

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

MINUTES
STATE ICC MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2009, 1:00-5:00 PM

TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY
MENNINGER ROOM #206, 2ND FLOOR
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, State ICC Chair
Tom Laing, Public Member
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Carol Ayres, KSDE
Carrie Hastings, SRS
Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Dr. Dave Lindeman, KU Bd/Regents Rep.
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Mbr
Linda Kenney, KDHE
John Meetz, KS Insurance Commissioner

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Deb Voth, Provider Member
Julie Broski, Parent Member

MEMBERS AT REMOTE SITES

Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Nancy Krase, Provider Member
Susan Carriger, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, ICC Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, ICC Sr. Admin. Assistant
Janet Newton, KSDE, Parents-Teacher
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Colleen Riley, KSDE
Kayzy Bigler, Families Together, Topeka
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE-BCYF
Tiffany Smith-Birk, KDHE-BCYF
Sarah Walters, Ottawa-Wellsville ITS
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co. ITS

NON-MEMBERS AT REMOTE SITES

Doug Greer, Hays Children's Center, Inc.
Liz Stone, Lake Mary Infant Toddler Svs.
Nancy Juhlin, REACH Infant Toddler
Kendall Burr, Wyandotte Infant Toddler
Jan Nondorf, Seward Parents & Children
Together
Amy Owens, Johnson Co Infant Toddler
Deanna Berry, Russell Area Child
Development Center

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TOPEKA, KS

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order, with a welcome to all present, and at remote sites. Dr. Mitchell announced that the meeting would be facilitated utilizing internet-based technology, LifeSize Video Conferencing for the second time.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minor edits were made to the December draft minutes. Sharon Hixson moved and Tom Laing seconded that minutes be approved as changed. The vote was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one chose to speak at this time.

To Note: The State ICC has at least six State ICC member vacancies open soon – two parent members, two public members, and two provider members. Local networks are invited to submit names for these positions in a timely fashion so names get reviewed, and appointed by the Governor. The State ICC will hold a joint orientation with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) on the last Wednesday in July 2009 in Wichita.

2009 Kansas Legislature & Proposed Budgets From Agency Representatives

Doug Bowman gave an overview of budget recommendations. Using November revenue estimates, the Governor assembled her budget and submitted it. This is the first word on the budget; it is the basis of all discussions. Kansas is already \$15 million behind these November estimates. The budget will now be reviewed carefully. A revised 2009 budget will be completed in February. There will be cuts and difficult decisions made.

KHPA Report

Cayla Wright reported that Kansas Health Policy Authority at operations levels, can only do so much when there is little money in Medicaid Assistance Program recommendations, or services. Presently, KHPA is determining how to make some cuts, with ongoing discussion of how to reduce impact on services and programs. (Refer to KHPA's full written report.)

SRS Report

Carrie Hastings represented SRS at this meeting. Doug Bowman reported Smart Start and Early Learning Block Grants initiated this year through the Children's Cabinet, are now

level funded. The new autism waiver for Early Childhood, Early Head Start, and child care assistance, also were level funded. A new freeze is now in effect on waiver services for those with disabilities. Applications are still being taken for the 2005 waiting list, but no new cases will be open. (Refer to SRS full written report.)

KSDE Report

Carol Ayres provided a budget summary, on the Governor's budget recommendations. This is the most difficult budget ever, but KSDE lauds the Governor's continued support for education. However, Kansas faces base reduction state aid in 2009-2010, which was communicated to the school districts who began immediate and strong action to individual budgets, knowing more cuts are still to come. (Refer to KSDE's full written report.)

Doug Bowman and Linda Mitchell both expounded on Kansas educational budgets. Regarding university budget cuts, the present faculty is stretched thin. There are ongoing discussions what programs to cut, university by university, according to the number of students graduating and using other criteria, i.e., freezes on hiring.

KDHE Report

Linda Kenney gave out handouts on the Governor's budget reduction recommendations for KDHE Year 2009; \$1.8 million in SGF from the '09 approved budget. All of these recommendations were targeted and not across the board. All senior managers were asked to prioritize programs and identify core programs. Letters were sent out to some local agencies, not to expect February and May payments. There was an overall 5% cut in the SGF (State General Fund) '09. State funds' intentions were to decrease the Infant Toddler program from \$271,000 to \$186,000; an \$85,000 reduction for 2009; further reducing to \$181,000 for Year 2010. Linda concluded, stating not all state dollars were converted to C.I.F. (Children's Initiative Funds) in the Governor's budget. A committee is now studying effects of the stimulus package on the State of Kansas and its agencies and how to be more accountable, etc. (See KDHE's full written report).

Carolyn Nelson added that the Economic Stimulus package for the Kansas level will increase federal funding to Part C and Part B; a proposal by the House Appropriations Committee for only two years: \$600 million for Infant Toddler – split evenly over the next two years. Carolyn handed out more information on this; the American Recovery Reinvestment Bill. She advised use of the web address for further review.

Insurance Report

John Meetz reported the insurance agency is funded from internal surplus funds gathered yearly; however, some funds are currently getting "swept".

Doug Bowman reiterated that budget recommendations now out, are not the final word. The Legislature is preparing time for general public input and testimony to the Senate Ways & Means Committee and House Appropriations Committee. Doug encouraged everyone being affected, to use this opportunity to go speak; to help the Senate and House to understand the ramifications of the decisions each are about to make.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee Report

Dave Lindeman handed out the Funding Committee's report – developing a matrix of funding with a score card to review where funding comes from. It is a matrix of a “point in time” using funding for children with disabilities, covering 2008 or before. Included, are where the dollars came from, what other programs where inclusion activities might occur – such as Parents as Teachers, with given dollar amounts for each program. Appendices include documentation for derived figures. Performance Indicators were included and past budgets.

