

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

June 7, 2002

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
Sharon Hixson , Chair, Russell Child Development Center	Leslie Vink (TARC)
Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber)	Hanni Stones Emporia State University Student
Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins)	Ruth Jones , Osage County
Carolyn Weinhold (representing Secretary Schalansky)	Peggy Miksch , Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Doctor Dave Lindeman , University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities	Kathy Johnson , Shawnee County
Representative Ethel Peterson	Doug Bowman , Coordinator
Senator Karin Brownlee	Patty Miller , Staff
Maria Martinez , Parent Member	
Mimi Nagle , Parent Member	

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Representative Ethel Peterson joined the meeting via conference phone. Introductions were made. Carolyn Nelson moved to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from May 3, 2002. Seconded by Mimi Nagle; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

No report.

ROLE OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL - A PREVIEW - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman stated in September we will review our Strategic Planning Document. Our fundamental mission is to look at ways to continually improve the system with better services and the best use of resources. We need to enhance the communication and relationship with our local partners so they too can live up to their mission. Sharon Hixson said she believes we need to spend some time discussing the question of “what is the authority and/or responsibility of the local Interagency Coordinating Council?” Other strategic planning topics will include our role with the Office of Special Education Programs self-assessment and their pending visit.

TEACHER LICENSING - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported the State Board of Education is making changes in the way teachers are licensed. Currently teachers are certified in the State of Kansas. The proposal is to move to a licensing system. Prior to moving from the university level, tests will be given to show they have an understanding of the content of course material. A temporary license will be given after leaving the university. After a year or two, teachers will need to show an understanding of the content and the skills to do classroom teaching. The proposal the Board is working from includes a unified license of general education and special education from birth through third grade. There are some concerns that this is a massive amount of information for a college student to absorb in

a four year period of time. The regulations the State Board will implement should be finalized next week.

Doctor Dave Lindeman reported the Institutions of Higher Education people at the faculty level in early childhood programs both regular early childhood and early childhood special education are meeting on the issue of licensure. From this group there has been reasonable representation of programs. There has been a majority of the faculty that supports the unified birth through grade three license. The major advancement was to strengthen the commitment of the faculties working together and looking at the potential of cross-university programs. A number of persons will be at the Board meeting next week to support the Board's decision, including the Chair of the Interagency Coordinating Council. There will also be representatives from the Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children, and Head Start staff.

Marnie Campbell discussed receiving a letter that was a survey for teachers. The Board of Education sent out more than 8000 surveys to all early childhood certified teachers. Doctor Dave Lindeman discussed there was a different survey sent out to the Institutions of Higher Education, being a multiple answer questionnaire regarding implementation of the unified birth through three license in the fall of 2003.

Leslie Vink, TARC asked about the requirements for those who recently graduated with early childhood special education, what do they do to become "licensed"? Doug Bowman answered those who hold a current certification will be "grandfathered in" to whatever the current certification states. You would receive a license that mirrors your current certification.

Doug Bowman stated the major concern of dividing the age ranges: those who choose to teach the youngest children may be isolated and the number receiving licenses would be much smaller.

Marnie Campbell handed out the 2002 Kansas State Board of Education contact information.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Marnie Campbell distributed several handouts. The first one is regarding the school readiness taskforce. A public awareness subcommittee is developing a fact sheet about early childhood programs that supports school readiness. Joe Johnson, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Special Health Services, has agreed to be the school readiness 800 phone number and serve as the state contact for the readiness information. Marnie explained the next step would be a resource directory. This directory would be printed and then distributed to providers and parents. The second handout lists/describes the potential student base for Early Childhood Programs at Community Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education in Kansas.

Marnie reported the Kansas Department of Education is working on the upcoming Office of Special Education Programs Monitoring. The self assessment steering committee meeting was held for both Part C and Part B. Combined data shows we are doing well with least restrictive environment for school age population and not so good for the preschool population.

Carolyn Weinholt asked if there were a few programs in Kansas that have the children with diagnosed disability separated from typical children. Marnie answered 39% are in segregated

programs with no peers. There are 30% in reverse mainstreaming programs with token role-models. Sharon Hixson asked how the percentage compares to other states. Marnie explained many states have the vast majority of the children in inclusive programs.

There was discussion regarding the distribution of special education money to local partners for the early preschool years and how it impacts the delivery of services. It was decided to write a letter to the Legislative Coordinating Council requesting they assign interim topics to the Legislative Education and Planning Committee to include special education funding and how it is disseminated to the Local Education Agencies. Our concern is how it impacts the delivery of services for children in the preschool age range.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment/Kansas Department of Education Self-Assessment for the Office of Special Education Programs process continues.

