

**KANSAS INTERAGACY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON  
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**July 13, 2007  
Interactive Television**

MEMBERS PRESENT in Topeka

Richard Martinez - Chair, Parent Member  
Alice Womack, SRS Representative  
Tom Laing, Public Member  
Linda Kenney, KDHE Representative  
Colleen Riley, KSDE Representative  
Tom Kohmetscher, Provider Member  
Scott Bruner, Kansas Health Policy Authority

MEMBERS on Telephone

Maria Martinez, Parent Member  
Sharon Hixson, Public Member  
Julie Broski, Parent Member

MEMBERS PRESENT in Wichita

Deb Voth, Provider Member  
Nancy Krase, Provider Member  
Dr. Linda Mitchell, Public Member

KaAnn Graham, Reno County LICC

MEMBERS PRESENT in Lenexa

Susan Carriger, Provider Member

MEMBERS PRESENT in Parsons

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Regents Representative

Doug Bowman, CCECDS Coordinator  
Chris Miller, SE Ks Birth to Three

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:

Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member  
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member  
John Meetz, Insurance Dept.  
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller, House Member  
Sen. Julia Lynn, Senate Member  
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member  
Governor's Representative

NO ONE PRESENT IN GARDEN CITY

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jennifer Crow, Coalition for School Readiness  
Anne Aytes, Nurturing Families  
Carolyn Weinhold, HS Collaboration  
Lorraine Dold, Rainbows United  
Misty Van Nostrand, Families Together

IN HAYS:

Doug Greer, Hays Children's Center  
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, NW Ks  
Vicki Runge, DSNWK

Chairman Richard Martinez called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

The minutes from the last ICC meeting should be edited to include Lillian Howell from Nurturing Families to the list of those present, and to include a sentence about committee work discussions. Scott Bruner made a motion that was seconded by Tom Laing to approve the June 1, 2007 minutes as edited. Passed Unanimously.

Carolyn Weinhold wanted to announce the availability of FREE advocacy training for parents at the Capital on October 26-27. Senator Vicki Schmidt will be the keynote speaker. Doug added that this collaborative training now takes the place of the old ICC advocacy training.

Linda Mitchell reported on the process undertaken in conjunction with the Beach Center to review the proposed Part C federal regulations. Deadline for comments is July 23. Doug will circulate the draft report from this process very soon. Several areas of the regulations had changes, but there was no one single, drastic concern. Colleen reported on the public hearings that happened in Oklahoma City last month.

Dave had a question for Alice concerning a rumor he has been hearing. Alice replied that if SRS is named the new lead agency, they have no intent to contract out Part C administration.

## **COALITION FOR SCHOOL READINESS**

Jennifer Crow led a discussion on the Coalition for School Readiness. Formed early in 2007, it is comprised of early childhood advocates, with an emphasis on civic (business) leaders. Their total focus is on the state legislature and furthering early childhood services. They also work with the various state agencies and the Children's Cabinet, attempting to coordinate their efforts.

Board members include Kansas Action for Children, Kansas Head Start Association, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, and three business leaders. A steering committee will be created of statewide early childhood organizations. They hope to also create a large grassroots membership campaign. Very soon, a petition to the Governor will be circulated. We know that a lump sum of \$12-15 Million will be deposited in the Tobacco Settlement Account next year. Competition for these funds will be intense.

The Coalition will try to stay out of the governance debates around the possible creation of an Office of Early Childhood. They have no position. They are willing to fund travel expenses for other state's experts to come to Kansas and testify about their experience.

The Governor will hold a summit on early childhood in Topeka on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The targeted audience will be legislators, the business community, and civic leaders.

Linda Mitchell asked who within the Coalition speaks for children with delays and disabilities. Jennifer commented that services for children with special needs are a part of every discussion and initiative. Maria replied that this is not always the case, we are sometimes left out.

Jennifer answered that we can not create a continuum of services for ALL children from birth to five without due consideration of children with special needs. For maximum political impact, a unified message will derive the most benefit for early childhood. If the Pre-K system is designed

properly, it will meet the needs of ALL children aged 3 and 4 years. Work is still underway to create a system of services for children birth to three years.

Deb Voth commented that some of the other organizations have the resources to hire advocates to be their voice. Those who speak for services for children with special needs do not have this option. There is the additional factor of mandated services, without any possibility of waiting lists. Programs struggle to meet these mandates.

Jennifer thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak with us, and agreed to come back.

## **MEDICAID SETTLEMENT AND HEALTH CARE REFORM CHANGES**

Scott Brumer had provided a handout detailing these changes at our May meeting. We wanted to provide an opportunity for any questions.

