

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

MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2008

Topeka and ITV

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member  
Deb Voth, Provider Member  
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE Representative  
Tom Laing, Public Member  
Gayle Stuber, KSDE Representative  
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member  
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member  
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member  
Bobbi Mariani, SRS  
Susan Carriger, Provider Member  
Julie Broski, Parent Member (On Telephone)

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator  
Jean Wilson, Senior Admin. Assistant  
Carolyn Weinhold, HSSCO/SRS  
Leslie Girard, Families Together, Inc.  
Anne Aytes, Leavenworth County  
Ryan Weir, KDHE

MEMBERS PRESENT IN LENEXA

Letitia Holub-Taylor, Provider Member

MEMBERS PRESENT IN HAYS

Maria Martinez, Parent Member

MEMBERS PRESENT IN PARSONS

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Regents Rep.

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT IN HAYS

Doug Greer, Hays Children's Center

MEMBERS PRESENT IN CLEARWATER

Nancy Krase, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT IN  
LENEXA

Amy Owens, Infant-Toddler Services

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Martinez, Parent Member  
Senator Julia Lynn, Senate  
Sharon Hixon, Public Member  
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member  
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller, House  
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative  
Scott Brunner, KHPA Representative  
John Meetz, KHPA Representative

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT IN  
CLEARWATER

Homer - Rainbows United  
Holly Powell – Sedgwick County  
Greg Crockett – Sedgwick County

DODGE CITY

None Present

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

MINUTES  
JANUARY 11, 2008

Topeka and ITV

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with a welcome and introduction of all present. The Chair then made announcements:

The next ICC Meeting (in 3 weeks) will be on February 1, 2008 in Topeka at the Kansas Department of Education Board Room. Interactive TV sites will be available.

The Executive Committee will now meet typically each third Friday of every month via telephone conference call. If there are issues that need brought up, please contact Doug, or any Executive Committee member.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Maria Martinez made a motion to adopt the minutes. Tom Laing seconded the motion that minutes of December 7, 2007 be adopted as written. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Linda Mitchell passed out handouts from the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (NECTAC) Conference that she and Julie Broski attended last December. The most interesting issue concerned evidence-based practices. Research linked evidence-based practice issues with Federal law and state regulations, but with an emphasis on a strong foundation under everything done for young children and their families. Another session attended was “Implementation – The Missing Link Between Research and Practice”. There was a strong consensus that this subject has quite limited research. Both attendees believed the field has gone forward in other ways, gaining valid, reliable and trustworthy data to support evidence-based practices - but much more research is needed to implement them in the field. On the first day SICC Chairs, SICC members, and staff met. In limited sharing, New Hampshire showed good evidence of progress in linking between state interagency coordinating councils and local councils. Another meeting covered federal levels of funding sources for early childhood programs.

Julie Broski also reported from the NECTAC Meeting. One meeting was especially interesting; identifying factors associated with poor outcomes from maltreated infants. This information will be brought to the next meeting for all to read. Factors to identify maltreatment in infants has been poor in Kansas and there is a real need in the area of identification, possibly with the use of new information from CDC on in-vitro-treatment, prevention, and early identification of these children.

Linda Mitchell offered a thank you from those who were supported by SICC to go to the NECTAC Conference in Washington, D.C. It was their first time to attend this conference. They noted how many parents were in attendance. The conference concluded with a message to leaders and professionals in the field, to look at the evidence, to help practitioners understand what “best practice” is, and to make sure everything is done to link back to what ultimately affects the child and family. All those in attendance found evidence that Kansas is more effective than realized, and came home with renewed energy.

### KDHE PRESENTATION

Ryan Weir gave an update on the Part C Annual Performance Report that Kansas must complete by February 1, 2008. Each year, this coincides with the state performance plan, which was first completed two years ago. The state performance plan is a six-year plan with set targets for each year. The most important indicators were #1 and #9 (which were cited by OSEP as being not in compliance), were still in progress. Indicator #1 was for timely services within 30-45 days of initial identification. Because of the manner of #9’s reporting, it caused OSEP to question if compliance was met. With assistance from the Database Manager (Jim North), the database process turned out over 9,400 records. Reviewing each of these and sorting out reasons for non-compliance (with appropriate justification) was a time-consuming process. A draft is now 95% complete - except for indicator #3, because its outcomes depend on Part B’s data.

