

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

MINUTES
STATE ICC MEETING

MARCH 27, 2009, 1:00-4:30 PM
DOCKING BUILDING, 7TH FLOOR, ROOM #783
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Board/Regents Rep.
Tom Laing, Public Member
Carolyn Nelson, KDH&E
John Meetz, Insurance Commissioner.
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Carol Ayres, KS Dept. Education
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Bobbi Mariani, SRS Representative
Richard Martinez, Parent Member

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, Sr. Admin. Assistant
Carrie Hastings, SRS
Kerry Haag, KSDE
Kimberly Meyen, ITS-Johnson Co.&
K.U. Student
Tiffany Smith-Birk, KDH&E
Scott Bruner, KHPA - On Phone

MEMBERS ON CONFERENCE PHONE

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member
Deb Voth, Provider Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Member
Nancy Krase, Provider Member

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Senator Julia Lynn

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Mr. Doug Bowman, Coordinator, called the meeting to order, for Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, who attended via conference phone due to inclement weather. Doug welcomed everyone present, and then asked for introductions around the table. He then asked those present on the phone to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Several edits to the draft minutes from February were provided. Tom Laing moved that the February minutes be rewritten, and then re-sent for approval at the April meeting. Carolyn Nelson seconded the motion. Vote passed unanimously.

KHPA Presentation On SCHIP Expansion

Scott Bruner from the Kansas Health Policy Authority spoke about the expansion of the State Children's Health Program, SCHIP. The federal law reauthorizing SCHIP, combined with the recently passed federal stimulus bill creates enough federal funds for the state to fulfill an obligation authorized in the last Kansas legislative session. In Senate Bill #81 of last year, the legislature directed KHPA to expand SCHIP to cover children up to 250% of the federal poverty level whenever federal money was available.

The Governor included monies for this in her recent budget amendment and it was approved this week in the 2010 Budget bill. Most now believe there is sufficient state and federal money to do this expansion and to cover an additional 8,000 Kansas children. Beginning enrollment will be on or before January 1, 2010. The final legislative discussion has been about the source of state money. The Legislature will review this policy decision during the Omnibus session, but it is now funded and we have authorization to move forward.

KHPA's concern is that the budget that was just approved leaves significant administrative shortcomings for processing of applications. Because of the economy, a possible increase of processing between 15-16,000 applications will take staff a long time to process. With the administrative budget we currently have, it will be difficult to administer. Cayla asked Scott to briefly touch on the newly enhanced Medicaid rate. Scott stated the American Recovery Reinvestment Act added money for states through the Medicaid program, by raising the federal Medicaid matching percentage. In typical fashion, 40% of the money is from state sources and the Federal Government matches 60%. Congress increased that by an additional 6.28%.

Also, this increase will be retroactive back to October 1st, and we are trying to determine how best to distribute that lump of money. Estimates show that Kansas' unemployment rate is growing fast enough that Kansas will be eligible for some additional unemployment-related federal moneys. Starting in April or June (trigger date not known yet), it will follow the same rules. Reviewing the current unemployment percentage, it could further increase the matching rate by another 2-5%. For those quarters in which that occurs, it will be an additional increase in the matching rate.

Sharon Hixson asked Scott Bruner to clarify the federal and state share on the Medicaid matching. Scott stated that in the previous financial structure, Medicaid calls for a 60/40 ratio of federal funds to local/state matching funds. The newly enacted changes raise the 60% up to 66 and drops the 40% down to 34. For a few cases (including schools and Early Childhood Intervention). KHPA is only passing through the federal share. Those people will now get the 66 cents. Cayla Wright stated this is true on two procedure ECI codes found so far: the T1027 and T1016.

Tom Laing stated that with many, there was some hope that because the Federal government was willing to pay a higher percentage, the state would take the savings realized through greater federal contribution, and use it to invest in programs that have fallen behind. This did not happen.

Scott Bruner agreed that this did not happen. The Governor reviewed additional federal revenue coming, with how much state general funds could be offset, and swept those general funds back into the budget. With KHPA, \$40 million was generated in just the first couple of quarters – that did not free up \$40 million dollars that we could use for something else. The Governor put that money back into the overall budget. Last week's legislative action did the same thing – with the exception of the SCHIP expansion.

