

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
 January 10, 2003
 Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
<p><i>TOPEKA SITE:</i> Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky) Carolyn Nelson, (representing Secretary Graeber) Maria Martinez, Parent Member Mark Tremaine, Parent Membe</p>	<p>Lona Foust, Riley County, Infant Toddler Services Kathy Johnson, Shawnee County, Infant Toddler Services Peggy Miksch, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Karen Snell, Families Together Cheryl Davenport, Shawnee County Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff</p>
<p><i>HAYS SITE:</i> Karla Kenton, Parent Member</p>	<p>Doug Greer, Hays Interagency Coordinating Council</p>
<p><i>WICHITA SITE:</i> Deb Voth, Rainbows United – Wichita</p>	<p>Debbie Mai, Rainbows Paco Price, Rainbows United Cayla Wasson, Rainbows United Vanessa Lohf, Sedgwick Co. Interagency Coordinating Council Mary Beasley, Harvey County Beth Reeder, Rainbows United</p>
<p><i>OVERLAND PARK (REGENTS CENTER):</i> Doctor Chet Johnson, University of Kansas Child Development Unit Senator Karin Brownlee Susan Kunard, Johnson County Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Marnie Campbell, (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Mimi Nagle, Parent Member</p>	<p>Deanna Berry, Russell Child Development Center</p>
<p><i>GARDEN CITY SITE</i></p>	

PARSONS SITE:	
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Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities	
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The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made.

Doctor Chet Johnson moved to approve the draft December 6, 2002 meeting minutes. Seconded by Ellen Mellard; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Doug Bowman explained our bylaws set aside 30 minutes from each meeting to allow public input to the Council.

Sharon Hixson asked for input from those who attended meetings representing the Council. Deb Voth attends the Interhab Governmental Affairs board meeting. Deb represents birth to five issues asking for the support of Interhab. Debbie Mai attended the Kansas HeadStart Association meeting. Debbie Mai mentioned they are receptive to helping us as we look at money for tiny-k. Doug Bowman added he and Carolyn Weinholt spoke on collaborations that are occurring across the state between HeadStart and Special Education for three to five year olds. The intent was to encourage them to make sure documentation is up-to-date and reflective of current practices.

Ledell Ediger discussed Kansas Early Education Partners. The purpose of this organization is to coordinate advocacy with the goal of assuring all children in Kansas have affordable, accessible, and safe quality early care and education. Partners that have devoted resources are Kansas Action for Children, Kansas HeadStart Association, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, The Mid America Regional Council, Metropolitan Council on Child Care, Kansas SmartStart and the Partnership for Children. The objectives of this group is to assure that the federal and the state funding levels are retained or increased to meet the needs of children and families. Special emphasis was given to Kansas HeadStart, Kansas SmartStart, Kansas Child Care Subsidies, and the Resource and Referral system.

Deb Voth expressed concerns around the newly formed group Kansas Early Education Partners. Ledell Ediger emphasized the need for the group is focus to all early childhood. Deb Voth mentioned Doug Bowman will report on the survey of the local networks at the next Kansas Early Education Partners meeting. Deb Voth requested the Funding Committee write a letter to Kansas Early Education Partners to identify our funding concerns for birth to five with disabilities population. Ledell Ediger left the meeting following her presentation.

Linda Kenney stated from the discussion seemed to indicate that the Kansas Early Education Partners' definition of early childhood equates to child care. A strategic planning session will be hosted by the Kauffman Foundation and is scheduled on January 23rd and 24th. The purpose of the meeting is to come up with an early childhood strategic plan for the State of Kansas. This would entail system interface including the health system, social service system, education system, child care system and how the systems contribute.

Lona Foust mentioned Infant-Toddler services is set apart from other programs as federal law does not allow them to have waiting list, and numbers of children identified continue to grow. Infant Toddler Networks are still required to serve children, despite funding levels. Whether or not the program is targeted for cuts leaves them in a predicament even with level funding.

REPORT OF EVALUATION OF COUNCIL COORDINATOR

Sharon Hixson summarized input from Council members and met with Doug Bowman stating his evaluation rating is exceptional.

TRANSITION ISSUES

The Governor's inauguration will be January 13, 2003. Also, the Legislature will begin on this date. There is turnover in the House leadership positions. The Governor's cabinet members are named as follows:

John Moore, Lieutenant Governor and Commerce Secretary
Howard Fricke, Secretary of the Department of Administration
Mike Hayden, Secretary of Parks and Wildlife
Janet Schalansky, Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services
Deb Miller, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Transportation
Roderick Bremby, Secretary of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Those in Acting positions are:

Joan Wagon, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Revenue
Jim Garner, Acting Secretary, Kansas Department of Human Resources

Department of Agriculture, Not named
Juvenile Justice Administration, Not named
Department of Aging, Not named

Doug Bowman stated he will contact the Governor's staff and inform them there is a seat open at the Council which is represented by the Governor staff.

