

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

January 11, 2002

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
<p><i>TOPEKA SITE:</i> Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber) Julie Stell (representing Commissioner Sebelius) Representative Ethel Peterson Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Carolyn Weinhold (representing Secretary Schalansky) Cheryl Coleman, Bright Circle Preschool</p> <p><i>HAYS SITE:</i> Karla Kenton, Parent Member Maria Martinez, Parent Member</p> <p><i>WICHITA SITE:</i> Deb Voth, Rainbows United</p> <p><i>OVERLAND PARK (REGENTS CENTER):</i> Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Doctor Chet Johnson, University of Kansas Child Development Unit Senator Karin Brownlee</p>	<p>Josie Torrez, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities Linda Kenney, Kansas Department on Health and Environment, Bureau of Children Youth and Families Dana Romary, Ottawa/Wellsville Kathryn Boyd, Osage County. Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff</p> <p>Doug Greer, Hays Interagency Coordinating Council</p> <p>Cayla Wasson, Sedgwick County Jo Glass, Early Education Hutchinson Lee Price, Early Education Hutchinson Mary Schulte, Early Education Hutchinson Katrina Wollenberg, Student Teacher, Early Education Hutchinson</p>

Deb Voth mentioned that Doug Bowman should not be hesitant to ask for assistance to help cover meetings for those who may be able to attend.

Representative Ethel Peterson moved to approve the 2002 Public Policy Strategies with special notice of monitoring the Children's Cabinet and usage of tobacco moneys. Seconded by Ellen Mellard; passed unanimously.

Doug Bowman asked if the Council wants to continue coordination with other coalitions of early childhood initiatives in defining what is essential and what is not. Sharon Hixson stated receiving a copy of the legislative information from the various child care groups would be helpful. Deb Voth explained our challenge as a Council is that all the coalitions have same impact on our kids and families. As a Council, we need to remain focused and not stray from the federal law. Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned when Doug Bowman attends meetings we need to support and make sure children with disabilities are addressed in position statements. Doug Bowman reported Doctor Robert Harder is organizing groups with health emphasis and is holding a press conference next week.

TEACHER LICENSING - Doug Bowman

The State Board of Education is in the process of revolutionizing the way we license teachers. Under the new system teachers will receive licenses instead of certificates. Along with completing course work at the university level, teachers will pass tests to show they have mastered content and pedagogy. Provisional licenses will be given for field work to prove they are able to teach when field work has been completed.

At the Council's urging the State Board of Education endorsed a license for teachers of young children that would cover from birth through grade three (a unified license combining special education and general education.) When implementation started, there was a feeling this could not be achieved in a four year degree. Therefore a proposal was started to split the age ranges. This was problematic for the youngest children as this could create a scarcity of teachers for children birth to age three. With much assistance throughout the state, we communicated with the Kansas State Board of Education that it would be wise to go back to the original plan of Birth through Grade Three a unified license. The Board voted to move forward on regulations implementing a Birth through grade three license. There will be a sixty day comment period. Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned that the Council did provide leadership on this issue and hopes we continue to voice support that universities develop curriculums and discuss issues. Carolyn Weinholt was complimentary to the Council of this development.

Doug Greer, asked about the qualification on birth to five certification for administrators where there may not be special education administrators for children under the age of three. Doug Bowman answered there is concern if standards are rigorous enough in their expectation that administrators understand special education services. The standards are available on the web site. The standards for the administrators have language that discusses services to all children. The

intent is for administrators to have understanding and appreciation of special education and the full age range. We need to make sure as the universities put curriculum together there is sufficient information and knowledge about the youngest of children.

Doug Greer asked if the certification of administrators would extend to preschool age, and infant-toddler programs. If not this may disallow categorical reimbursement. Carolyn Nelson mentioned if you had a special education administrator certificate when providing administrative services, you should be able to pull down categorical aid. However, it would be best if you would check with Kansas State Department of Education auditors for clarification. Deb Voth added it would be important to address the standards and regulations when looking at categorical aid. Deb Voth thanked Doctor Dave Lindeman for his leadership in coordinating and pulling together expert opinions from across the State. Sharon Hixson agreed this is a great accomplishment for the Council. Doctor Dave Lindeman moved to write a letter to the Kansas Department of Education, Commissioner Andy Tompkins along with copy to Bruce Passman related to the standards, policy regulations, and categorical aid to clarify where infant-toddler programs and emphasizing to maintain quality. Seconded by Cheryl Coleman; passed unanimously.

