

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

March 7, 2003

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
Deb Voth, Rainbows United, Wichita	Peggy Miksch, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Children, Youth and Families
Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Bremby)	Sabrina McAdoo, Salina Infant and Toddler Services
Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky)	Carrie Pierce, Salina Infant and Toddler Services
Robert Tomlinson (representing Commissioner Sandy Praeger)	Karen Snell, Families Together
Representative Ethel Peterson	Carolyn Weinhold, Social and Rehabilitation Services
Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center	Doug Bowman, Coordinator
Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities	Patty Miller, Staff
Doctor Chet Johnson, University of Kansas Child Development Unit	
Maria Martinez, Parent Member	
Karla Kenton, Parent Member	
Mark Tremaine, Parent Member	
Susan Kunard, Johnson County	
Mimi Nagle, Parent Member	

The meeting was called to order by Deb Voth, serving as substitute Chair in Ms. Hixson's absence. Introductions were made. Representative Ethel Peterson moved to approve the draft ICC meeting minutes from February 7, 2003. Seconded by Doctor Dave Lindeman; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Deb Voth passed out a booklet of information describing their efforts for *tiny-k* Day, Friday, February 21st. Topeka Association for Retarded Citizens in Topeka, was given television and radio time for their advocacy efforts of *tiny-k*.

HEADSTART/EARLY HEADSTART COLLABORATIONS

Doug Bowman discussed HeadStart federal legislation which is up for re-authorization in the next few months. The Kansas House Appropriations Subcommittee set aside the Infant-Toddler segment of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment budget including state, federal and tobacco funds, pending further consideration. One issue is the combination of Infant-Toddler services with Early HeadStart.

Alice Womack of Social and Rehabilitation Services informed that there would not be a savings in combining Infant-Toddler services with Early HeadStart. Reasons include that Early HeadStart only covers 32 counties out of 105. Eligibility for the two programs are very different. Early HeadStart is based on income and Infant-Toddler is based on disability. There is no duplication of services. Combining programs would require professional staff hired to the highest degree or licensure necessary to meet the stringent standards of both programs. This

would not be a savings as specialized staff are needed to perform the services required of each program.

Peggy Miksch, discussed Kansas Department of Health and Environment draft of a report on Early HeadStart and Infant-Toddler services. Peggy spoke about a survey that was conducted through the local networks asking about partnering across the state. The results show 145 children are dually enrolled. This is 5% of the Part C population. When children are dually enrolled, trends are for the Early HeadStart program provides child care for the family and intensive family support and basic early childhood with Infant-Toddler services providing direct therapies and intervention from professionals for the children's needs. Many communities have interagency agreements to assure efficiency.

Carolyn Weinhold, Social and Rehabilitation Services, mentioned in Kansas there are strategies on how to mobilize parents to write letters, e-mails, phone calls regarding the proposed move of HeadStart to the Kansas Department of Education. If moved to Education the focus will be narrowed and will not include health, socialization, and mental health issues. Each State will do its own standards; this would create inconsistency.

COORDINATORS REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman informed that he has been attending the Governor's Education Policy Team meetings. Joyce Cussimano and Leadell Ediger gave a presentation at the last meeting on early learning. Doug will continue to sit in on these meetings.

Maria Martinez discussed parent training in lieu of attending the conference in Washington, District of Columbia, next year. Maria suggested doing a teleconference call with parents from other states to discuss their experiences from trainings and projects. Doug Bowman explained a federal grant will pay for half of the cost to attend training. This will be considered next year.

Senate Bill 242 is currently in Ways and Means. This bill concerns reorganization of Community Developmental Disability Organizations. This would involve consolidation from 28 Community Developmental Disability Organizations to 13. County Commissioners' currently choose their affiliation. The decision making would go to the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services. The Community Developmental Disability Organizations would do administration, but not the direct delivery of service. Deb Voth added this bill might reduce state aid, therefore the local Community Developmental Disability Organizations can elect to use in variety of ways which have direct impact on Sedgwick County. Counties may lose interest and not invest their own local dollars into a state system.

House Bill 2231 has passed out of the House floor and been referred to Senate Education Committee. Hearings are scheduled next week. This bill allows school districts to charge fees for preschool services. Under current law, school districts may charge for child care services.

House Bill 2350 was introduced in the House where it died in Committee. This bill screened existing data available from birth certificates. This would have examined variables correlated with developmental delays. A notice would have been generated to the parents and/or guardians explaining the issue and offering free diagnostic services. Doctor Chet Johnson mentioned this

bill is an important investment to identify children in the first year in life. This would make a big difference how children are cared for. Doug Bowman will continue to monitor this bill.

After discussion Doug Bowman will work with Interagency Coordinating Council members to do another survey for the Local Networks. This survey would ask about all areas of budget. After receiving results from survey, this would be used for April 4th Interagency Coordinating Council meeting discussion held by Interactive Television.

COMMITTEES

Funding Committee -

Deb Voth reported the funding committee met. The Part C funding survey shows 30 out of 37 local networks have responded. Six networks report a positive cash flow ending the fiscal year 2002 with more revenue than expenditures. Six networks report a zero balance. Eighteen have reported a negative cash flow where expenditures exceeded revenue. After approved through Kansas Department of Health and Environment, the information will go to the House Appropriations Committee. Doug will take to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. Deb Voth added she and Doug met with Duane Goossen asking for factual information to verify information from Kansas Department of Health and Environment regarding local aid to communities going out this next fiscal year. Deb Voth has received an e-mail from the budget analyst stating the November allotment is restored in fiscal year 04.