Doug Bowman reported Governor-Elect Sebelius will do the State of the State address next week, including the budget figures. Doug mentioned the printed documentation will be available January 21st, 2003.

COMMITTEES

Developmental Delay Screening -

Doug Bowman discussed the developmental delay screening taskforce. Doug met with a staff member at the revisors office. Representative Peterson is the sponsor of the bill. Factors noted in the statute which trigger a concern are the low birthweight number of 1200 grams or less or the Activity Pulse Grimace Appearance Respiration score of three or less. Once the birth certificates have been screened, a letter would be generated to the parent and/or guardian stating the condition identified and explaining research and the services available to them. Doctor Chet Johnson made a change to read from "a defined set of genetic exceptionalities" to "a defined set of genetic/neurodevelopmental exceptionalities". Maria Martinez asked if it was possible to

notify parents during the pregnancy that they will receive a letter if any of the exceptionalities appear on the birth certificate. There was discussion about how to give the parents specific contact information about their local services to allow one phone call to trigger the system of early intervention.

Funding Committee -

Deb Voth discussed the Funding Committee conference call held January 7, 2003. Deb Voth mentioned Doug Bowman sent out a survey that was done for collecting responses regarding funding from the 37 local networks.

A letter will be sent to the Kansas Congressional Delegation asking for support of reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and permanent reauthorization of Part C and meeting the funding responsibilities for Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

A letter was sent to Kansas Congressional Delegation regarding the federal budget and asking for adequate resources.

A letter was sent to the Kansas Congressional Delegation, and to Kansas Legislators, and the Governor Elect notifying them if tiny-k is cut in State General Funds, this would be violating federal regulation regarding maintenance of effort.

Deb Voth mentioned Children's Advocacy Day will be held February 19th. A one page summary will be prepared regarding the birth to five with disabilities concerns and distributed at the event.

Deb Voth stated Karl Hockenbarger discussed Medicaid has new regulations which do restrict the ability of administrative claiming for Medicaid for skilled medical professionals. This will reduce the school administrative billing by 12% in Kansas. (Marnie explained in her Kansas Department of Education report that the Federal Medical Services Office determined that it did not require a professional-level person in a school to assist families to sign up for Medicaid or HealthWave. Instead, a non-professional staff member such as a school secretary or nurse's aide might do this. The rate of reimbursement for this "outreach" service dropped from 75% to 50%, thereby reducing the funds that schools will receive for assisting Medicaid and HealthWave by enrolling eligible families at the school.)

The Special Education Categorical Aid Taskforce will develop a white paper on the current system.

Doctor Dave Lindeman asked about the insurance issue that was brought up at last month's Council meeting. Deb Voth stated this will be discussed at a later time.

Advocacy -

Debbie Mai discussed results of their committee. There will be an Advocacy Training Day held on February 7, 2003. An e-mail was sent out to the tiny-k coordinators. Packets of information for advocacy day will include how to create a press release, how to contact your local newspaper and local television stations, and sample letters to send out to decision makers. The purpose of the meeting is to become familiar with the process, implement the name change, and grasp

fundamentals of advocacy. An advocacy tool kit will be given to the tiny-k coordinators. The kit will have documentation regarding the process of bills, writing letters, and how to set up personal visit. Tiny-k day will be held February 21st, for spotlighting the name change.

Legislative Alerts are a useful tool to get immediate information out. Debbie Mai stated specific steps would be helpful in the legislative alerts. This will help networks make a more definitive and direct stand on issues that are pertinent to them in order to mobilize their communities.

Deb Voth made a motion that Doug Bowman give guidance based on the Council's positions on specific issues to the local networks. Seconded by Doctor Chet Johnson; passed unanimously.

Peggy Miksch spoke about the need to educate parents so they understand Part C services. The intent is to educate Teacher Education and Compensation Helps what early intervention services can provide.

Services Committee -

Doctor Dave Lindeman discussed the introduction of a bill to allow school districts to charge a fee for preschool services, with additional opportunities for inclusive services. Doug Bowman spoke with the revisor staff member. Representative Ethel Peterson will introduce this bill. One change made to the bill is that school districts be allowed to charge fees for preschool services for children not generating any other state or federal funds for that district.

Licensing -

Doctor Dave Lindeman stated the early childhood taskforce has identified a name for themselves called the Early Childhood Higher-Education Options. The Kansas State Department of Education submitted a supplement to their state improvement grant. The supplement was awarded and will begin February 1, 2003. A Request for Proposal went out to the institutions of Higher Education to submit applications. Proposals are due February 15, 2003. There are several levels of involvement that Institutions of Higher Education can be a part of the group. The basic level is a partner in the consortium and being supportive of ways to provide options for preservice training programs so students can take course work to receive licensure in early childhood. Another piece level of involvement is a good faith effort on the part of the institution to offer course work that will lead to licensure. Programs will work together to provide the distance education component.

