 7th, 2003, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, located in Topeka at the Topeka Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 South West 10th Avenue.