Deb Voth explained instead of doing a letter to Kansas Early Education Partners regarding birth to five initiatives for children with disabilities, they met with the Kansas Early Education Partners coalition.

Categorical Aid -

Deb Voth reported they discussed ways in distributing special education categorical aid. Doug Bowman added from the subcommittee in House Appropriations a question was raised concerning the Infant-Toddler Local Networks accessing categorical aid, how much administrative fees are paid. Representative Nichols is working on ways to address the situation. The statute would have to be amended to accomplish the change being considered.

Carolyn Nelson asked that we be cautious about pursuing legislation to have networks designated as Local Education Agencies. We first need to ascertain whether or not this action would be beneficial to networks' budgets. For those networks who currently access categorical aid via Greenbush, it is possible that the expense of acting as a Local Education Agencies would be equal to or greater than working with Greenbush. Administrative, billing and other responsibilities related to categorical aid would be shifted to the network. Would this create the need for additional personnel? Other expenses?

Doug Bowman discussed means testing and parent fee. A list of questions from the House Appropriations Subcommittee asked "Why services are free for families?" Staff from Kansas Department of Health and Environment are researching this issue, consulting with other states. Carolyn Nelson discussed responses from surveys from other states cost of implementing program. A recommendation has been given, but needs to be approved by Kansas Department of Health and Environment.

Deb Voth mentioned another revenue source for early intervention services is insurance reimbursement. Some states have laws mandating health insurance coverage for early intervention. Another approach would be to ask insurance companies to donate a sum to go towards an endowment or foundation to support early intervention services. Robert Tomlinson answered insurance companies may look at this as paying to avoid a mandate. The Kansas Insurance Department is moving cautiously on mandates. Whenever implementing mandates, some people are lost out of insurance pools. The Kansas Insurance Department is taking on an active role to look at solutions for the uninsured.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson handed out a copy of her report (see attachment A). Infant-Toddler staff is completing three reports requested by the Legislative Budget Committee. 1) Funding information on Local Networks; 2) Report on possibility of means testing families or implementing a sliding fee scale, and 3) Report on combining Infant-Toddler with Early Head Start and Head Start.

Infant-Toddler Services staff presented at the Kansas Division for Exceptional Children conference February 27th and 28th. Peggy Miksch will assume the office of Vice-President of Kansas Division for Exceptional Children.

Interviews for the Program Analyst position have been completed. A hiring announcement is pending based on Kansas Department of Health and Environment's review and approval.

Office of Special Education Programs has forwarded funding estimates. For Federal Fiscal Year '03 the estimate for Kansas Infant-Toddler is \$4,044,802, an increase of \$160,409. The estimate for Federal Fiscal Year '04 is \$4,164,748, an increase of \$119,946.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Doug Bowman for Marnie Campbell

Doug Bowman handed out the report for Kansas State Department of Education. (See attachment B). The final appropriations for the section 619 preschool programs show level funding again (same as 1995 level), but because of across-the-board cuts to the budget at the Federal level, Kansas will receive less money than that amount. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act Federal funds for Part C have been greater than those for 619. What this means is the need for much more advocacy for preschool.

One of the 3 areas showing a need for improvement on our Federal self-assessment, as reported before, is our low percentage of serving preschoolers in typical early childhood settings. Kansas State Department of Education is convening an "Expert Group" made up of diverse stakeholders including providers, parents, Kansas Inservice Training Service folks, Steering Committee members, administrators, SLPs, partners like Head Start, professional organizations like Kansas Division for Exceptional Children, etc. The timeline is to meet twice to develop an improvement plan according to the Federal format and requirements, get feedback from the Special Education Advisory Council and the Steering Committee among other groups, and then reconvene in April to finalize the plan which has to go to Washington later in the spring.

Marnie Campbell was recently asked to help write a letter to the Governor to be signed by our Commissioner and Secretary Schalansky of Social and Rehabilitation Services. It is in draft form, but includes the recommendations which would be to leave HeadStart within Health and

Human Services, continue to strengthen our partnerships with all concerned at the state and local levels, and not diminish the global nature of the program by focusing only on academic areas. Research shows better results over time when developmentally appropriate curriculum is used rather than one that focuses only on cognitive areas.

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Alice Womack and Carolyn Weinhold

Alice handed out a copy of the Social and Rehabilitation Services report. (See attachment C). The Child Care Industry Study will be released at a press conference at the March event at the Capitol at 9:30 am on March 13th, 2003. The study concludes that in order to grow the Kansas economy, childcare must be considered as an infrastructure just like roads, bridges, and airports.

SRS is applying for a grant through Zero to Three that will provide technical assistance and a small amount of funding for an initiative to improve the accessibility and quality of Infant-Toddler care state wide.

Kansas is being looked at as a possible site for a two generational study by Manpower Development Research Corp in New York that will look at the effects of the Early Head Start program on families served.

Healthy Smiles II conference was attended by 105 child care providers. Several speakers included children with special needs in their presentations.

Early Literacy and Child Care Project is in the beginning stages of planning. If funding is available, Early Literacy Specialists will be hired for every Resource and Referral area to provide training through home visits and classroom opportunities.

Alice handed out a brochure on Kansas Fatherhood Coalition. (See attachment D).

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Robert Tomlinson

Robert Tomlinson reported the Insurance Commissioner will be attending a quarterly meeting of the National Association Insurance Commissioners. This meeting is designed to maintain insurance industry at the state level.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next meeting will be April 4th, 2003, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, located in Topeka by Interactive TV, 900 SW Jackson, Landon State Office Building, Room 855-South.