Scott Bruner did reiterate an argument that any expansion using the money that is freed up to expand some programs may not be sustainable over the long term. The additional federal share runs out in 28 months. At that point, the state is has to replace the additional federal share. This is an ongoing debate that our state and others are having. The fact is, when times are bad, our business booms. So there will be some additional people that enroll in KHPA services because their life situations have changed.

In response to another question from Tom Laing, Scott Bruner stated KHPA had suggested increasing the tobacco tax and tobacco products taxes to finance a variety of programs over time. KHPA still supports that as an avenue to approach. A lot of national enhancements, like the SCHIP expansion are funded by a very notable federal increase in cigarette tax. Scott has not heard of any other proposals, other than a possible provider tax on nursing facilities, and it is not progressing in this session.

Cayla Wright remarked the KHPA report handed out today shows the T1027 and T1016 codes to be for family training and counseling for child development and case management (currently, family service coordination code) respectively. Cayla affirmed

that the two procedural codes found so far, are the ones that will receive an additional federal match. Cayla also stated the date for re-evaluation would be April 1, 2009 and is the next scheduled date for federal match adjustment.

In answer to any alternative methods to get these applications done, Scott Brunner said there is a proposal to change the KHPA website online application for greater completion ease. If the budget remains the same there will be a significant layoff of staff (probably not affecting clearinghouse), but expansion of SCHIP will be difficult and hard to administer. With 15,000 increased applications, about 12 additional staff is needed for contractor with 3-5 state staff people. The process will be slow, if no additional resource is applied. There are not many alternatives and these factors will be presented to the legislature soon.

Cayla Wright stated that the Family Service Coordination or TCM Policy, is scheduled to be implemented July 1, 2009. Information will be out to our *tiny-k* networks with an easy implementation method. Finally, there will be an expansion of ECI services for providers, but it is on hold for now, until the budget is resolved.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one chose to speak at this time from the public, or on the phone..

Possible Creation Of State Advisory Council On Early Childhood

Doug Bowman related last month's discussion on the possible creation of this advisory council. This topic was also discussed during the Executive Committee meeting, and with the Task Force. The Task Force decided to not take definitive action until this matter could be discussed with the full State ICC today.

Bobbi Mariani of SRS related what is required under the federal Head Start Reauthorization Act that occurred recently.

Carrie Hastings, Head Start Collaboration Office, stated that the 2007 Head Start Reauthorization Act included a requirement that the Governor of each state designate or appoint a state advisory council for early childhood. It could be either from an existing entity modified to meet the membership requirements established by Congress, or an entirely new body. The membership specifications require that the membership be of persons representing a wide range of early childhood education services and state government agencies. In addition, the Governor may appoint additional members at his/her discretion.

The Act lists some of the task requirements: to complete a state-wide needs assessment, and for the group to identify opportunities for collaboration and coordination among entities carrying out federal and state funded child development, child care, and early childhood education programs. They are encouraging development of recommendations for a unified data collections system for publicly funded programs offering early childhood development services; and recommending development of state-wide

professional development and career plans for early education and care, and to increase capacity and effectiveness of two and four-year public and private institutions of higher education for supporting development of early childhood educators, and any other tasks assigned by the Governor.

Carrie stated the Head Start Collaboration office is preparing a letter to send to Secretary Jordan that asks the Governor to possibly designate the existing Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC) to fill this need as a State Advisory Council. If this were to occur, the ELCC would obviously have to add more members.

Bobbi Mariani stated that SRS does not want to create a whole new and different group considering the many groups involved in current projects. In using the ELCC, it is viewed as an opportunity to put structure and formality to that group, with additional partners added, to fulfill requirements for this Act. SRS does not have intentions of having that group replace any other specialized advisory groups that might exist such as State ICC with its special purpose focus. SRS presently has some specific entities (that advise Early Head Start, for example) and does not intend to dissolve those, because there is a place for specialized groups. It was discussed with the Children's Cabinet's Jim Redmon, as to whether they would be willing to allow the ELCC to take on this expanded new role and he was agreeable.

