

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

July 12, 2002
Meeting Minutes

<p><u>Members Attending:</u> TOPEKA SITE: Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Julie Stell (representing Commissioner Sebelius) Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber) Carolyn Weinhold (representing Secretary Schalansky) Deb Voth, Rainbows United – Wichita Trista Beadles, Governor’s Representative</p> <p>HAYS SITE: Karla Kenton, Parent Member Maria Martinez, Parent Member</p> <p>WICHITA SITE:</p> <p>OVERLAND PARK (REGENTS CENTER): Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Doctor Chet Johnson, University of Kansas, Child Development Unit Ellen Mellard, NE KS Education Service Center Senator Karin Brownlee</p> <p>GARDEN CITY SITE: Representative Ethel Peterson</p> <p>PARSONS SITE: Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities</p>	<p><u>Others Attending:</u> Josie Torrez, Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities Tracey Oltmanns, Families Together Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Bureau of Children Youth and Families Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff</p> <p>Doug Greer, Hays Interagency Coordinating Council</p> <p>Debbie Mai, Rainbows United</p> <p>Deanna Berry, Coordinator Russell Child Development Center</p> <p>Chris Miller, Coordinator, Birth to Three, Greenbush Educational Service Center</p>
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The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. The Interactive Television Sites connection was unavailable except for Hays. The other sites joined via conference phone. Introductions were made.

Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned the Part C Coordinator for McPherson McPherson County Kansas Infant Development Services was uncertain. The June 7 minutes would reflect that subsequent

information revealed the decision has not been finalized. Senator Karin Brownlee clarified her point in the June 7 minutes concerning unemployment compensation payments. Maria Martinez moved to approve the draft June 7, 2002 meeting minutes as edited. Seconded by Deb Voth; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Josie Torrez passed out a handout from the Kansas Legislative Research Department. Josie stated she attended the legislative education planning committee at the Capitol. Doug Bowman's name was listed on the interim topics requesting the legislative education planning committee interim to study special education funding for preschool children.

Josie Torrez spoke about the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas. This Council is looking for parents with disabilities raising children that have been taken away (or at risk of being taken away) from them due to the parents having disabilities. Legislation may be drafted and the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas is looking to the field for input asking them if this has been happening to them and if so, how serious is this problem. The Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas phone number is 785-234-6990. If you have additional questions please contact Josie Torrez.

Maria Martinez stated she was at the last public hearing for Part C services in Salina. There was not much attendance from parents. Parents can submit questions by letter or web at www.kansped.org until the end of August 2002.

REPORT ON MEETING OF PART C COORDINATORS - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman discussed the meeting in Salina of most of the thirty-seven Part C coordinators from the Local Networks. Much of the agenda included fiscal issues including the State budget ramifications on Part C services. Discussion included the way in which the Kansas Department of Health and Environment disseminates funds to the local partners and whether the formula needed to be revisited, categorical aid and the way the local networks are able to access this special education funding stream. Advocacy and eligibility was also discussed. Doug Bowman mentioned that because of this meeting, there would be committees established. Doug suggested the Council pool resources and assist in any way we can.

Ellen Mellard stated the meeting in Salina was very productive. There was good discussion and many people walked away feeling good about the meeting.

TEACHER LICENSING - Doctor Dave Lindeman

Doctor Dave Lindeman stated the State Board of Education voted and passed the unified birth through grade three teaching license. The Institutions of Higher Education were given a longer phase in period. The implementation will be 2008. Doug Bowman added any Institutions of Higher Education that wants to implement sooner, does not need to wait until 2008 for approval.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS HEARINGS

Sharon Hixson reiterated what Maria Martinez mentioned about the lack of parent attendance. Maria Martinez added that the location of meetings need to be in areas that are supporting the families. Did not reach the NorthWest area of the State.

Marnie Campbell mentioned the Part B provider meetings will be held later due to staff not being on contract through the summer months. Opportunities will begin the end of July and the first of August when teachers and other persons return to school.

Carolyn Nelson stated that education will have administrators public comment period in Wichita at the annual meeting. Carolyn mentioned they are looking at considering a phone survey for Part C parents and will follow-up on this.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Marnie Campbell discussed the Part B age three through twenty-one self assessment process. One issue that has been raised is that many children are not served in the least restrictive environment for preschool. The Kansas results are revealing when compared to national statistics. This has emerged as an area of self improvement and corrective action plan in the Office of Special Education Programs self-assessment process. Marnie stated that Carol Dermeyer expressed it is time to bring in persons from the federal office. The Preschool representation at the Office of Special Education Programs is Nancy Treusch.