On January 1, 2007, a change in vendors for the Medicaid program took place. These new contractors are exempt from paying for services provided through Head Start, schools, and early intervention networks. However, these appropriate services for eligible children can be billed directly to the state Medicaid program. KHPA staff are to be commended for prompt responses.

Children with IEPs and IFSPs are eligible under Title XIX, but not under Title XXI. A brief discussion ensued about the difference between rehabilitation versus habilitation.

In response to a question from Anne Aytes, Scott replied that the documentation on changing billing for schools from the old bundled rate to the new fee for service will be out next week.

Tom Laing made a motion that additional training be provided to the early childhood community on Medicaid system and billing, if needed. The funding committee will take the lead on this activity. Motion seconded by Tom Kohmetscher. Passed Unanimously.

Dave commented that *tiny-k* networks were recently updated this summer on Medicaid billing. Scott also mentioned that reports could be generated by KHPA to assist the committee.

## **LEGISLATIVE INTERIM SCHEDULE**

A handout was provided. The Legislative Post Audit study on early childhood services is now available at [www.kslegislature.org/postaudit](http://www.kslegislature.org/postaudit).

Three questions were asked. A list of programs serving young children was provided. There was little opportunity to generate more federal funding. No direct evidence of duplications of services was discovered, but some possibilities may be out there.

The 2010 Commission and the Legislative Education Planning Committee(LEPC) will be meeting jointly on July 30- 31 to consider the possibility of creating an Office of Early Childhood. The 2010 Commission will then create recommendations for the LEPC to consider, with a report due by the end of the year. Additionally, the LEPC will consider the Sound Start

proposal sometime later this summer or fall. The Council may wish to establish its position before that hearing occurs. Finally, the Children's Committee will consider child care licensing and regulations issues.

## **COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN**

The rough draft sent out to Council members was an initial attempt to list issues that arose in our June 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, with possible assignments to committees. It included three overall goals, with several tasks under each one.

Sharon wanted to clarify that every Council member should be a member of at least one ICC committee. In response to her question, Doug clarified that past practice had allowed that any non-council members may be members of committees, and co-chair with a Council member.

Tom Laing made a motion that a task force of volunteers be created to fine tune the committee structure and refine the strategic plan. Dave seconded the motion. Passes Unanimously.

Volunteers should contact Doug or Richard to serve on the task force.

Doug reported that he joined Mr. Mike Murphy of the KSDE Audit section as he trained his auditors earlier this week. A written report will be included in the next packet.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

Alice Womack of SRS provided a written report. Child care subsidy support will be undergoing federal scrutiny in the near future. Home visitation training is ongoing. Secretary Jordan will hold a stakeholder meeting on July 25 for the FY 2009 budget. The quarterly child care advisory meeting is to be held July 26. There is an ongoing effort to unionize family child care providers.

Dave asked if the Council wishes to make comment on the SRS budget. Deb Voth reminded us that we should ask for additional resources for the ICC operations, as well as direct services. Tom Laing remarked that the ICC should provide advice on every state agency budget that impacts young children with disabilities. Deb also reminded us that in the past we have met with the agency heads privately to discuss budget and other issues.

Dave made a motion that the Chair and staff draft testimony to comment on the FY 2009 SRS budget, as it pertains to services for young children and to ICC operations. The Executive Committee should approve this testimony. Tom Liang reminded us of our past target for appropriations for Part C, and seconded the motion. Passed Unanimously.

Linda Kenney of KDHE provided a written report. She discussed the letter from the US Department of Education which described their response to the Part C State Performance Plan. It characterized Kansas as "needing assistance", particularly in target areas #1 and #9. We failed to achieve the target of 100% in these areas: timeliness of providing services and completion of IFSP documents within the 45day timeline. Plans are underway to address these issues. Linda anticipates seeing progress in the near future.

Linda thanked her support team of Deb Voth, Margy Hornback, and Sharon Hixson who worked on the Sound Start survey of local Part C networks. Results of the survey were distributed.

Colleen Riley reported from KSDE. Dr. Alexa Posny has returned to Kansas as the new Commissioner from her recent time in Washington. Dr. Margy Hornback has resigned from KSDE, so Colleen asked for suggested names of qualified persons to fill the position.

KSDE has also received the letter from the US Department of Education concerning their State Performance Plan for Part B. The “need for assistance” comment was also made about our efforts to transition children from Part C to Part B, which fell short of the 100% target.

All of this data is available on the web site - [www.kansped.org](http://www.kansped.org)

Kansas Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) will be convening their first meeting later this summer in conjunction with the Leadership Conference. One seat was not filled in this recent cycle. Colleen asked if anyone could make any nominations in the area of charter schools.

The ICC meeting was adjourned. Our next meeting will be August 3<sup>rd</sup> in Topeka.