The Part C Annual Performance Report (page two), has a Table of 14 indicators shown with current and last year’s results, what the current target is, any deviation, and our improvements or regression. Indicator #4A revealed a 7.1% below target score (this is the procedural safeguards question), which has continued for many years. The group has looked at rewording this survey question to reflect parents’ actual experiences.

Another outstanding indicator was #6: identification of children out of the total birth to age 3 populations. Our data is currently at 2.63% with a target at 2.8%. OSEP did not give any negative feedback on any other indicators. As soon as the finalized report reaches OSEP, work begins anew for new determinations of this type, for the next year’s report.

Deb Voth stated that the Kansas aggregate for identification was over the national average. Yet the state set such a high target to achieve, with 28% of the state’s networks at this point, having no control over the last two years of data. This data now reflects firm outcomes and those networks are now on a “needs assistance” basis. Why was such a high target set when Kansas was already over the national average?

Ryan Weir responded that a target for the initial year was set at 2.65% with a proportional increase from baselines based on national average increases. A projection of this national average was set at 2.74% for last year, 2.8% for the current year, and 2.83% for next. This percent difference is included in the next determination process. Kansas has moved above national average as a state for now, but is walking a fine line between

what OSEP demands to meet current compliance versus keeping to targets projected from past goals.

Deb Voth commented that this data should be used in that way. Many Part C local networks have indicated they are unable to go beyond typical child find activities. The concern is that a lack of resources, specifically lack of work force, makes it a challenge to do the business at hand. If more resources were available, then targets might be met.

Maria Martinez stated that there have been questions about the procedural safeguards area. The questions have been confusing and she would like copies of this questionnaire sent to everyone. The new survey needs to be less clinical with more down to earth explanations about how to ask for support services specific to the child's needs.

Ryan Weir responded that procedural safeguard questions have been based from data taken from the semi-annual reports, and two different parent surveys. There is an entrance/exit survey and a random selection of parents' survey. The entrance and exit survey has instructions at the top with definition of EI services, tiny-K, Part C, and Infant-Toddler Services. This question will be re-designed to reduce the confusion over procedural rights, parent rights, and who to contact outside of local programs.

Linda Mitchell concluded that in regard to these questions she hopes parents know that any one on the SICC is happy to help in any way. She divided these procedural safeguard questions into three parts:

1. Rights were given according to Federal IDEA – all that is required is that parental rights were given (in written form).
2. Rights were fully understood by the parents.
3. Parents knew how to access their rights.

Ryan Weir asked that the SICC review this report. After last week's discussion in Wichita with Part C coordinators, the intent was to distribute the question via email to all 36 programs for review. Now the SICC will be included.

Ryan Weir added in response to Maria's question about site visits, that this depends on the reason for the visit. We used to have a team consisting of a provider, parent, and KDHE staff that went out to about 13 different programs each year. That process was changed. Now, site visits happen only when there are client issues and more one-on-one help is needed.

Task	Who	When
SICC Feedback for: Question #4A (Procedural Safeguards) In Part C Annual Performance Report.	Ryan Weir	May 1, 2008

Doug Bowman reported that past annual reports were more in a narrative format, with a page or two identified as the ICC Annual Report. The KDHE staff was good in giving the State ICC its' own report embedded in their main report. This took care of our federal reporting requirements. The Part C report has now changed to a more data-driven report with criteria-meeting targets. There is a simple form - basically stating the SICC has reviewed the report, looked at the data that the lead agency provided, and everything is accurate and agreed upon.