Carolyn Weinhold, Social and Rehabilitation Services, mentioned the Head Start Collaboration Project may be able to fund the federal person to come to Kansas for technical assistance. Carolyn Weinhold and Marnie Campbell will get together and discuss details.

Sharon Hixson asked Marnie Campbell about more information on the reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Doug Bowman said there was a "blue ribbon" commission of persons selected by the President to produce a thorough review of research literature to do a series of hearings and collect data on special education. The report has been recently released. The web address is <http://www.ed.gov/inits/commissionsboards/whspecialeducation/reports.html>. (Ask Doug for a hard copy).

Sharon Hixson asked about the No Child Left Behind Act. Marnie Campbell said that this Federal law reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Good Start, Grow Smart is a companion bill for birth through age five. For more information, see the web site www.whitehouse.gov/infocus/earlychildhood/toc.html.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson reported information received from the National Infant-Toddler Coordinators Association about the Kennedy bill. It requests permanent authorization for Part C and that abused children be considered automatically eligible for Part C. Carolyn asked that we stay informed on proposed legislation in Washington, District of Columbia.

Carolyn Nelson reported the President's Commission on Special Education Report recommends a unified system of intervention/special education from birth through age twenty-one. Their justifications for this recommendation: the Part C program is not uniform from state to state; each state writes its own regulations following federal law; transition is weak in some states;

many states are process and not outcome oriented; and services in some states are poorly monitored.

Carolyn Nelson mentioned the Kansas Department of Health and Environment has completed interviews for the newborn screening position. A person has been selected. After Human Resources reviews the applicant's interview and reference information forwarded to them by Children's Developmental Services, the position will be offered to the applicant.

The Bureau for Children, Youth, and Families' Dental Hygienist, Dawn McGlasson, is available to provide dental education for programs, agencies and others in Kansas. Dental information is also available on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment website at www.kdhe.state.ks.us .

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Carolyn Weinhold for Alice Womack

Carolyn Weinhold reported there is more reorganization with Social and Rehabilitation Services. Child Care Early Childhood Development is moving to Economic and Employment Support Division. The Child Care Subsidy Manager is now part of the Child Care Early Childhood Development unit.

The bi-annual Child Care Market Rate Survey will soon be underway. A random sample of all licensed child care facilities will be surveyed. Facilities that care for Social Rehabilitation Services subsidized children will be asked about specific hours (blocks of time) versus an hourly rate.

Disproportionate Share bonus Request for Proposals will go out to eligible child care centers in August. Child Care Centers that care for 70% or more SRS subsidized children will be eligible for a one time bonus up to \$10,000. An electronic benefit transfer system is being developed for child care subsidy. The target date for implementation is 2004.

Quality Training Incentive Project is a result of the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies' Infant/Toddler Child Care Quality Study that showed that diapering/sanitation and cultural awareness were areas that needed improvement. Quality Training Incentive Project will offer two professional development opportunities in each Resource and Referral area of the state. \$80,000 worth of incentives (professional diaper changing table, diaper changing mats and toddler size table and chairs) will be awarded to the attendees of the diapering/sanitation workshops. A set of six board books and a set of multi-ethnic dolls will be offered to those attending the cultural awareness workshops.

Healthy Smiles II, an oral health training opportunity for child care providers will be offered in Topeka on February 28, 2003. Kandee Klein, Doctor of Dental Surgery of Garden City will be the keynote speaker. She will include tips for working with children with special needs.

A Kansas Fatherhood Coalition is being formed to help promote father involvement from pregnancy, childbirth and throughout the children's lives. A statewide conference for April, 2003, is being discussed.

Head Start and Children with Disabilities meeting is scheduled for October 1st in McPherson. A panel of three Head Start fathers who have children with disabilities will be the closing presentation.

The Hazel A. Shriver Project is a collaboration between the project of Russell Child Development Center and Care Connection resource and referral in Garden City. The goal is to promote more family child care homes to provide care for special needs children. Specialized training provides information about developmental delays, premature/fragile infants, spina bifida, and cerebral palsy.

Senator Karin Brownlee expressed concern with the Children's Cabinet funding of programs.

Linda Kenney mentioned the strategic plan which the children's cabinet completed has been released for public review.

Pam Alger, Social and Rehabilitation Services, will report on Therapeutic Preschools at the October 4th Interagency Coordinating Council meeting. Doug Bowman will provide information on therapeutic preschools in advance to assist with questions for Pam Alger later this summer.

