

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

**May 5th, 2006
SRS Learning Center, Topeka, Kansas**

Welcome and Introductions

Members Present:

Carolyn Nelson, (representing Secretary Bremby)
Dr. Linda Mitchell, Public Member
Nancy Kruse, Head Start Representative
Dr. David Lindeman, Regents Representative
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Eva Horn, Public Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Mark Tremaine, Parent Member
Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Carolyn Weinhold, Head Start Collaboration (Representing Secretary Daniels)

Non-Members Present:

Jane Rhys, DD Council
Janese Masters, SRS
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co ITS
Mary Baskett, Head Start Assoc.
Karen Snell, Families Together
Doug Bowman, Coordinator

Members Not Present:

Ellen Mellard, Chair, NE KS Education Service Center
Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Thomas Kohmetscher, Service Provider Member
Robert Tomlinson, Insurance (Commissioner Praeger Representative)
Dr. Margy Hornback, KSDE (Commissioner Corkins Representative)
Tom Laing, Public Member
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Dr. Heather Rainwater, Provider
Jennifer Crow, Governor's Representative

PUBLIC FORUM

Linda Mitchell reported on the Governor's recent visit to Wichita. The Governor was highlighting her emphasis upon early childhood issues. Dr. Mitchell believed that we should be appreciative of the Governor's understanding of the importance of the early years.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 31, 2006 minutes were edited to list Dr. Lindeman's name only once in the attendance. Motion to approve the minutes (as edited) was made by Dr. Mitchell and seconded by Dr. Horn. Approved Unanimously

JUNE STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION

Discussion around the June session began with a quick review of past practices. The Council would

like to extend an invitation to Duane Goossen to give us the fiscal perspective, as he had in the past. Mr. Bowman was instructed to inquire about the Governor's availability. The hours of 10 am to 4 pm were suggested. A few names were also suggested for a facilitator.

It was also suggested that we should extend invitations to join the event beyond our usual lists. Efforts will include a direct invitation from our ICC parents to other parents across the state. Other collaborative partners were mentioned. Dr. Mitchell wondered if the business community or private funding sources might join us. It was also suggested that we explore the celebration of two decades of existence for the Council.

KEEP – Ks EARLY EDUCATION PARTNERS – Mary Baskett, Head Start Assoc.

A brief review of recent history was given. There is a clear emphasis within KEEP upon advocacy. For that reason, state agencies and their employees are welcome to participate, but not formal members. KEEP arose as an attempt to demonstrate collaboration in the field of early childhood by seeking a unified voice. The 2006 Legislative agenda for KEEP was highlighted.

The question was asked: "How does KEEP select its agenda items?", since they can't be everything to everybody. The group comes together and narrows the focus. There is some consideration given to programs that are losing ground financially.

Currently, the entry of certain business interests into the arena has focused much attention on the Universal Pre-Kindergarten initiative.

Jane Rhys gave a brief overview of the Big Tent Coalition, another recently created advocacy group that has had much success. Mr. Bowman was instructed to clarify any possible restrictions to the Council joining these (or any other) coalitions before the June meeting.

COORDINATORS REPORT

Mr. Bowman highlighted several budget items pertinent to early childhood. A Senate floor amendment to the Omnibus budget bill had added \$1.4 Million above the Governor's enhancements to *tiny-k*. At the time of this meeting, this item had not been resolved in conference committee (It has since been approved) A similar effort to add funds to Parents as Teachers did not pass. The amount added to fund a shortage in child care subsidy funds was approved slightly lower than that requested in the Governor's Budget Amendment.

Mr. Bowman gave a glimpse of the extensive efforts that were invested in advocacy for *tiny-k*. He specifically mentioned the Co-Chairs of our own advocacy committee: Tom Kohmetscher and Debbi Mai. They received extensive help from Deb Voth. Tom Laing and all the good folks over at InterHab worked very hard. Most significantly of all – our friends, parents, and providers from all over the state produced lots of phone calls, letters, and e-mails. There was some conversation

concerning the Senate floor amendment. It was offered by Senator Vicki Schmidt, of Shawnee County. It then passed with no discussion or controversy.

Doug informed the Council that Patty Miller had accepted a different, full-time position with KDHE.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT – Carolyn Nelson

A copy of the KDHE report was handed out, (See Attachment)

There was some discussion of the current situation in Wyandotte County. Negotiations continue to find a new lead agency for Part C in Wyandotte County . Concurrently, KDHE staff is making necessary arrangements/preparations to take over as that community's lead agency on July 1st, if that becomes necessary.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT – Robert Tomlinson was unable to attend.

No report.

SRS REPORT -

A copy of the SRS report was handed out, (See Attachment).

Janese Masters led a discussion on the changes in federal law that require an automatic referral to Infant-Toddler Services for every child under the age of three years who has been substantiated to be a victim of child abuse/neglect or substance abuse. IT is worth noting that substantiated abuse/neglect is NOT automatically equated with removal from the home. Further investigation into data will identify those geographic areas that are struggling to comply with this new policy.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

No report

ADJOURNMENT

The next ICC meeting is scheduled for June 2nd, 2006, in Topeka, Kansas at the SRS Learning Center, 2nd & MacVicar, South West East Circle Drive South, Building 2600, Rooms A and B. The meeting will begin at 10:00 AM. Meeting Adjourned.