Under State Statute the SICC is to give an annual report to the Governor. In the past, the one-page narrative was considered the completed SICC annual report. Now that the Part C report is a data-driven document, SICC has nothing to use as an annual SICC report. The Coordinator will draft an annual report for our purposes, summarizing what we have accomplished in the previous year. He will have it ready in 3 weeks for review.

We could use this document as a handout for the Legislature and the local networks. It could serve multiple purposes also with the local ICC because there are people who sit at LICC tables that are not knowledgeable about the relationship with the SICC.

In conclusion, Linda Mitchell commented that the consensus was to create a State ICC annual report document. Doug Bowman will work with the Executive Committee to get a document for discussion, editing, and improvement.

Task	Who	When
Create Draft ICC Annual Report	Staff Coordinator with Executive Committee	February 1, 2008

#### Chair and Staff Reports

Doug Bowman began by stating that several items we had hoped for this meeting's agenda got bumped into spring. Dr. Bill Craig, who serves as the Chairperson of the Autism Task Force, will be at the SICC February 1, 2008 Meeting. Their preliminary report will be sent out to all SICC in advance via email, to be reviewed.

A sub-committee was formed last month to review the Autism Task Force preliminary report. Its members were: Dave Lindeman, Deb Mai, Peggy Miksch, and Nancy Kruse.

Their work was sent electronically this morning to all ICC members. Tom Liang recommended that ICC use this work, which was submitted by the sub-committee. A consensus to do so was noted. Doug Bowman commented that the sub-committee summary of the preliminary autism report will be submitted to Dr. Bill Craig for his review to give him an idea of potential questions by the SICC upon his visit in 3 weeks.

The full Autism Task Force met last Wednesday. Sub-committees of the same continue to meet. The Best Practices group met last Tuesday, and the Funding sub-group met

Thursday. Every effort is being made by the Coordinator to attend as many of these meetings as possible.

The application process for the Medicaid waiver for young persons with autism spectrum disorders closes at the end of business today, January 11, 2008. Bobbi Mariani reported there were 107 applications for the 25 placements, as of yesterday. A lottery will occur on January 17. The balance of those applying will be randomized into a waiting list. All applications received after 1/11 will be put on a first come first - served basis on the subsequent waiting list.

There was discussion at the Coordinators Meeting in Wichita last week about these waivers. Discussions were led to make sure that local networks were aware, up to speed and understood the meaning of the waivers. It will have an impact, if they have a child in their Part C network who receives a waiver. Very careful work must be done to re-assure that all services are coordinated and not blended.

Tom Liang expounded on the waivers' purposes. The waiver proposes that once a child's eligibility has been determined, an autism specialist is hired specifically to handle the responsibility of the coordination of all services;. No network should feel adrift. With only 25 autistic child cases, SRS will have the names of every assigned autism specialist functioning as case manager. Doug Bowman emphasized the importance of Part C staff who are functioning as a family service coordinator interacting with and coordinating their work with the autism specialist.

Deb Voth commented that this could possibly take some pressure off of our birth to 5 services and will be interesting to see what the philosophy is behind the waivers. KVC does the assessments after the lottery pick completion on January 17, 2008. Letters will be issued to the balance of the pool.

Doug Bowman gave an update on Washington D.C. news, stating the recently passed budget included cuts to Part C of \$746,000 (Kansas' is about 1% of the total), a cut to Section 619 (children aged 3-5 special ed services) of \$6.65 million. However, the total Part B budget was increased by \$259 million. There was a slight increase to the Parents Information Centers (Families Together) with a \$42,000 bump. Head Start got reduced by 10.5 million. The child care block grant numbers were level-funded with no increase.

In the Part D of IDEA, there were cuts to personnel preparation funds (which go to higher education institutes), of \$1.5 million. NECTAC technical assistance monies got reduced by \$854,000. Congress imposed a six-month moratorium or freeze on changing Medicaid rules and regulations.