Doctor Dave Lindeman discussed at the federal level the Senate Bill number 2671; a bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant to provide for quality improvement in children care for children with disabilities or other special needs. This bill has been introduced by Senator John Edwards (Democrat from North Carolina). The committee that has jurisdiction over the discretionary funding is the senate health education and labor and pensions committee. Please contact Senator Pat Roberts and urge him to be a cosponsor of Senate Bill 2671. A letter from the Council to Pat Roberts for support of Senate Bill 2671 will be done. Deb Voth stated it is critical to include that there is support for access to the child care block grant for unemployed families of children with disabilities.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Julie Stell

Julie Stell reported that Commissioner Sebelius has appealed the district courts decision regarding the Anthem Insurance purchase of Kansas Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

COMMITTEE REPORT - Deb Voth

Deb Voth reported from the funding committee. The funding committee encourages the Council to write a letter to Secretary Janet Schalansky of Social and Rehabilitation Services to encourage looking at the issue to bill for family service coordination for children in foster care. Other avenues will also be pursued. If a positive response is not given, we will ask for legislative action.

It has been agreed to have all the insurance issues discussed at the strategic plan meeting. The issue of concern is the need for coverage for birth to five services.

The Council will lead a taskforce on the issue of categorical aid for Part C services.

A request to study special education funding for preschool children will be presented to the Legislative Education Planning Committee.

A packet will be mailed out to the Local Networks asking how candidates stand on child care and education. This will serve to help focus on issues prior to voting on candidates.

It was discussed to split out an advocacy committee separate from the funding committee. The advocacy group would focus on processes, what to share with networks across the state and how to get information out. This will be held for further discussion in September.

At the funding committee meeting, Karl Hockenbarger, Social and Rehabilitation Services, discussed at the funding meeting the Local Education Agencies Administration Claim. School districts have been paid in full from December 2000 to March 2002. \$3.8 million has been paid for Medicaid outreach (all children, called "Administrative Claiming"). The intent is to move beyond school districts to include other providers.

The funding committee discussed the confidentiality requirements and regulations to be in place by October 2003 under the Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act. There is a concern of networks billing for Medicaid and Insurance. The committee recommends training for Part C Networks.

Doctor Dave Lindeman discussed the preliminary work on school based preschools. The statute Kansas Statutes Annotated 72-8236, has been edited with new wording that can be provided to committee members. Additional work needs to be completed with other kindred organizations. Doug Bowman explained this statute should be a low key issue with no fiscal impact.

COORDINATOR REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported on an annual basis a contract is done through Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Education and Social and Rehabilitation Services to pool monies for Child Care Early Childhood Development Services activity. The contract for fiscal year 2003 has been signed by each agency.

Rainbows United has completed an advocacy type tiny-k website. A generic website has been generated by Doctor Dave Lindeman's staff. This web address is www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/icc/index.

The web site includes information such as the strategic plan, membership, bylaws, meeting schedule and statute for the Interagency Coordinating Council.

Doug Bowman discussed that Social and Rehabilitation Services was directed by the legislature to implement a policy change to charge families fees for services such as family preservation and

the Medicaid Waiver services, that is, Developmental Disability and the Severe Emotional Disturbance Waiver. A chart is attached of an example of how a family parent fee schedule will look. The vast majority of impact is when the families cross over the fifth birthday and move up to the school age range is when eligibility will begin for waiver services. Josie Torrez stated she will look at the draft of the Secretary's letter to families. Implementation should be effective September 1, 2002.

Doug Bowman reported on the Kansas Children's Campaign, "It's About Kids & Families: Town Hall Meetings". The Wichita and Johnson County meetings went well. The Wyandotte county had low attendance. The one in Topeka is scheduled for July 24, 2002 at 214 Southeast 8th Street.

Please mark your calendars for October 3, 2002, for the gubernatorial debate that night will be held by radio and television.

Please contact Doug Bowman through e-mail at dbowman@kdhe.state.ks.us due to being out of the office for meetings and hearings.

Deb Voth suggested the Council write a letter to the State Board thanking them for their support.

Doug Bowman mentioned to let Patty Miller know what phone number you would like to be contacted at for the August 2nd Interagency Coordinating Council conference call. You can reach Patty Miller at (785) 296-1294 or by e-mail at Pmiller@kdhe.state.ks.us. This teleconference call will take place August 2nd from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm. The intent of the meeting will be to discuss the strategic planning document to be prepared for the strategic planning meeting on September 6th, 2002 located at Abouds in Topeka. The address for Aboud's at Western Hills is 8533 Southwest 21st Street, Topeka, Kansas. (A map will be provided)

Tracey Oltmanns, with Families Together, has three staff openings in Topeka. One position is a half-time education advocate program and the other half-time is an outreach coordinator position. Tracey's position is 3/4 working with state improvement grants. If interested, contact Leslie at Families Together in Topeka.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on August 2, 2002, by teleconference.