Marnie reported that Doug Bowman and Carolyn Nelson gave testimony before the Kansas State Board of Education, asking them to support the birth to age eight teacher licensure.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Marnie Campbell reported that when the Board met with Commissioner Andy Tompkins, he proposed a compromise position due to various viewpoints among state board members. That position was to endorse the early childhood license from pre-kindergarten through grade three with an additional endorsement available for the infant-toddler age range. This would do away with the two different licenses, maintaining the combination of special and regular education and hitting the most frequently needed age range, with the added opportunity to expand to birth through three age range. After much discussion this proposal was defeated by the Board, and the Birth through Grade Three combined license was approved instead.

The Medicaid division within Social and Rehabilitation Services has stated in writing that for the three to five age early childhood special education group there is only one rate for Medicaid reimbursement, no matter how you classify children on the management information system.

The Kan Be Healthy training is being revamped. Social and Rehabilitation Services is in charge of the five day training including the vision, hearing and Denver Developmental screening. Carolyn Nelson expressed concern about decreasing the number of days of training for vision, hearing, and Denver screening. Kan Be Healthy is looking at alternatives to the Denver Developmental Screening Test.

Marnie Campbell reminded us of the School Readiness strand at the Kansas Division for Exceptional Children conference February 28 through March 2, 2002, at the Airport Hilton in Wichita, Kansas. There are stipends available for family child care providers through the efforts of Carolyn Weinhold and the HeadStart collaboration project through Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Division for Exceptional Children and a grant from the National Association of State Boards of Education.

The Kansas State Department of Education early childhood guidelines are being revised. Marnie is asking for feedback on the guidelines.

Maria Martinez asked if there were parent scholarships available for the Kansas Division for Exceptional Children conference or if Kansas Division for Exceptional Children is sponsoring parents. Marnie stated there is a reduced rate for parents, but is not aware of parent scholarships. Doug Bowman stated for parent members of the State Interagency Coordinating Council, we have resources to assist in sponsoring training. Also, there are resources through the local Interagency Coordinating Council's. Carolyn Nelson stated parents can call the Infant-Toddler services at Kansas Department of Health and Environment in Topeka and they could also assist.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson reported Sharon Patnode has resigned from her position as Assistant to the Secretary of Health and Environment, effective the end of March, 2002. She has accepted the position of Director of Health and Environment's Immunization program. In light of the support Sharon has provided to the State Interagency Coordinating Council while in her current position as Assistant Secretary, Carolyn recommended that the State Interagency Coordinating Council send her a letter of thanks and appreciation for her support. Deb Voth moved we thank and praise Sharon Patnode for her efforts via a letter. Seconded by Ellen Mellard; passed unanimously.

Carolyn Nelson has made a decision regarding to whom to offer the Part C Coordinator position. Carolyn will let everyone know as soon as this person accepts the position. If rejected, she will continue with efforts to fill the position.

Tracy Wohl and Carolyn have been accepted to attend the National Academy Workshop for State Health Policy, "Improving Early Childhood Development: Promising Strategies for States and the Health Care System". It is sponsored by the Agency for Healthcare and Medicaid Services – United States Department of Health and Human Services, The Commonwealth Fund, and the American Academy of Pediatrics. It is an interactive workshop that will help policymakers identify strategies to integrate early childhood development services within health care delivery systems, particularly for low-income children. Sixty registrants were accepted. They feel privileged to have been accepted for registration.

Vera Stroup-Rentier and Carolyn are presenting at a Kan Be Healthy workshop on March 12 at Washburn University. Carolyn Nelson will cover the identification and referral process for Part C. Vera will discuss screening tools and screening follow-up.

Infant-Toddler staff and some Infant-Toddler service providers will present a session at Kansas Division for Exceptional Children on interagency collaboration.

The Infant-Toddler Spring Conference will be held on April 18th in Salina.

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Carolyn Weinhold for Alice Womack

Carolyn Weinhold reported the Social and Rehabilitative Services child care provider rate adjustment will be implemented February 1st, 2002. Adjustments have been made in accordance with data received on 2000 market analysis. Rates will be adjusted to the 65th percentile for licensed home and centers and the 60th percentile for registered homes. SRS will be changing the way counties are grouped for child care payments. Rather than payments made based on the eleven SRS management areas, counties will be grouped in accordance with similarities of prices charged in the private sector. Three groupings will be implemented as high cost, medium cost and rural cost. A provision has been added to "hold harmless" all providers due to the new groupings.

Carolyn Weinhold announced Marilyn Jacobson is the new Assistant Secretary for Children and Family Policy effective January 7, 2002, replacing Joyce Allegrucci.

Quality Enhancement Grants through the child care development fund are still available. Review has been completed on applications received under the Child Care and Development Fund quality enhancement request for proposal. Final recommendations will be sent on for approval. Applicants will be notified as soon as recommendations are finalized. Emphasis is on promoting program accreditation

Carolyn Weinhold passed out a handout on School Readiness.