The State Steering Committee met Thursday, June 6th at the Manor Conference Center in Topeka. A brief synopsis of the meeting:

- Diverse statewide representation - parents, students, agencies, other professions administrators, service providers, and community leaders reviewed the first draft of Kansas state's self-assessment report,
- The participants worked in predesignated cluster groups to review the first draft of Kansas' self-assessment report;
- Doctor Gwen Beegle, Beach Center, coordinated the questions and activities for these groups,
- The teams suggested that the final report include explanations with some data tables that have diverse data; when using the same data in multiple clusters, make sure that the conclusions drawn based on this data do not conflict from cluster to cluster; reformat for easier reading; give ourselves credit for positive program outcomes, and
- Adjustments will be made to the reports based on the Steering Committee's feedback.
- The next step in the state's self-assessment is to hold public input meetings to gather program opinions from parents, service providers, administrators and community members throughout Kansas. These meetings will be held in Topeka, Kansas City, Pittsburg, Wichita, Garden City and Salina. Over 8000 flyers have been mailed and/or handed out to parents, network personnel, school district personnel and Interagency Coordinating Council members. An invitation has gone out over the Infant-Toddler, the preschool, and the Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies child care list servers. It has been included in the Families Together newsletter, and Kansas Department of Health and Environment public relations sent out a press release to all Kansas media. Approximately 15 confirmations have been received for the meetings. If someone is unable to attend any of these meetings, then the questions can be accessed via the Kansas State Department of Education web site.

Leavenworth Interagency Coordinating Council has selected a new lead agency. If you get an opportunity to do so, commend Bobbie Bower, Leavenworth County's Interagency Coordinating Council chair, for a job well done in coordinating the search for a new lead agency. Infant-

Toddler Services will be sending her a letter. Carolyn suggested that the State Interagency Coordinating Council also send a letter to her.

The deadline for Infant-Toddler grants has come and gone. Most grants are in. Two grants were received from one network. Staff from the two agencies will meet to resolve this issue. State staff will assist as needed.

Gerald Block, our financial officer, completed a financial analysis for us. He projected income and expenditure trends through Fiscal Year 2004 based on what was in the Infant-Toddler account on May 1, 2002. Projected income from the State General Fund and the federal grant was calculated based on Fiscal Year 2003 level funding. Carolyn Nelson has indicated before, unless additional sources of funding are found, it appears that networks will see a significant reduction in their grant allocations beginning July 1, 2003 (Fiscal Year 2004). Anticipating this, we are asking those with whom we are currently contracting to review their budgets for the 2003 contract year, which begins on July 1, 2002, and cut 20% of their budget request. We will also be discussing this topic at the Part C Coordinators' meeting on July 11 in Salina. When requested, we will provide technical assistance to the networks related to ways to economize without affecting their quality of services.

Infant-Toddler Services has budgeted \$100,000 each year for contingency funds. These funds are accessed toward the end of each fiscal year by networks who have exceeded their budget due to exceptional circumstances in the delivery of services. Beginning in Fiscal Year 2003 (July 1, 2002) these funds will be added to the formula allocation for funding distribution to all of the networks and the contingency fund will end.

Carolyn handed out a memo from Clyde Graeber, Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment, regarding Child Care Licensing and Regulation Program. It has grown substantially, both in size and scope, over the past seven and a half years. Secretary Graeber indicated that the time has come to recognize that growth and establish Child Care Licensing and Regulation as a separate Bureau within the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Secretary Graeber will begin immediately to take the necessary steps to establish, effective July 1, 2002, a new Bureau of Child Care Licensing and Regulation. Secretary Graeber has asked Chris Ross-Baze to serve as its Director. The remaining programs of the Bureau of Consumer Health will continue their activities as before.

On June 6, 2002, United States Secretary of Education, Rod Paige, released a statement regarding the House Education and Workforce Subcommittee on Education Reform Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Input Website, encouraging all affected by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide input <http://www.ed.gov/pressReleases/06-2002/06062002.html> .

Kathy Johnson met with the Congressional aids regarding the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Dennis Moore, Congressman from Johnson County was receptive. He asked to convene a group of parents about the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. Families Together will work on putting together a group.

Margy Hornbeck is the new Part C Coordinator for McPherson McPherson County Kansas Infant Development Services. She will be replacing Virginia Walker who is retiring. (Subsequent information revealed the decision has not been finalized).

SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Carolyn Weinhold for Alice Womack
Carolyn Weinhold reported the child care unit was not cut as much as anticipated. Social Rehabilitation Services has \$500,000 for family child care grants and \$500,000 for child care center grants. Early Head Start state funding was reduced, but federal dollars will be found to replenish. There will be a small increase for the next two years for the state Early Head Start programs.

The Disproportionate Share program began three years ago for child care centers that serve 70% or more of their children are Social Rehabilitation Services subsidized children. Beginning in the fall approximately 38 child care centers that care for 70% or more of those children will receive a sizeable bonus.

Carolyn Weinhold stated from the discussion in today's meeting she will do homework on therapeutic preschools to see if they do have typical children as models in programs.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported for Julie Stell. The District Court Judge Terry Bullock vacated the decision by Commissioner Sebelius as it related to Anthem Insurance and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. Her decision from earlier this year to disallow the merger, will be revisited.

COMMITTEE REPORT - Doctor Dave Lindeman

Doctor Dave Lindeman reminded the Interagency Coordinating Council regarding our efforts to amend a statute to allow school districts to charge for preschool services. This increases options to school districts to provide services for children with disabilities in groups with children without disabilities. Our attempts did not succeed in getting legislation submitted on time for consideration. We made the decision last month to take the summer and be ready in the fall with a new proposal on how to amend that statute. In committee, we have outlined pros and cons if the statute is amended. We will identify other stakeholders who may be interested. There will be a proposal ready to go in the fall prior to the next legislative session. Senator Karin Brownlee asked to add this proposal to the Legislative Education Planning Committee letter that was referenced earlier.

Doug Bowman explained the Chair of the Funding Committee is on vacation. There will be a Funding Committee meeting next month.

COORDINATOR REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported on changes to the Council. There is opportunity for two new members. The terms expire for current members Cheryl Coleman, provider member, and Pam Chapin, parent member. Doug stated he will give everyone until the first week in July to nominate themselves or others. We will discuss nominations at the July 12, Interagency Coordinating Council meeting. The nominations will be forwarded to the Governor's office and await action

from them in terms of filling the two seats. Additionally, Susan Mahoney, the Governor's representative on the Council, will no longer work for Governor Graves. The status of her position is uncertain.

Doug passed out a revised 2002 Interagency Coordinating Council meeting schedule. The September meeting will be a Strategic Planning Session located in Topeka at Aboud's. A map will be mailed out. The August 2, 2002 Interagency Coordinating Council meeting will be done by teleconference which is optional. The agenda for the teleconference will be review of the Strategic Planning Document prior to the September 6 Interagency Coordinating Council meeting. The Interagency Coordinating Council meeting for November 1 and December 6 will be located at the Topeka Public Library in room 101C. The July 12 and October 4 Interagency Coordinating Council meetings will be held by Interactive Television.

Doug Bowman has been working with the Office of Special Education Programs visitation plans mostly on Part B. Doug has also been working with the partners at the federal level on the planning of a national meeting to be held in Washington, District of Columbia, November 2nd through 6th.

Doug Bowman will go to Washington, District of Columbia, this summer to review grants for the Early Learning Opportunities Act. This would be funded through the federal government. It was agreeable to the Council for Doug to attend.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported the state is in a budget crisis. Estimates of resources received to the state were higher than actual receipt. Some budgets were cut specifically with programs identified and others were cut agency wide. The legislature passed a tax enhancement package of \$250 million. This diverse package included sales, tobacco, inheritance, gas and diesel taxes. The revenues continue to come in lower than estimated. The Governor mailed out letters to all branches of state government to be prudent in administration of funds. There is anticipation of further cuts.

Representative Ethel Peterson added that the agriculture resources are down. Her anticipation is that the future looks bad for the State of Kansas.

Senator Karin Brownlee added the State of Kansas is down by \$119 million showing 25% less than what was anticipated. One expense item that is increasing is unemployment compensation payments. Personal income tax is down and there is no revenue generated by unemployed people. Doug Bowman mentioned there has been a ripple effect with the stock market downturn, therefore less income reported.

Doug Bowman will serve on a taskforce with Social and Rehabilitation Services. The legislature passed a bill to allow Social and Rehabilitation Services to charge fees to parents of children receiving services through family preservation and the Medicaid waiver programs.

Doug Bowman mentioned as we embark upon the upcoming campaign season, we need to see a public policy debate rise to the level where people ask questions of what we expect from the government.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on July 12, 2002, by Interactive Television, located in Topeka at the Landon State Office Building, Room 855-South.