In regard to feedback on the KSDE Part C Training, Dave Lindeman stated that it is important not to forget about training, and to make sure everyone is on the same page. Kendall Burr stated that her group was glad to get the same information at the same time; however, there are still questions.

Tiffany Smith-Birk remarked that some good comments were received through emails about the KSDE training. Tiffany stated there were no changes made to the reimbursement guide except it was rearranged so the non-public equivalency and the personnel guidelines were separated in the manual. Tiffany asked that local networks refer further training and ongoing education questions to her. If other issues need addressed before the upcoming April meeting, directly contact Tiffany.

Advocacy Committee Report

Nancy Kruse invited the entire Council and others present to attend *Tiny-K Day*. Doug Bowman will give an Advocacy presentation at the February 25, 2009 *Tiny-K Day*. He will hand out talking points to assist everyone there. This talking point handout emphasizes that increasing services to young children will pay dividends as the child grows. Nancy urged everyone to plan to attend the Early Learning Day on March 4, 2009, in Topeka, also.

Sharon Hixson reminded the Council that talking points should not just be directed to the Children's Initiative Fund or state general funds – and that perhaps there should be more emphasis for a “*tiny-K Plus Day*”. Major components for *tiny-K* funding come from the education funding. Efforts are fruitless for our early childhood programs, if our 3-5 programs do not have adequate staffing to continue those gains and even broaden them. A group rally headed by Doug Bowman will start *Tiny-K Day* at the Curtis Building, with the message that *tiny-K* is a collaboration of building blocks with other programs. Doug Bowman urged all interested to call him for the name of their local state representative(s) or “Google” the internet to find them. Sharon reminded all coming to wear red-colored clothes for fun. They hope to put children's art on the back of the legislatures' handouts and launch the *tiny-K* website with a CD for awareness. Sharon also reminded Doug Bowman to get to the Advocacy Committee, an executive summary of recent surveys the State ICC received (total of 42). The Advocacy Committee will meet again by phone, February 23, 2009, at 1:30 PM.

Maria Martinez added a message to the Advocacy Committee, urging them to use the website to place all information there, also.

Policy Committee Report

Tom Laing reported the Policy group will have a report ready for final action in February 2009. There will be information coming to the State ICC members before then, in order for all to vote in an informed manner on any by-laws' changes.

Improving Services Committee Report

Leticia Holub Taylor reported the committee will meet again February 12, 2009, 9:30 AM, for another phone meeting. Focus has been on the autism waiver letter. They have questioned how some of the positions are described (the specialist), ending with no consensus within the committee. This committee now asked for State ICC feedback and passed out copies of this draft letter for State ICC to review, at this time.

Linda Mitchell re-stated that our autism waiver issue was about qualifications for individuals who could provide services - those credentials did not seem to include licensed early childhood unified teachers who are trained, to be able to deliver those services.

Carolyn Nelson remarked the letter was well written but the intent needed to be made clearer. Much discussion ensued by all members about the autism waiver services letter. The State ICC concluded that the issue should return to the committee for further work.

Much discussion took place on case management delivery. SICC did not take a position on this.

Agency Reports

Cayla Wright stated family service coordination has formally changed to a new procedure code; case management. This was shared with local networks earlier last week.

SRS Report

None

KSDE

Carol Ayres shared information on two specific indicators that are part of the report to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Carol stated that on January 27, 2009, the Kansas Pre-School Program Practitioners' group will meet in Emporia, Kansas. KSDE will meet in Topeka with the Policy Group for the Kansas Pre-School Program on February 3, 2009. (See KSDE full written reports).

KDH&E Report

Carolyn Nelson reported the latest on Federal regulations: the new Administration under President Obama has halted all pending federal agencies' regulations until the

administration can review. The final annual performance report has been forwarded electronically to all State ICC members. KDHE will be working closely with the networks to get data in, as notably, some children are moving from one network to another and are not showing up. Indicators 1, 3, and 6 should be the indicators to concentrate on.

Doug asked for feedback by Wednesday or Thursday next week, of the report to OSEP.

Doug Bowman stated that no State ICC position was taken at past meetings on the Autism Insurance Bill sent out electronically, with no feedback received, and asked what action did the Council wish. Tom Laing moved that State ICC support the Insurance Bill, and John Meetz seconded the motion.

Dr. Dave Lindeman stated that support of the Autism Bill required a child be eligible for services and labeled with a specific diagnosis. This is contrary to the Vision/Values of the State ICC, and a quandary for State ICC to take action.

Carol Ayres and Carolyn Nelson thanked the State ICC for reviewing the bill carefully in this meeting and discussion continued on whether the State ICC body should possibly change the Vision/Values Statement, or questioned if they needed more articulation.

Tom Laing withdrew his motion to support the Insurance Bill, John Meetz withdrew his second.

Sharon Hixson moved that State ICC Chair and staff compose a new letter to Dr. Bill Craig; referencing the State ICC's values and how this places us in an awkward position. Tom Laing seconded Sharon's motion. Vote was unanimous.

The next State ICC Meeting will be February 27, 2009 1-4 PM at the Airport Hilton in Wichita; Ks. Meeting Adjourned.