Oral health is a problem for many low income children including those with disabilities. Kansas will have three pilot sites for dental access in April. This will be in conjunction with SmartStart Kansas. This program is modeled from one in Washington State. Through this effort, more services will be provided to young children. Carolyn Weinhold reported she is on the interview team for the new oral health position with Kansas Department of Health and Environment. Linda Kenney reported the position has been advertised to the Dental Hygienist Association as well as nationally and statewide. The money should flow to Kansas Department of Health and Environment based on the hiring of this position due to much interest from the United Methodist Health Ministry and an offer of financial support for programming and other resources.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Julie Stell

Julie Stell reported the public hearings from Blue Cross Blue Shield have ended and the transcripts will be available January 15th. Julie announced the Commissioner's legislative agenda is on the web site at www.ksinsurance.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee:

Deb Voth reported the fiscal agent for Medicaid is changing effective July 2002. Deb stressed it is important the Council follow-up with this as there could be major system changes. School districts need to be aware of the changes either by letter or by conversation. Deb Voth mentioned their network mailed a letter to Brenda Kuder, Social and Rehabilitation Services, regarding issues that are being felt across the state on the billing for speech services. There is concern regarding the impact will be for fiscal change. Carolyn Weinhold suggested when the letter is written to Brenda Kuder, we need to make specific recommendations.

Deb Voth reported the Governor's budget has put the Infant-Toddler services State General Funds at level funding. Through long-standing efforts of the Council, the Governor added _ million to tobacco money. Deb stressed it is our responsibility to continue to advocate for children and families.

Deb Voth reported Doug Bowman will mail out every ten days or so a Tiny-K update. Deb Voth mentioned they are looking at doing mass production of Tiny-K letterhead that networks can have access to if it can be done in an efficient manner.

Deb Voth stated they are looking at approaching the insurance companies for a way to establish a not-for-profit group to contribute dollars to the Infant-Toddler Services in lieu of a mandate to cover services.

Deb Voth mentioned Doug Bowman will check on HealthWave as there has been no response yet from the Attorney General regarding HealthWave, carve out services under Part C.

Deb Voth explained the Commission on Autism has been trying to get a HCBS waiver for autism down to birth.

Doctor Dave Lindeman asked about the Sunflower Grants and approaching the insurance companies. Deb Voth explained the Sunflower Foundation has assured us they have not issued the grant request for proposals yet. Doug Bowman will follow-up on this.

Doug Bowman explained there is a statute that allows school districts to operate child care facilities and charge fees. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment attorney does not interpret this statute the same as the Kansas State Department of Education attorney. Doug Bowman suggests the attorneys need to discuss the statute. Doctor Dave Lindeman moved to resolve the issue with a meeting of the lawyers first. We can approach legislators within the Council or other supportive legislators to introduce modification to statute allowing Local Education Agencies to charge a market fee for preschool for children without disabilities. Seconded by Ellen Mellard; passed unanimously.

Sharon Hixson reported the outcome for the Interagency Coordinating Council Internal Operations is improving the communication at all levels to strengthen partnerships. There is no specific activity to report on currently.

Sharon Hixson and Doug Bowman met with Commissioner Andy Tompkins, Kansas State Department of Education, Sharon Patnode and Doctor Moser, Kansas Department of Health and Environment reporting to them on the mission statement of the Council, and offering collaboration on Early Childhood issues.

COORDINATORS REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported he mailed out a brochure on Kansas Children's Advocacy Day 2002 to Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services. The conference is scheduled for February 19 with a legislative reception the evening of February 18th. Registrations need to be postmarked or faxed on or prior to February 1st.

There are resources within the Interagency Coordinating Council budget to assist any member along with parents who would like to pick up additional training.

Maria Martinez, parent member from Hays has been named the 2001 HeadStart parent of the year for the State of Kansas. Congratulations to Maria.

Representative Ethel Peterson asked if anyone would be interested in voting on a tax increase to support programs for which we support. Carolyn Weinhold would be in favor of higher taxes for children and elderly. Josie Torrez was in favor of higher taxes to guarantee services for families. Ellen Mellard was in favor of increased taxes for targeted programs for young children and education. Carolyn Nelson was in favor of higher taxes for young children. Doug Greer feels the need for more money so all early childhood programs can do justice to their work. Deb Voth mentioned the state needs to look at a variety of revenue enhancements either by tax increase and/or other revenue generating issues. Doctor Chet Johnson expressed the need for higher taxes for care of women and services to young children. This is the foundation for a healthy society, the need to invest for economic growth. Doctor Dave Lindeman supports the variety of options

to increase income for the State of Kansas and focus on programs for children and families. Deanna Berry supports increases as this is money well invested.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on February 1, 2002, located in Topeka at White Lakes Mall, 3600 Topeka Boulevard, Disability Determination conference room A.