Parent Involvement -

Doug Bowman mentioned that the monthly phone conference to parent members is happening again. The call takes place a week prior to the Council meeting.

COORDINATOR REPORT

Doug Bowman discussed an Interagency Coordinating Council training session made available from the federal level specifically for Interagency Coordinating Council parents empowering their role and is made available at the federal level. The location of locating it in the midwest would keep travel cost at a minimum. There is no charge for the training and half the travel cost will be paid by the Federal Interagency Coordinating Council. Doug will request a midwest training event in the future.

Doug Bowman reported on the funding survey mailed out to the 37 local networks. With 32 out of 37 local networks reported. (See attachment A). This will become a part of our advocacy efforts.

Doug discussed the letters mailed to the Congressional Delegation detailed in the Funding Committee report.

Doug Bowman spoke about the two new federal Early HeadStart grants, one in Reno County and another in Clay Center.

Doug Bowman explained there is a coalition forming called the Big Tent Coalition regarding their concerns focus on cuts announced in Social and Rehabilitation Services budget. He will mail details to Council members early next week.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Marnie Campbell's written report is attached (see attachment B). Because of cost overruns in Medicaid costs, the only ways to save money are to change the Medicaid state plan to delete some of the services currently covered and to redetermine the state's eligibility criteria to adjust rate of poverty excluding some persons who previously qualified for medical cards.

Marnie reported the Kansas Speech-Language Guidelines are being revised and will be out in the next several months. The hearing screening manual has been revised and will be out on the website at www.kansped.org . The training for hearing screeners is coordinated through the Area Health Education Center. To find out about training for hearing screening workshops (initial and renewal training), please go to the website www.pittstate.edu.kumc .

Marnie explained the high stakes testing will impact the early intervention area. States are encouraged to develop learning standards consistent to K-12 curriculum. Assessment measures would need to be developed for ages 0-1, 1-2, 2-3, 3-4, and 4-5. The concern is that programs judged for future funding on basis of accountability results.

Marnie discussed the potential move of HeadStart from federal Health and Human Services to Education. The alleged reason for the move is to narrow the focus of HeadStart programs to the academic area and cognitive development of young children. She asked for everyone's support and help, if the President and Congress take this step, so that no Kansas children and families experience any loss in services and the transition is as smooth as possible.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson
Carolyn Nelson's written report is attached (see attachment C). Carolyn Nelson reported Governor-elect Kathleen Sebelius has announced the new Secretary for the Kansas Department of Health and Environment. He is Roderick Bremby, M.P.A.

The Office of Special Education Programs in Washington District of Columbia completed the review of Infant-Toddler Self-Assessment. They were impressed with the report.

SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Alice Womack

Alice Womack's written report is attached (see attachment D). The Kansas Early HeadStart Program has featured an example of a best practice for school readiness by the Pathways Mapping Initiative. The purpose is to provide guidance about what has worked elsewhere.

One prototype Pathway, leading to the Outcome "Children are Ready for School," is available on the website at <http://www.aecf.org/pathways/outcomes/schoolreadiness/all> examples.htm. The Pathway leading to the Outcome, "Families are Economically Successful" is under development.

Healthy Smiles II, a conference focusing on oral health for infants and toddlers, sponsored by the Head Start Collaboration will be held February 22, 2003 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka. Alice has brochures available if interested.

Resource and referral agencies across the state are offering enhanced referrals to parents whose child care subsidy eligibility was impacted by recent Social Rehabilitation Services budget reductions.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Julie Stell

Doug Bowman reported for Julie Stell. Julie is in the process of moving her office location. At future meetings Julie Stell or a designee will present for the Kansas Insurance Department.

Doctor Chet Johnson asked if the Funding Committee is working with the issue of Infant-Toddler programs being able to access private insurance in order to finance programs. Carolyn Nelson responded the local networks have the option of billing insurance for services if the parents give permission. There is an insurance brochure they can give parents requesting permission. Deb Voth explained other states provide insurance reimbursement for birth to three services under the Part C program. Deb Voth explained Peggy Miksch has encouraged the Funding Committee to look at the issue of other avenues of funding including insurance.

Deb Voth asked about the child care market rate survey. Alice Womack responded Social Rehabilitation Services has received a draft of the survey and do not have final copy yet. A completed survey should be back from the contractor within the month.

Sharon Hixson reminded the Council of the need for volunteers of the Categorical Aid TaskForce.

ADJOURNMENT -

The next meeting will be February 7, 2003, in Topeka, at the Landon State Office Building, in the first floor, room 106.