Carolyn Weinhold announced that Head Start was reauthorized after waiting for over three years. See her handout. A review of the changes included: the recommended funding level (subject to change) for 2008 was \$7.35 billion, for 2009 it was \$7.65 billion, and for 2010 it was \$7.995 billion. Of these amounts, each program is to use 2.5 - 3% of their funding for training and technical assistance. In the listing of targeted

populations, homeless children have been added. Previously, foster children were included. Subject to the specifics of the implemented regulations, grantees may propose to serve up to 35% of their enrollment as families of children with 100-130% of poverty level. Previously this was limited to 100% of poverty level or less. This opens the door to the working poor - a good thing.

Carolyn Weinhold was asked about Head Start services to children with disabilities. There is a long-standing requirement that at least 10% of their enrollment shall include children with disabilities. Carolyn will get data to Maria to see where Kansas stands on waivers in early head start programs with disabled children.

Head Start Agencies will now report enrollment on a monthly basis. Some programs were under-enrolled and there was a real push to have enrollment early in the school year. Staff qualifications and training have tightened, and now all head start teachers must have acquired by September 30, 2010, a minimum of a (Child Development Associate) CDA credential. At least 50% of the Head Start Teachers nation-wide must have a BA or advanced degree in early childhood education or related degree with experience teaching pre-school age children by September 30, 2010. In the past, oftentimes teachers with a degree will move on to the local school district for better pay, creating a dilemma. Now, it is a policy that any teacher receiving financial assistance in acquiring a degree must stay for three years before leaving. These new qualifications are not into effect yet, and there may be more changes coming.

Linda Mitchell read a reply to SICC's letter sent Kate Wolff, encouraging her attendance at SICC meetings. The letter also outlined recent activities of the SICC. Kate indicated we may see her at the February 2008 meeting and she will be happy to discuss any Legislative issues or concerns that came up, at this meeting.

Doug Bowman explained that a resolution (SCR1614) introduced early in the Session at the request of the Legislative Educational Planning Committee (LEPC). This resolution urged the Governor to name as Lead Agency for Part C, the Department of Education. There has now also been introduction of a bill to make this so. (SB408)

#### ICC Advocacy Committee

Nancy Krase said the Committee recently talked about tiny-K plans, but have not yet formally met.

Doug Bowman talked about his attending the Part C Coordinator's meeting in Wichita last week. He and Debbie Mai updated everyone on what the Advocacy Committee did over the fall and their plans for the spring. They are trying to make sure that local Part C networks are aware and ready when issues arise over the next couple of months.

Linda Mitchell announced to ICC that the Early Learning Day at the Capital has been moved to February 26, 2008, giving more latitude to other childhood organizations to prepare and get together for their own days. Tom Liang reiterated his desire to see this coalition endorsing funding for our programs.

Linda Mitchell noted that the catalyst for this over-arching early childhood day is to bring to the attention of our policy-makers, the importance of early childhood learning very broadly. We hope a message gets out that everyone is very coordinated and working together to improve the lives of all children - even those with disabilities. The next meeting is January 22, 2008 for the Kansas Coalition of School Readiness. Sharon Hixon attended the last meeting.

Maria Martinez remarked that we have had our advocacy day scheduled either early or late in various sessions. There are advantages and disadvantages for both.

#### Funding Committee

Dave Lindemann said, the Governor will put out her budget next week. After that, the Funding Committee will meet

#### Partnership Committee:

Maria Martinez: No report today.

#### Agency Reports:

Gayle Stuber of KDHE gave a quick overview and a written report. The Kansas Early Learning document is now available. Training on it is being provided on January 18, 2008, in Olathe and on April 18, 2008. The KDEC Conference is scheduled for March 6-7, 2008, and additional training will be held at that time. The Child Care Providers' Conference (CCPC) will be held on April 26, 2008. Jean Morgan and Gayle are to do more training there. Additional training will be set up for the summer. Capper's is working on their training and we are working with them.

