

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

MINUTES  
SICC MEETING  
JULY 11, 2008, 1:00 AM

SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES  
SRS LEARNING CENTER, ROOM B  
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member  
Tom Laing, Public Member  
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Member  
Gayle Stuber, KS Bd/Education.  
Deb Voth, Provider Member  
Karen Beckerman, SRS  
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE  
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.  
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee  
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member  
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member  
Sharon Hixson, Public Member  
Susan Carriger, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator  
Jean Wilson, Sr. Admin. Assistant  
Tiffany Smith-Birk, KDHE

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT ON  
PHONE

None

MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Board/Regents Rep.  
Julie Broski, Parent Member

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

John Meetz, KS Insurance Commissioner  
Representative Melody McCray-Miller  
Richard Martinez, Parent Member  
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative  
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member  
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member  
Maria Martinez, Parent Member

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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with welcome and introductions.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following edits were made to the drafted June minutes: Misty Goosen is now shown as present for the Kansas Board of Education (KITS), reformatted wording on page 4 to “Deb Voth thanked Karen Beckman for getting the special needs rates for childcare that she requested in the May ICC meeting”, and to the second to last paragraph on page 4 concerning the word “fleshing out” or completion of the 2009 Goals for final draft. Tom Laing moved that the June 2008 minutes be approved as amended. Deb Voth seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Julie Broski mentioned her attendance and assistance in facilitation of another Kansas Consumer Health Introduction Meeting about the new website, in the Iola, Kansas area, Wednesday, July 16, 2008, from 10-12 Noon for all providers. Julie extended an invitation to all SICC members to attend this KS Health Online Introductory meeting.

Senator Julia Lynn commented that she wanted everyone to know that she is serving as Chair to the Joint Committee on Children’s Issues. She invited us to suggest to her any ideas or topics that need to be examined during the interim.

Carolyn Nelson commended Dave Lindeman’s Summer Institute effort for KITS. “It had a great attendance and was excellent information for all”. The topic was autism.

Chair and Staff Report

Doug Bowman gave a summary list for SICC members’ attention:

1. The upcoming Legislative Budget Committee meeting will review Targeted Case Management items might impact provision of services for birth to age 5 children; especially disability issues.
2. SICC should be involved in the Special Education funding issues’ meetings.

3. Mr. Redmon plans to attend the SICC Meeting scheduled September 5, 2008. Jim Redmon stated that they are negotiating with the contractors for the grant regarding early childhood governance issues from the National Governor's Association (NGA) for \$10,000. These persons will facilitate these meetings in late summer or early fall, and he reiterated that there would be an ICC representative at this meeting.

Tom Laing interjected remarking that Senate Bill 635 would have provided additional services for home and community services. The interim committee studying these issues may re-consider the limitation of waivers to only those over the age of five years. If so, this would open the possibility of enhanced services for early childhood. We will monitor this closely.

There is also a meeting of the Early Learning Advocacy Coalition at the Topeka Public Library at 11:30 pm Monday, July 21, 2008. Those attending will develop materials and pie charts to develop and pursue goals for children. Deb Voth and Sharon Hixson already attended one of these meetings.

Discussion then ensued about whether the Early Learning Advocacy Coalition group is pursuing goals that mirror those of SICC. It was determined that there should be a review of this work group to insure that the intentions of SICC are being met.

Sharon Hixson stated that tiny-K will hopefully get involved, and she will support the Early Childhood programs. She stated that most important, is to have standard formats so that every community can absorb the information better and to get a better visual on how Early Childhood programs are funded in Kansas. Sharon suggested a checklist be given out to the candidates to ensure SICC issues are remembered.

Linda Mitchell asked for SICC presence at the Early Learning Advocacy Coalition meeting for July 21, 2008, at the Topeka Public Library. Tom Laing volunteered to be in attendance for SICC, at this meeting, and the Chair thanked him for volunteering to be there for SICC.

Task	Who	When
SICC Presence At	Tom Laing,	July 21, 2008 @
E.L.A.C. Meeting	Public Member	Topeka Public Library

Doug Bowman announced that our Chair, Linda Mitchell, has one more year to serve with her term ending on July 31, 2009. At present, there are no other vacancies. At the end of July 31, 2009, there are several terms expiring and he urged anyone that is interested in serving on the Council as a public or parent member, to not wait and to make it known soon. Doug reminded all that our SICC member positions must have our Governor's approval in writing beforehand.