Carrie stated that with new federal money coming, they would review funds that might be available to assist ELCC. It may require a 70% state match. By April 1, 2009, Head Start and Early Head Start will get more guidance and information to know what exactly would be required of that 70% state match.

Tom Laing asked who appoints the ELCC (Early Learning Coordinating Council) members?

Bobbi Mariani responded that currently ELCC is a very informal group, with little structure. If it becomes the State Advisory Council, it would be the Governor who appoints the Council.

Eva Horn stated that it was concerning to her that those guidelines vary informally in this group and people have self-identified as representing certain constituent groups, and it was almost a "backward" way to form this new council.

Carol Ayres stated that she has attended ELCC meetings. It is quite a different membership than the list given in Carrie Hastings' report. What role could people who represent KECKS (Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems) have, or others in this new Advisory Council?

Tom Kohmetscher stated that this process should begin all over for this new group.

Deb Voth stated that the ELCC is a mechanism from which we can start if it was re-tooled.

Bobbi Mariani stated that with staffing issues resolved, SRS is anxious to meet the federal requirement and get something established to get tasks done with an advisory group and they are trying to move forward. Some members represented on the State ICC membership might want to be involved in this new council. By de facto Carrie Hastings being in her position, will be a member. Currently, Dr. David Lineman represents ECHO (a higher education group) on the ELCC and Doug Bowman represents the State ICC on the ELCC. Several others serve on both bodies.

Sharon Hixson asked if there would be members with voting rights and other members without voting rights, in an ex-officio status.

Maria Martinez stated she highly recommends that Head Start require Parent members be part of this new group for guidance. It is historically true parents have always been a part of Head Start, and that they are “pillars” as members, and to participate as a whole.

Carrie Hastings expressed surprise that the parent component was not included in the reauthorization. Even at the federal level, discussions continue on changes made to the Head Start Policy Councils about more representation, what the Policy Council is allowed to vote on, and not vote on. The Parent Member is certainly one component to include, as well as business leaders and foundations.

Dr. Eva Horn stated that the ICC is at a point that it can really be helpful. If we had a listing of all required positions for the new Advisory body, it would be very helpful. Then, the State ICC could make suggestions of individuals, agencies, or programs that the Council thinks could fill those positions.

Tom Laing stated that he guarantees that the State ICC Council will work with this new group.

Linda Mitchell asked if a timeline is set when these decisions will be made, and if there is anything the State ICC can do to assist and assure our young children and their families are represented, in making those decisions. If the reauthorization group would like a letter or some type of other recommendations from the State ICC Council, we could do that.

Bobbi Mariani will get the required position listing to Doug Bowman electronically. Carrie Hastings will get the condensed version of the Head Start to Doug also. More guidance will arrive from the Federal level by April 1, 2009. This information will be conveyed to this Council by or before its next monthly meeting, April 24, 2009.

Tom Laing and Tom Kohmetscher added that in addition to parents as members, the group also adds some parents with children with disabilities? Both need to be represented.

Legislative Update

Doug Bowman referred everyone to the email sent to all State ICC members last week. The conference committee's final report on the FY 2010 budget is not out until next week. There are still many questions with no answers expected until the legislature returns next month to finish the Omnibus Bill. Between now and then, the group of economic experts (Consensus Estimating) will review revenue projections. It is this estimate that the legislature will use for its final target for the 2010 budget. The economy is still struggling, but at what level is still not known. More details around the Federal Stimulus bill; the ARRA (American Recovery & Reinvestment Act) are coming. It has been signed but with no detailed guidance on how monies will fold into the state budget.

Most notably, the FY 2010 budget completed this week contains further cuts to the education budget of another \$33 per student cut to the base state aid per pupil, and an additional 1% cut to Special Education. At this time, they believe that they can finesse these cuts and still be in position to receive the federal ARRA dollars. We will see.

Doug explained what this might mean to Part C – \$3.7 million dollars over a 2-yr period of time. As the budget stands now, there is no language in the 2010 bill that Doug is aware of to change the Part C appropriation. If the state makes the usual appropriations, and the usual federal allotment flows through, AND then the Federal Stimulus dollars are distributed above that, we will be ahead. If this is the case, this is an increase in funding to Part C of IDEA. That is not the way they are planning on treating Part B - Special Education; they have made cuts here. This can be confusing and this part will be reviewed again in late April and early May - when they work on the Omnibus Bill.