KSDE is working on the SPP and the APR to be ready February 2, 2008. We are working with KDHE and other stakeholders for integrated technical assistance at the community level and how that will work with Head Start

Bobbi Mariani presented an update and a written report for SRS. A lot of children that receive SRS child care subsidies are cared for by relatives where they do not have the same registration, oversight, and formal training as is the case for licensed caregivers. SRS is trying to reach out to the relative caregivers in two counties (Shawnee and Crawford) as a pilot. They hope to see that they are offered these same services, technical support, and training. What we learn from those pilots, we'll try to replicate what works into other counties.

No Report from Insurance.

Ryan had no further report from KDHE. Deb Voth talked about child care licensing issues and the effort to re-write regulations. She stated that the committee of four (Tom Laing, Carolyn Weinhold, Dave Lindemann, and herself) all visited, talked and shared information and drafted a report

Tom Laing suggested that the ICC Chair be empowered to approve this document next week and that any changes suggested by members be sent to the Chair. Subject to the Chair's final review, with help by the sub committee, this memo would be submitted to the BEST Team on Wednesday, January 16, 2008. A consensus was agreed to do so.

Mr. Bowman talked about Sharon Hixon's report from the meeting of the governing body of the Coalition for School Readiness. They referenced an Illinois approach to early learning, including an over-arching early childhood governance system. Gail believes she has some information on what this Illinois approach means and will get this to us.

Staff will send out by email, copies of the Agency reports and other documents to everyone unable to get them in Topeka.

Meeting Adjourned.

The next meeting will be Friday February 1, 2008 in Topeka at the State Department of Education and at Interactive TV site throughout the state.

# MEMO

TO: Child Care Licensing Systems Improvement Team  
 FROM: Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood  
 Developmental Services  
 RE: Recommendations for Changes in Child Care and Preschool Licensing  
 Regulations  
 DATE: January 11, 2008

The State ICC appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Child Care Licensing Regulations and compliment KDHE for moving forward in updating and revising these regulations. In an effort to provide more age-appropriate environments for young children with special needs and meet their individual needs, we offer the following recommendations for changes to the licensing regulations:

## **Section I – Kansas Statutes for Licensing Child Care Facilities Revised July 1999**

- Page 8 –KSA 65-516 (b) No person shall maintain a child care facility or a family day care home if such person has been found to be a disabled person in need of a guardian or conservator, or both.

**Comment: Language should change to person first – “person with a disability”.**

- Page 8 – KSA 65-516 (c) Any person who resides in a child care facility or family day care home and who has been found to be a disabled person in need of a guardian or conservator, or both, shall be counted in the total number of children allowed in care.

**Comment: Language should change to person first – “person with a disability”. Although a person may be in need of a guardian or conservator, it does not necessarily indicate need for constant supervision and should not be a part of “the total number of children”. This language is highly prejudicial and should be removed. Level of need for supervision should be considered on a case-by-case basis.**

## **Section 2 General Regulations Revised February 26, 1990**

- Page 15- KAR 28-4-126 Health of Persons 16 years or older in child care Facilities

(a)(1) Each person caring for children shall be free from physical, mental or emotional handicaps as necessary to protect .....

**Comment: Language should change to: “physical, intellectual, or emotional disability”**

**Section 3 Regulations for Preschools and Child Care Centers Revised February 26, 1990**

Page 26 – KAR 28-4-420 Definitions

- (e) “Child with handicaps” means .....

**Comment: Language should change to: “Child with a disability”. Also the definition could be structured to align with other state agencies with responsibility for services to children with disabilities. (e.g. Child with a disability means a child that is eligible for early intervention services or special education services under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and requires specially designed instruction, supports and services to progress developmentally/educationally.**

- (k) “Infant” means a child.....

**Comment: Our concern with this definition is that children older than 12 months who are very delayed in their motor skills should not be kept in an infant room after 12 months since it is not age-appropriate. Children with disabilities need to be served in age-appropriate classrooms.**

- (m) “Integrated Unit” unit ...

**Comment: Language should change to: “Inclusionary Program” means a center or preschool program serving children with disabilities and typically developing children in the same classroom and learning activities. Ideally, the ratio of child with disabilities to typically developing children would reflect the ratio of general society. However, not less than 1/10 or no more than 1/2 of the children have a disability.**

- (aa) “Special Purpose Unit” means ....