## State Agency Reports

### KSDE Report:

Gayla Stuber reported the following: She expressed her disappointment that the application for technical assistance through the National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI) was not approved for the Kansas State Department of Education.

The KSDE Special Educations Services Team has a new Section 619 coordinator; Carol Ayres, who started June 24, 2008, arrived from a position as an Early Education Learning Coach for Head Start in the Independence, MO School District.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the early childhood block grants will be on the Children's Cabinet website soon. Those who are submitting their proposals should be aware that money will not be available until October 2008. For most proposals to the Children's Cabinet, there is typically a four to eight week turnaround time to submit these to the Cabinet to make final decision.

### KHPA Report

Cayla Wright stated that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid have reviewed case management services over the last year and it has become necessary to rewrite the Case Management Code. This code update is to be hopefully completed by August 2008. Cayla further commented that they now have a new rate of .60 cents more, or \$10.60, for a 15 minute procedure. Providers will be notified of the new changes to the Manual in several ways.

Doug Bowman clarified that any claim that is denied for Targeted Case Management gets 12 months to be re-submitted. This should allow time to get the code correct.

Cayla stated that when the federal auditors reviewed our plan, they said Targeted Case Management needed to be clarified. She stated that if anyone gets audited for TCM discrepancies, to please let her know. There will be a new plastic I.D. Card just for KHPA beneficiaries. These new cards will rely more upon the use of the website to detail benefits – a move to a paperless era for Medicaid.

Carolyn Nelson stated that she, Tiffany Smith-Birk, and Cayla Wright, are going to be at the August Part C Meetings to explain any changes.

Deb Voth stated that it is very important for our providers to be informed, as it is the EDS contractor who interprets the rules, but KHPA and SRS have the final say.

## SRS Report

Karen Beckerman gave the SRS report and told of the Agency response to the Chapman, Kansas and the Kansas N.E. Region's tornado disaster, including assistance to families during this difficult time.

Karen stated that the re-bidding for child welfare contracts of foster care and family preservation Request for Proposals (RFP's) will be released July 1, 2008 and bids will be due in late August 2008. Karen also elaborated about the 2009 SRS funding changes coming for professional development for child care providers. This funding comes from the Child Care and Development Fund. TEACH scholarships and funding to KACCRRRA to track provider training will be discontinued. Savings from these changes will pilot new delivery models for professional development for regulated or licensed family home providers to improve child care quality and to assist in providing assistance toward scholarships coming later in 2008. Also included, is support for providers who are not pursuing college educations.

Karen related that there is an alternative NOW card or debit card on funds, coming out. The Kansas Rehabilitative Services USD #259 Project for aged youth for disability success is another project that they have shared. A worker in the SRS South Central Kansas office has received the 2008 National Counselor Award. In June 2007, the office was reviewed and the Children and Family Services got a positive improvement report. They are now awaiting final approval of this new plan.

Karen added that we previously had two different child care reimbursement rates for children with special needs; a special needs rate and a special purpose rate. A group of stakeholders came up with a new rate for these children that is effective July 1, 2008. For this new rate, the child care reimbursement must be submitted from a licensed child care home or child care center with approval by SRS.

## KDH&E Report

Tiffany Smith-Birk stated that she, Ryan Weir, Margy Hornback just returned from the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center Conference in Colorado. On August 25, 26, and 27<sup>th</sup>, they will conduct Regional Part C Meetings at Topeka, Salina, and Dodge City,

Tiffany also stated that there will be 12 participants applying for the NEW Kansas Endorsement for Early Childhood Mental Health exam.

## Strategic Plan and Committee Re-Structuring

Doug asked everyone to again review the handout on the drafted 2009 SICC Strategic Planning Goals:

Goal One: Funding, Goal Two: Advocacy, Goal Three Improving Services, and Goal Four: Policy.

Tom Laing suggested that SICC develop a score card for analysis of some goals. Doug Bowman will get back with members of the small group, clarify their intent, and explain.

Goal Two needs clarification of section (a) and (e).

Tom Laing also suggested adding an “(f)” section for Part C or tiny-K to have a more consistent way to describe ourselves (a branding issue).