The Children's Initiative Fund (Tobacco dollars), for the most part was not cut. The vast majority of the Part C funding comes from the Children's Initiative Fund, as does the Kansas Pre-School Program, Parents as Teachers, the new Early Learning Block Grants, Smart Start, and other Early Childhood Programs.

Tom Laing added that the CDDO (Community Development Disabilities Organization) Grants were reduced by (40%) or \$500,000. This may be avoided; however, in 2010. There is a \$2 million cut in state aid (and much of that goes to help *tiny-K*), and no new dollars for reimbursement rates or to take people off of waiting lists.

Agency Reports

KSDE Report

Carol Ayres answered a question from Dr. Eva Horn concerning funding for 4-year old "at risk" funds and Pre-K. Right now, KSDE is operating under the assumption that they will have the same funding.

KSDE is setting targets this year for early childhood outcomes. The table (found in Carol's report) reviews this data and the new proposed OSEP Summary statements. Carol wishes to point out that KSDE is very pleased they are so close this year; which

validates providers' services and the data is good from the web system. More will be heard in the future as the whole state determines what targets will be set and adhered to.

The Autism Spectrum Disorders Guide is out for public comment. Carol asked any of the State ICC members who have interest in this topic to please go to the KSDE website and review this document and provide comment, before the deadline of April 3, 2009.

Kansas Pre-school Program practitioners met with Carol and Gayle this week in Emporia. They will be presenting the work of that group as an update to the Policy Committee on Monday, next week. We are pleased to announce that the Kansas Early Learning Guidelines and Standards have been reprinted with some additions on how to use standards in the field. Copies are going out first to practitioners, then others.

Carol asked all to refer to a correction to the Table in her KSDE report

SRS Report

Bobbi Mariani wanted to add that despite the 2009-2010 budget SRS is attempting to keep services steady, in spite of being short staffed. Please, be patient as SRS is in a hiring freeze and holding vacancy rates in the field at 13% and the central office rates at 27% or above. The ARRA impacts many programs in economic and employment support – food assistance, energy assistance, etc. We await more details.

Kansas Fatherhood Coalition will be April 2-3, 2009 in Wichita. Please review www.ksfatherhood.org website. Scholarships are available, and attendance is limited to 200 people; call Carrie Hastings at 785-296-3349 for more information.

The Kansas LIEAP Energy Assistance Program is up about 12% already this year; we did receive a large reallocation for this year so benefits are running a little over \$700, significant to consumers. (Refer to the complete SRS Report below).

KDHE Report

Carolyn Nelson stated that under the ARRA Act for 2009, KDHE will be receiving money for Part C and it is \$3.8 million over two years. KDHE would appreciate any comments or suggestions from the Part C networks or the ICC members on the use of those funds. There will be no action taken for any of the funds until specific instructions from the Department of Education is received on how to use these funds. Notice has been received that these funds will be released on this coming Monday, with instructions.

The Part C Procedures Manual is online at the KSDE website, www.ksdhe.org. We would also welcome comments until early May, for improvement or corrections.

KDHE has a new Director of Health – Dr. Jason Ebberhart-Phillips. He is a physician, reporter, minister, epidemiologist, and recognizes the importance of public health and families maintaining their health. The department is fortunate to have his guidance. (Refer to the complete KDHE Report below).

Insurance Report

John Meetz stated that from the coming ARRA Act, there is money available for COBRA which means that persons can extend their health insurance - if laid off. The stimulus act will provide 65% of that premium for laid off employees; either if on Federal COBRA or on state COBRA, (small groups or individuals). The Kansas State COBRA Law must be reviewed to insure that it meets standards to get the subsidy. There will be a proviso on the omnibus appropriations budget bill to get this done.

Doug Bowman added that Senate Bill #12 and the House version; neither one ever made it out of committee. Those are the bills concerning health insurance and autism coverage that the Autism Task Force championed.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee

Dr. Dave Lindeman stated that this committee met this morning with essentially two items for discussion: the federal stimulus package and the KSDE proposal to change their reimbursement guide for categorical aid for school year 2009 - 2010. Carolyn Nelson and Doug Bowman covered the ARRA topic earlier.