**Comment: Research supports and indicates that children in inclusive setting progress as well as segregated settings. Such units should have appropriate supervision, supports, and training in place to meet the individual needs of the children and demonstrate the need for such a placement. Teacher of this classroom should have a special education credential (KSDE teacher certification or licensure) or years of appropriate experience as a substitution for licensure and defined as “means a classroom in which more than two-thirds of the children enrolled have a disability as defined in KAR 28-4-420 (e)**

- (dd) “Toddler” means a child who has learned to walk and who is between 12 and 30 months of age.

**Comment: Our concern with this definition is that children older than 30 months who are very delayed in their motor skills should not be kept in a toddler room after**

**30 months since it is not age-appropriate. Children with disabilities need to be served in age-appropriate classrooms.**

Page 33 – KAR 28-4-426 Administration

- (b)(2) Each admission policy ..... physical handicap ...

**Comment: Language should change to physical disability**

- Page 46 – KAR 28-4-435 Programs serving children with handicapping conditions.

**Comment: Language should change to: Programs serving children with disabilities.**

- Records. Written parental permission shall be on file for evaluation and placement of children.

**Comment: The intent of this requirement is unclear. It is not clear who permission is given to for what purposes, who can conduct an evaluation and what placement means. A child care/preschool should have on file parental permission for referral to appropriately train professionals/programs to determine if a child demonstrates a developmental delay/disability. Referral should be made to the local program(s) providing Part C and Part B services under IDEA. Under Part C an individual that suspects that a child has a development delay or disability is required to refer that child to the Part C Program.**

- (b)(2) "...space for physically handicapped children"

**Comment: Language should be "children with a physical disability"**

- (b)(3) When physically handicapped children.....

**Comment: Language should be: When children with physical disabilities... Also the Americans with Disabilities Act could be reference as guidance.**

- (c) Transportation A second adult shall ride .....

**Comment: If this requirement is maintained language should change to "children with disabilities". Depending on disability it is unclear how children with disabilities would change issues of supervision for transportation. Specific guidance must be provided as to need or severity of disability.**

- (d)(1). The parent of child enrolled in the unit...

**Comment: It is unclear as to any reasonable basis for the parent of a child with a disability not be the teacher of the unit. What is the basis for this regulation and if**

**maintained why would it not be applied to all parents of children with or without disabilities. This regulation appears to be discriminatory.**

- (d)(2) Each unit shall have a staff person .....

**Comment: Language needs to change to “ understanding typical and non-typical child development including the needs of children with disabilities”. Additionally, language should be added that any individual plan developed should be a part of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed under Part C of IDEA or be a part of or complement an Individual Education Plan (IEP) under Part B of IDEA. For the IEP a difference could occur if the program a child attends was intended for child care or preschool.**

- (e) Minimum staff/child ratios.

**Comment: Language should be changed to children with disabilities**

- (f) In-service training

**Comment: Language should be changed to children with disabilities**

- (g) Program.

**Comment: Language should be changed to children with disabilities. Additionally, language should be added that any individual plan developed should be a part of an Individual Family Service Plan (IFSP) developed under Part C of IDEA or be a part of or complement an Individual Education Plan (IEP) under Part B of IDEA. For the IEP a difference could occur if the program a child was in was intended for child care or preschool.**

Page 51 28-4-439 Child care center: food service

- (m) Dishes shall have ....

**Comment: It would be appropriate to add that adapted dishes and table ware will be provided to children with disabilities in need of adaptations to support independence.**

The State ICC also supports the following suggestions for general improvement of child care and preschool services:

- **Increased training requirements for all child care providers;**
- **Training on working with children with special needs should be woven into all classes and curricula;**

- **Kansas should provide tiered reimbursement based on training and education of providers;**
- **Do not change ratios that would increase the number of children to staff.**

The State ICC believes the above recommendations and suggestions will help improve environments and services for ALL children and help each child have the skills to be ready for school.

