

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

May 2, 2003

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Deb Voth, Rainbows United, Wichita Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Bremby) Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities Maria Martinez, Parent Member Karla Kenton, Parent Member	Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Peggy Miksch, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Bureau of Children, Youth and Families Lori Eigenman, Topeka Association for Retarded Citizens Kathy Boyd, Three Lakes Infant Toddler Services Karen Snell, Families Together Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer Northwest Kansas Infant Toddler Services Janet Newton, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, CCLR Doug Bowman, Coordinator Patty Miller, Staff

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson. Introductions were made. There was not a quorum to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003. There were no additional changes or additions made.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Doug has not received additional concerns or questions for public forum.

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer raised a concern from an Education Audit Report. The Kansas Department of Education Personnel Report now requires a break-out of the infant toddler assignments separate from early childhood (3-5) assignments. A letter was received regarding documenting the time split between the infant-toddler and Early Childhood Special Education staff. Kathy explained this creates problems in the way auditors look at the supervision of paras, and the associated hours. They may lose categorical aid for paras due to the way Full Time Equivalence is reported. Kathy explained an early childhood special education teacher, who is half-time infant-toddler, and half-time Early Childhood Special Education, may not generate full reimbursement for any paras being supervised in one area such as either Early Childhood Special Education or Infant Toddler. Additionally, concern was raised about the amount of supervision required for Home-based paras. The audit guide requires twice a week supervision with each student. In practice this is not how Early Childhood has been done. Kathy mentioned these are issues that need to be monitored. Doug Bowman will be at a public meeting to discuss the audit guide on May 15<sup>th</sup> and will listen for information related to this concern.

**CHILD CARE LICENSING - JANET NEWTON, KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

Doug Bowman gave background of local network concerns around child care licensing issues. Lori Eigenman, Shawnee County Interagency Coordinating Council spoke about the

developmental versus chronological age provisions. She mentioned the difficulty in getting approval for exceptions. Janet Newton, Kansas Department of Health and Environment passed out a handout titled Inclusive Requirements. (See attachment A). This handout is available on their website at [http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/bcclr/inclusive\\_requirements.html](http://www.kdhe.state.ks.us/bcclr/inclusive_requirements.html) . Request for exception forms are also included on their website.

Kansas child care regulations do not require children to be “potty trained” prior to entering any child care facility or age group within a facility. Janet Newton stated if a local network has concern about exceptions you can call Pat Sudbeck, Regional Administrator, Child Care Licensing and Regulation. Janet explained there is a Unit within Child Care Licensing and Regulation called Best Practice for children birth to age six. Exceptions are done on a case-by-case basis. Janet explained regulations are minimum safety, not quality.

Sharon Hixson asked about regulations requiring child care providers serving children with special needs to have 6 hours of college credit in special education of children with special needs. Janet Newton explained if the program does not have to make special program adjustment or services on a regular basis then the child is not considered to be handicapped. If a child in a program causes the program to make significant changes and ongoing services then the regulations pertaining to handicapped unit apply. The primary care giver has to be adequately trained to provide the care for that child. This requirement can be a hindrance to accessing child care for children with special needs.

Janet Newton explained the Kansas Bureau of Investigation background check process. Facilities turn in the names of persons applying for employment, living or visiting regularly in the child care facility. Deb Voth raised concern of releasing personal information of staff to other child care providers when they have already been cleared through Kansas Bureau of Investigation for the Part C employer. Janet explained the information is required by state law and regulations. Janet stated the system will soon become internet accessible and facilities will enter information of persons working with programs. After discussion it was decided to discuss this process further with a letter sent to Chris Ross-Baze, Director Child Care Licensing and Regulation.

Doug Bowman asked about the process of revamping the way training is approved for in-service training to child care providers. Janet Newton answered when in-service training is approved by Kansas Department of Health and Environment, an application would need to be completed with a summary of the content. Kansas Department of Health and Environment reviews the application primarily for the content for competencies, training and experience. Any future changes are yet to be determined.

### **FURTHER DISCUSSIONS AROUND FISCAL CRISIS**

Doug Bowman reported the Kansas House of Representatives worked the Omnibus Appropriations bill with barely 63 votes. This bill will go to the Senate and if it passes, it will go to the conference committee. Doug explained the budget has not been balanced. A proposal was presented by House Freshman that would have raised one half cent of sales tax along with a surcharge on income tax. This proposal was defeated by a two to one margin on the House floor.

A decision was made to delay the final payment to schools from the second week in June to the first week of July. Schools will be allowed to back date the books for accounting purposes. Another proposal being considered is deferring income tax refunds.

The budget plan contains funding for base state aid at a reduced amount of \$3,863 per student; special education at 83%; at-risk four year old level funded; parents as teachers level funded; restoration of some money in Social Rehabilitation Services for Community Developmental Disabilities Organizations, mental health centers, waivers, and foster care. A restoration of \$300,000 infant-toddler tobacco dollars has kept the money pool for grants to local networks about even with the prior year. The Senate's proposal has tobacco dollars for a state oral health office. Smart Start will receive a very slight increase.

Discussion was continued from last month's Interagency Coordinating Council meeting regarding the budget impact on local networks. Peggy Miksch followed up the conversation about concern of signing Part C assurances which she discussed with Kelly Worthington, federal project officer. Peggy explained if any money from Individuals with Disabilities Education Act goes to any program, then they would have to comply with all parts of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. A letter will be sent offering the assistance of the Council to work on the Part C funding statewide plan to work on issues, that is, eligibility, and cost participation.

#### **COORDINATORS REPORT** - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported the contents of House Bill 2231 which allows schools to charge fees for preschool services has passed. The final bill number was Senate Bill 82.

Doug mentioned three positions of the Interagency Coordinating Council will be vacated in June. There is a new appointment form that will need to be completed and then will be sent to the Governor's office. If local partners would like to nominate persons, please submit names to Doug Bowman.

The United States House passed reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act by a vote of 251 to 171 and it has gone to the United States Senate.

#### **KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT** - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson handed out a copy of her report and handouts of House Bill 1350 on Reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. (see attachment B). Carolyn reported there was a workshop regarding Part C and Part B early childhood eligibility requirements. It was held in Emporia, and Wichita, and is scheduled in Hays May 6<sup>th</sup> and in Parsons on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The *tiny-k* Office of Special Education Programs self-improvement plan for Kansas is in process and will be completed by May 15th.

#### **KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** - Marnie Campbell unable to attend

Doug Bowman handed out a copy of the child count charts for children from birth through age 5. Marnie's report is attached. (See attachment C). Doug Bowman reported that during the funding committee, they discussed categorical aid and the audit guide. Another concern is the new design for Kansas State Department of Education with licensing and how that interacts with

supervisors/coordinators of infant-toddler programs and early childhood (3-5) programs are covered. Doctor Dave Lindeman replied the training would be folded into the administrator license.

**SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT** - Alice Womack and Carolyn Weinhold were unable to attend  
Doug Bowman handed out a copy of the Social and Rehabilitation Services report. (See attachment D).

**INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT** - Robert Tomlinson was unable to attend.  
No report.

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.  
The next meeting will be June 6<sup>th</sup>, 2003, from 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm, located in Topeka at the Shawnee County Topeka Public Library, 1515 South West 10<sup>th</sup>, located in the Menninger Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.