KSDE released the proposed changes to their reimbursement guide with a 30-day comment period. So our discussion revolved around these proposed changes. We had a straight-forward and productive conversation. The biggest changes are to those programs using non-public student equivalency contracts to access categorical aid (special education) funding. With the proposed changes, it will be very difficult to continue supporting those programs in that same manner. We spent time discussing how they can understand accessing of categorical aid through FTE (full-time equivalency) mechanisms.

For programs looking at a transition, it was asked what is the program information needed, for those converting? Our committee would recommend to the Council - that the Council ask KSDE representatives to do some training soon, with those specific *tiny-k* programs so there is understanding of how they can move to the FTE mechanism. There are a series of questions that seven of 36 networks do not understand. These points can be provided to Tiffany Smith-Birk for use in the training process.

Deb Voth stated they had a very productive meeting. She noted that ICC has long asked for involvement with the Department of Education in our role to "advise and assist". It was difficult when the guidelines came out with only a 30-day draft notice that changed everything significantly.

Advocacy Committee

Our small diligent group reviewed legislation and discussion of the House Bill 2094 on how *tiny-k* cuts would affect everyone. Doug Bowman sent this summary out to all and we welcome back comments and suggestions. We will revisit the task of surveying locals to assess how to make ICC meetings more "user-friendly". We are looking at including

local stories in ICC meetings. You will hear more from the local people. The Advocacy Committee meets again on the 4th Monday of the next month at 1:30 PM. Please join us.

Policy Committee

Tom Laing stated that the committee has not met since the last meeting.

Improving Services Committee

Tish Holub-Taylor stated the committee did not meet this month but communicated with SRS and is currently working to meet with Pam Keller and Linda Heitzman-Powell. They are very gracious and willing to share the training modules for the autism waiver program. All agreed to work in collaboration and provide feedback regarding these modules. We are trying to coordinate schedules to do this. Our next committee meeting is the 2nd Thursday of the month, or April 9, 2009, at 9:30 AM. Please join us.

Linda Mitchell announced that the Omaha Hearing School for Children and University of Nebraska of Omaha have teamed up to provide educational professionals with a graduate level course in auditory oral education for birth through 3rd grade, regular or special educators, audiologists, and others. A hard copy of this letter was passed to Council members with a copy to the KITS network. Head Start Collaboration office also distributed this letter. We have received notices from 2-3 Western Kansas people who intend to attend this.

Doug Bowman finished up the meeting by reviewing possible openings on the State ICC. There will be at least six openings next summer. Those with expiring terms will be asked if they are interested in being re-appointed.. If the Council wishes, Doug will contact local partners, to see if there are any interested persons who wish to serve as a State ICC member. The office has begun a file, having already received two persons expressing interest. Doug also explained the process of gathering information, the timing, and awaiting the Governor's decision. At the kansasicc.org website, the date of expiration is given for each current member's term.

Dr. Dave Lindeman stated that Kansas Center on Research & Training of Kansas University, is putting together a conference on autism in Wichita on November 6-7, 2009 (significant coverage for early childhood will be included in the program). National autism speakers will be present. Please mark your calendars.

Carol Ayres stated that the Infant Mental Health Conference is to be in Salina April 9-10, 2009. Please contact Doug Bowman for more information. Next State ICC Meeting will be held at the SRS Learning Center on April 24, 2009, beginning 1:00 PM. On May 22, 2009, State ICC will hold a LifeSize Video Conference meeting beginning at 1:00 PM
Meeting Adjourned.



Kathleen Sebelius, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

www.kdheks.gov

Division of Health

March 27, 2009

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 – Part C programs across the United States are awaiting guidelines for the use of ARRA funds allocated to each state. The Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) reports that this information will be forthcoming within a few weeks. In the interim, Part C/KDHE will accept suggestions from networks and the SICC on the use of funds allocated to Kansas Part C. However, no action will be taken on any suggestions/comments until we know specifically for what purposes/activities the funds can and cannot be used.