Sharon Hixson suggested that this goal’s (b) include other programs such as Sound Start eligibility for diagnosis driven programs for Part C.

#### Next Meeting Date

At this point in discussing SICC goal changes, Linda Mitchell, Chair, suggested that SICC not hold an August 1, 2008 meeting to instead, allow time for the facilitators of each of the new committees to convene a meeting (in person or via phone) to more carefully define goals and action items. This will be brought back to the September 5<sup>th</sup> ICC meeting. At that time, additional committee members will be identified and invited to join the committees. Linda Mitchell reiterated that every SICC member would choose (or be assigned) to at least one committee.

Tom Laing will facilitate the August meeting for the Policy Committee. Eva Horn volunteered as a convener for Improving Services. Sharon Hixson will convene the Advocacy group, and David Lindeman will convene the Funding committee. Each group will clarify any problems and suggestions.

The Executive Committee will meet July 18, 2008 at 2:00 pm via conference phone call, before the August 22nd deadline of accountability and before the next SICC Meeting on September 5, 2008, at the same location; SRS Learning Center, 2<sup>nd</sup> & Mac Vicar, in Topeka, KS.

#### Meeting Adjourned

Kansas State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

July 11, 2008

### **Kansas Department of Health and Environment Update**

- A. Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center/Early Childhood Regional Conference  
Attendees from Kansas: Ryan Weir, Tiffany Smith-Birk, Margy Hornback  
Topics discussed and reviewed were:  
General Supervision in Part C and 619 Programs,  
State Performance Plan (SPP) Indicators and Data Quality  
Transition from Part C to Part B  
Dispute Resolutions
  
- B. August 25, 26, 27, 2008 Kansas Part C Regional Meetings 10am- 3pm  
Database Updates from Jim North & Medicaid updates from (Cayla Wright and Brenda Kuder). All will be presenting in Topeka, Salina and Dodge City meeting locations.
  
- C. Kansas Early Childhood Mental Health Endorsement -12 Participants will be applying for the NEW Kansas Endorsement for Early Childhood Mental Health. Thee 12 members of the Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH) have been working on their portfolios and will be taking the exam in Wichita on September 15, 2008.
  
- D. War Supplemental Appropriations/Medicaid Bill  
Summary Regarding Medicaid  
The supplemental bill includes moratoria on six of the seven sets of Medicaid regulations advocates had been working hard to enact. This includes a Medicaid moratorium until April 2009 on the school claiming regulations, the rehab regulations and the targeted case management regulations. The Medicaid regulation that was not included concerns reimbursements for outpatient hospital services. In the context of the seven regulations, this regulation had a lower financial impact. The regulations would have conservatively shifted approximately \$15 billion to states, many of whom are currently experiencing budget shortfalls.

## **Kansas State Department of Education Overview**

1. KSDE Special Educations Services (SES) Team Update:
  - a. The Section 619 coordinator position has been filled!!! Carol Ayres is our new coordinator. She started June 24<sup>th</sup> and comes to us from a position as Early Education Learning Coach for Head Start in the Independence, MO School District. She is looking forward to meeting you and supporting the Strategic Plan adopted by the State Interagency Coordinating Council. Today, she is waiting in Liberty Hospital on her first grand child (a boy!).
  - b. We are interviewing for a Parents As Teachers consultant and hope to have one hired by early August.

2. Kansas State Department of Education early childhood update:

Early learning programs in KSDE have always collaborated and been somewhat coordinated in their work. However, the early childhood programs are now all together under the SES team director, Colleen Riley. Gayle Stuber is the coordinator of the newly named Early Learning Services Unit which includes all early childhood programs (i.e., Parents as Teachers, Section 619, Four year Old At-Risk, Pre-K Pilot/Kansas Preschool Program, and the School Readiness project).

3. The Kanss Early Learning document is still being updated and edited. Sections on 'How to use the Guidelines" and "How to use the Standards" are in final development and should be ready by the end of the summer (timeline has been pushed back a bit due to summer schedules).
4. The application for technical assistance through the National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI) was not approved. However, the work to complete the application will stand Kansas in good stead as the Kansas Expanding Opportunities Initiative continues its work to develop a cross agency strategic planning initiative around inclusion.