Again, thank you for your work and the opportunity to provide input to this important process.

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

1. Kansas Expanding Opportunities Initiative: This group began to meet in August. The purpose of this initiative is to develop a cross agency strategic planning initiative around inclusion. The group is working on the application for technical assistance through the National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI).
2. Trainings on the Early Childhood Outcomes are being provided across the state. KITS and KSDE and KDHE staff are working collaboratively to meet the needs of all providers in Part B and Part C. See [www.kskits.org](http://www.kskits.org) for training dates.
3. The Kansas Early Learning Document is out and training is being provided by KSDE and KITS in collaboration with staff from SRS. Future trainings are listed on the KITS website, [www.kskits.org](http://www.kskits.org). Two groups are working hard to complete the two sections on how to use the guidelines and standards. More documents will be printed later this spring when these two sections are completed.
4. KSDE is working to complete the SPP (State Performance Plan) and the accompanying APR (Annual Performance Report) which is due February 1<sup>st</sup> to OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs). The reports will be made available on the KSDE website under the Special Education Services team webpage in February.
5. Early Childhood Collaboration:
  - a. KSDE early childhood staff has been working with the Head Start Collaboration office and other stakeholders to examine the efficacy of an integrated technical assistance team to support communities as they plan, implement and sustain integrated early childhood care and education systems at the local level.
  - b. KSDE early childhood staff is participating in the Kansas Early Childhood Professional Development Systems Planning meetings set up by SRS staff as part of meeting their state plan.
6. KSDE early childhood staff has been invited by the National Center for Research on Early Childhood Education (NCRECE) to attend a one-day working symposium with the purpose of develop a research agenda for evaluating links between statewide professional development systems, Quality Rating Systems, and early childhood teacher competencies systems. Members of the team include KSDE, KITS, and SRS staff. The meeting in on February 5<sup>th</sup> in Washington D.C. and results will be used to collaborate with other early childhood professional development groups.

## SRS Information for State ICC Meeting January 11, 2008

### **Informal Caregiver Pilots**

Approximately 20% of the children receiving SRS child care subsidy are being cared for by relatives. Though all do receive a child abuse and neglect registry check, these caregivers have no foiiiiial training requirement. In an effort to provide support and resources to these informal caregivers, two contractors are working in Crawford and Shawnee counties to provide opportunities for developing support groups, activities for caregivers and children, and access to a variety of community resources. The goal is to engage SRS caregivers in these activities, providing support and resources that will help improve the quality of care provided in these informal settings. These pilot projects will run through June, 2009, with the goal to develop a model that could be replicated in additional communities.

### **Professional Development System Planning**

SRS recently convened a group of stakeholders interested in early childhood professional development system planning. This group will meet to map out the next 5 years of goals for early childhood professional development in the state of Kansas, and make suggestions how to more closely coordinate amongst the many diverging efforts currently underway.

### **LIEAP**

The 2008 LIEAP application season will begin Tuesday, January 22, 2008 and will run through the close of business on Monday, March 31, 2008. The 2008 block grant appropriation for LIHEAP has been finalized and Kansas will be receiving \$16,16,653,134 in Federal funding for this season. Last year the LIEAP program in case provided benefits to a total of 41,269 households with an average benefit of \$293.43.

### **Autism Waiver**

SRS/CSS has been receiving applications for the HCBS Autism Waiver for the random selection which will occur on January 17<sup>th</sup>. At that time 25 individuals will be selected. The individual will then be assessed to see if they meet the functional criteria of the waiver. If they do, the assessor will assist the family in accessing Medicaid if they do not have a medical card and assist them in finding a Autism Specialist who will then develop the plan of care and assist in finding providers of services. At this time we have 107 applications. The deadline for submitting applications to be included in the random selection process is today, January 11<sup>th</sup>.

We have also awarded the contract to complete the assessments and that is KVC. They have 5 working days to assess the individual to determine if they are waiver eligible. KVC will also complete the re-assessments which are required annually.