Part C Infant-Toddler Services Procedure Manual – A draft of the updated manual can be found on the Kansas Infant -Toddler website at www.ksits.org. KDHE/Part C would appreciate your review and comments. Comments will be accepted through June 1, 2009. A public meeting will be held via ITV on May 6th from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. ITV locations are in Topeka, Wichita, Chanute, Hays, Salina and Lawrence. Location addresses are listed in the public notice that will be posted on April 2nd. Comments may be forwarded to Tiffany Smith -Birk, Part C Coordinator at tsmith-birk@kdheks.gov or to Tiffany via mail at the Kansas Department of Health & Environment, 1000 SW Jackson, Suite 220, Topeka, KS 66612 -1274

Part C IDEA FFY 2009 Grant Application – Kansas' grant is posted on the Kansas Infant -Toddler website at www.ksits.org. Again, KDHE/Part C would appreciate your review and comments. Forward comments to tsmith-birk@kdheks.gov.

Part C Infant -Toddler Services website – Staff in Part C have redesigned the IT S website as a separate domain within KDHE. It is easier to access and has lots of great information and links. In case you don't remember the web address from the previous two paragraphs, it is www.ksits.org. Visit it and see what you think. Forward comments or suggestions to Tiffany.

New Director of Health at KDHE – Jason Eberhart -Phillips, MD, joined KDHE on March 9th as the Director of Health and Kansas State Health Officer. Dr. Eberhart -Phillips has served as the county health officer of El Dorado County, California, as senior lecturer in the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine at Otago University in Dunedin, New Zealand, as the chronic disease director for the Alaska Department of Health and Social Services, as a medical epidemiologist for the ES R Health Communicable Disease Centre

**KHPA Report for State ICC Meeting
March 27, 2009**

- ⌘ Scott Brunner, KHPA CFO , will be joining the call from 1pm – 1:30pm to address any budget questions

- ⌘ FFP Enhanced Rate effective March 6, 2009
 - 66% FFP
 - 34% State Match (KDHE)
 - Procedure codes effected
 - ⌘ T1027 – family training and counseling for child development
 - ⌘ T1016 – case management
 - Enhanced FFP may be subject to quarterly changes and may impact reimbursement amounts
 - ECI global message is drafted and to be published soon

- ⌘ FSC/TCM Policy Update
 - Policy implementation scheduled for July 1, 2009
 - Reenrollment of Family Service Coordination is required
 - ⌘ Simplified the process
 - ⌘ Attestation letter and paperwork will be sent by May 1, 2009
 - ⌘ FSC must be billed under new provider location
 - ⌘ Limitation is required, 800 units
 - Effective for DOS on and after July 1, 2009

- ⌘ Expansion of ECI services

Many ECI network providers have requested additional services to be covered. Due to the current fiscal budget cuts, new policies to expand services are on hold.

**SRS Report for State ICC Meeting
March 27, 2009**

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, Federal Economic Stimulus Package will most likely impact the Economic and Employment Support Division in both the benefits and services provided to consumers. Funding may be available within the Food Assistance Program, TANF, Early Education and Child Care services, and within the Food Commodities program. We continue to work with the federal agencies on guidance and clarification as it becomes available.

- Reminder the Kansas Fatherhood Coalition will present the Kansas Fatherhood Summit: Strengthening Father Involvement on April 2 and 3 at the Holiday Inn Select in Wichita. Registration is now open on-line at www.KsFatherhood.org . Attendance is limited to 200 participants. Scholarships are available. For additional information contact: Carrie Hastings or Jean Morgan at 785-296-3349.

- The LIEAP application period is entering its final full week. Currently, the volume of applications received is at 50,231 (which exceeds last year's overall total of 50,101) while approved applications are at 35,285. This overall volume is 12.44% ahead of last year and the approved volume is 9.31% higher than last year for the same period. The average benefit is currently \$717.76 and total funds obligated to date are \$25,326,270.

- The LIEAP program received a donation from ONEOK, Inc. of \$402,879 to be used to supplement the regular LIEAP funding to serve low-income Kansans. This donation was part of a settlement between ONEOK and the Federal Energy Regulatory Council (FERC). These funds will be added to the benefit pool to assist households in paying their winter heating bills.