## SRS Report for State ICC Meeting July 11, 2008

- **Chapman Disaster - SRS Response.** On the day after the tornado SRS staff established a temporary center in Chapman and began meeting with residents to identify needs. As needs were identified, regional staff began collecting donations, including: 1000 pounds of dog and cat food, child car seats, boxes, diapers, formula, and many other items. As donations came in, SRS kept half and gave the other half to Red Cross who was set up on the other side of town.

In addition, SRS spent \$78,000 from its Family Services allocation and imprest funds to assist residents with immediate needs. Recipients of food stamp assistance who lost food in the tornado were able to get their benefits replaced and any new applications were prioritized. SRS served approximately 200 families during their on-site presence in Chapman. Emergency benefits will continue to be processed from the Abilene office.

Mid Kansas Senior Services, with permission from USDA, is providing commodities from the Concordia storage facility, for disaster feeding to Chapman victims in Abilene. The meals are prepared at the Abilene Senior Center, which are then picked up by the Red Cross and served at the Abilene Shelter. They serve 400 meals for lunch and most days for dinner as well.

- **Rebidding Child Welfare Contracts.** The RFP for the child welfare contracts of foster care and family preservation will be released July 1, 2008 and bids will be due in late August.
- **Food Stamp Awards.** Kansas was the recipient of 2 awards at the Tri-Regional FNS recognition ceremony last week. The first was for excellence in outreach/access efforts in the Mountain Plains Region, including identification of need or barriers, design strategy to address the need, and the effectiveness of strategies. The 2nd award recognized Kansas for its excellence in EBT reconciliation.
- **H&R Block Outreach.** H&R Block went statewide during the 2008 tax season and trained 425 H&R Block staff. H&R Block assisted 1,735 consumers with food assistance applications. 245 applications were completed and submitted electronically to SRS. 1,490 applications were completed and sent to applicants for signatures and mailing to SRS offices. SRS has not completed all data yet, but so far, 344 participants have been approved for FS benefits will receive \$297,216 in annual food assistance benefits.
- **Changes in Child Care Professional Development Activities for SFY 2009.** In SFY 2009, changes will be made in the funding SRS provides for professional development for child care providers. All funding comes from the Child Care and Development Fund. TEACH scholarships and funding

- to KACCRRRA to track provider training will be discontinued. With savings from the changes, SRS intends to pilot new delivery models for professional development aimed at regulated or licensed family home providers, with the goal of improving the quality of child care provided. In addition, the stipend for the Early Childhood Associate Apprenticeship Program will be increased and Ready to Learn will receive additional funding to meet the higher costs of purchasing the books that are distributed to children participating in this program.
- **Child Support Enforcement (CSE) NOW card.** The Kansas Payment Center's pilot for the new child support debit card (the "NOW" card) entered its second phase on April 16, when 1700 additional invitations were mailed to custodial parents with orders in Saline and Ottawa counties. The invitations encourage parents now receiving paper support checks to sign up for either direct deposit or the new Visa-branded debit card. All processes for enrollment, activation, and use of the NOW card have gone smoothly. While the NOW card has been the focus of the pilot, a secondary benefit has been the number of parents choosing to have support deposited directly into existing bank accounts. Both the debit card and direct deposit offer long-term benefits to parents and the State. Statewide deployment of the NOW card is scheduled to occur this June.
  - **Kansas Rehabilitation Services (KRS).** KRS is implementing a collaborative project with Wichita USD 259, KHPA and University of Kansas Center for Research on Learning. The project is designed to prepare and support transition-aged youth with disabilities for employment success, whether it be through direct entry into the labor market or through post-secondary education focused on career development.
  - **SRS Counselor is National Counselor of the Year.** William D. Etzbach, Rehabilitation Services counselor from the South Central Region, received the 2008 National Counselor of the Year Award, presented by the American Rehabilitation Counseling Association at the 2008 ARCA Conference. The award is presented yearly to Rehabilitation Counselors who are outstanding in their professional field. Will was chosen based on his contributions to the rehabilitation profession, his publications and presentations, and his outstanding work with persons with disabilities.
  - **The Kansas Children and Family Services Review (CFSR).** The CFSR was conducted the week of June 11, 2007 with the final report issued in January 2008. The period under review was from April 1, 2006 to June 11, 2007. SRS submitted the CFSR Program Improvement Plan to the Administration for Children and Families on April 16, 2008 and hope to hear soon if it is approved.