- Impact of Stimulus Bill on Food Assistance Program in Kansas – Effective April 1, 2009 the recently passed economic stimulus bill makes the following changes to the Food Assistance Program (also known as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP):
 - ✓ Increases the maximum benefit amounts by 13.6%. This change will result in an additional \$12.5 million food assistance benefits issued in SFY 2009, and an additional \$53.8 million in SFY 2010. The average benefit increase per household is \$46.

 - ✓ Provisions that limited participation to 3 months for able bodied adults without dependents age 18-49 have been removed through September 30, 2010. Affected persons will now be able to receive food assistance benefits with no time limit on participation. The estimated affect on average monthly cases and benefits is reflected in the below:
 - SFY 2009 (3 months) – 1,214 average additional cases per month with additional benefits of \$507,425.
 - SFY 2010 (12 months) – 4,695 average additional cases per month with additional benefits of \$7,167,874.

- SFY 2011(3 months) – 5,828 average additional cases per month with additional benefits of \$2,154,136.
- ✓ Additional administrative funds will also be issued to Kansas for FFY 2009 and FFY 2010. The estimated amount for both years is \$1.7 million.

The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services is the lead agency administering the federal Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF). CCDF supports the Child Care Subsidy Program (financial assistance to low-income families) as well as early learning quality initiatives such as child care provider professional development, child care resource and referral, Kansas Early Head Start, and regulation and licensure of child care facilities. A new state plan describing the use of the funds is submitted to the federal government every two years.

A draft of the new CCDF State Plan will be made available on the SRS web site at www.srskansas.org. Comments may be submitted by mail to SRS EES, DSOB, 915 SW Harrison St., Suite 580, Topeka, KS 66612, Attention: Sally Paige Kahle or through email to Sally Paige Kahle at SallyPaige.Kahle@srs.ks.gov. Please identify in the Subject Line: CCDF State Plan Comments. Interested parties may attend one or both of the scheduled public hearings. A schedule of the dates and locations of the public hearings is attached. Comments will be taken through **May 25, 2009**.

KSDE REPORT TO THE STATE ICC

March 27, 2009

Early Childhood Special Education – Part B

Kansas continues to work with the field to support practices in the delivery of services to children. We are pleased to know that local providers continue to inquire with our TA partners at KITS and with KSDE to seek information on improvement.

State Data for Early Childhood Outcomes using the proposed summary statements show that our data is consistent over the past two years. This is encouraging to both KSDE and KITS as we strive for reliable and valid data from the field.

Part B Data (based on Proposed OSEP Summary Statements)

	Outcome A	Outcome B	Outcome C
Year 1 Summary Statement 1	83%	81%	81%
Year 2 Summary Statement 1	85%	87%	86%
Year 1 Summary Statement 2	64.5%	57%	75%
Year 2 Summary Statement 2	66%	63%	79%

OSEP has begun to share changes in the reporting requirements on the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Reports for Part B. There will be additional calls through the summer as the requirements continue to be defined and more input is provided from the states to our regional resource centers and then on to OSEP. As this information becomes solid, it will be passed on to this council. Any questions or comments regarding these reporting requirements are welcome.

“Guide for Educating Students with Autism Spectrum Disorders” is out for public comment until April 3, 2009.

Results of District Status Reports were sent to Special Education Directors on 3/16. They have until 3/27 to respond to KSDE regarding any comments or clarifications. Superintendents will be notified on March 30th and the information will be posted to the KSDE website as a public report.

KSDE Report to the State ICC

Kansas Preschool Program (KPP) update:

The Practitioner’s Group met on Wednesday, March 25th. Results from that meeting will be shared with the Policy group on Monday, March 30th and then will be made available to stakeholders.

The RFP for the Kansas Preschool Program which encompasses both the Pre-K Program (formerly the Pre-K Pilot) and the Four Year Old At-Risk Program is on the website. Applications are due May 4th.

Kansas Early Learning Document

The new edition of the Kansas Early Learning Document will be available the end of March.

2500 copies are being printed. If funding is available, 500 CDs will be made for dissemination.

Parents As Teachers

The RFP for the 2009-2010 will be available soon.