

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

MINUTES
STATE ICC MEETING
MAY 22, 2009, 1:00-4:30 PM
TOPEKA LIBRARY, MENNINGER RM.
REMOTE SITES: HAYS, WICHITA, OVERLAND PARK, SALINA,
INDEPENDENCE

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.
John Meetz, Ks. Insurance Commission.
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Carol Ayres, KS Dept. Education
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE-BCYF
Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Tom Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, Sr. Admin. Assistant
Gales Stuber, KS Dept. Education
Colleen Riley, KS Dept. Education
Kayzy Bigler, Families Together
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co. I.T.S.
Pat Bray, Dickinson Co. Programs
Nancy Juhlin, REACH & SE Ks B-3
Tiffany Smith-Birk, KDHE
Joyce Trower, Salina

MEMBERS AT REMOTE LOCATIONS

Deb Voth, Provider Member - Wichita
Dr. Dave Lindeman, Bd/Regents –
Independence
Julie Broski, Parent Member – Overland
Park
Sharon Hixson, Public Member - Salina
Nancy Krase, Provider Member -Wichita
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Member
– Overland Park

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller, House
Senator Julia Lynn, Senate Appointee
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Bobbi Mariani, SRS

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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked for introductions around the table. She then asked those present, who have joined us from remote locations to introduce themselves.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dr. Eva Horn moved that the draft April minutes be approved as distributed. Richard Martinez seconded. Vote passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one chose to speak at this time from the public.

KDHE Report

Carolyn Nelson reported information has been forwarded to the 36 local Part C networks, concerning their ARRA allotment, or a portion of the \$1.4 million dollars in federal stimulus funding. This amount is allotted per network based on the formula used annually for grant awards. The tracking and accountability information is not yet available but will be forwarded by the US Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Public comment on this document ended in April. OSEP did move the first required report date from July 2009 to October. This gives us more time to collect information from the networks and compile the first report to the federal office. We will then submit an application for the second federal allocation that will come in September. Based on those reports, if Kansas is approved for the second allocation in September, Part C will receive another \$1.9 million at that time. These funds have to be spent by December 2011.

A new network will be added July 1, 2009 (Dickinson County area). They have offered a contract to a party this week for the Part C Coordinator, but there is no announcement yet. The Occupational Center of Central Kansas (OCCK) will be the lead and fiscal agent for Dickinson County. This area is currently served by the Salina Regional Health Center, Children & Families Network which will continue to provide services in Ellsworth, Saline, and Ottawa Counties.

The Coalition for Independence (CFI) will be the new lead and fiscal agency for Leavenworth County starting July 1, 2009. They have been providing independent living services in the 15-County, metropolitan Kansas City Area. Discussion ensued about interrupted services in Leavenworth County. Carolyn Nelson answered that CFI will be looking to re-hire the same staff.

Cayla emphasized that the two new providers should also be enrolled with Kansas Medicaid and KHPA. It is necessary to make sure that those two new lead agencies will be getting reimbursed with the new family service coordination codes. Cayla will check to make sure this is done.

All Part C Networks are submitting Part C annual grants due today with accompanying continuous improvement plans. They are also working on budgets, for both the usual grant funds and the ARRA funds.

Regional meetings for the Part C networks will be August 24th, in Topeka, August 25th in Garden City, and August 26th in Newton. Tiffany Smith-Birk and Peggy Miksch will be providing family services coordination training June 5, 2009 in Wichita.

KDHE and KSDE have supported the KITS Annual Summer Institute June 16-June 19, at the Alumni Center in Lawrence. The topic covered: “Evidence-based Practices for Effective Collaboration with Families. This will be an excellent summer institute to attend. Apply now, through the KITS Website, “<http://www.kskits.org/>”.

KDHE needs parent representation within our new stakeholders’ group: “Kansas Genetic State Plan”. It was begun to improve understanding of birth defects as a public health problem, exploring strategies for financing genetics in the State of Kansas, developing methods to address the burden to public health of genetic and familial disease in the adult population, and much more. An email will be sent to the Part C coordinators, about this group. If anyone is interested to join this stakeholders’ group, please contact Carolyn Nelson at the KDHE offices.

Tiffany Smith-Birk stated that Sound Beginnings is also seeking children of parents with hearing loss from birth to age three or older. Their advisory council meets quarterly.

KSDE Report

We are continuing to look at our annual performance report and improvement activities for all three of the early childhood indicators. This comes at a very busy time for KSDE, KDHE, and our providers. We hope to get information secured through the end of June 2009. With regard to the indicator that the IEP be in place by the child’s third birthday, KDHE and KSDE have worked through this filtered data collaboratively, as the data systems do not “talk” to each other. Our target is 100%. This year, Kansas had 6 children that did not have the IEP in place by their third birthday, and we are pleased with this number (compared to previous years), but continue to work for improvement.

Carolyn Nelson stated that she, Tiffany Smith-Birk and Carol Ayres, recently attended an OSEP conference in Denver, and heard about incentive monies from the federal level. If Education and Part C Lead Agency could agree on the policy, then Part C could continue until the child is in Kindergarten. We asked if they would allow the use of this incentive funding for children with summer birthdays until school starts. The answer was yes. We found that those Part C services can use some of these incentive money to carry out the

services from the summer birthday until school starts (if we go ahead and write a grant). Much work will need to be done, if we pursue this policy option..

Linda Mitchell stated that the State ICC would be here for support and advice.

Nancy Kruse remarked that at one of her conferences lately, she was told if you are sending in a competitive grant, do it a week or two in advance.

Carol Ayres covered Early Childhood outcomes

The total Parents as Teachers (PAT) state funding through the Children's Initiative Fund was level funded at \$7,539,500 for FY 2010. This is good news. Seventy-three continuation grants were received. September 29, 2009 is the PAT Fall Summit.

Peggy North-Jones presented *Considering Ethical & Professional Behaviors* at 4 sites April 27-30, 2009. Peggy was unanimously provided a 5 rating (top rating) as an effective and knowledgeable teacher. She also has expertise in Early Childhood Mental Health and Reflective Supervision. We hope to bring her back to Kansas again soon.

Carol also enclosed a pre-registration form for the KSDE/KDHE Co-sponsored Orientation for State ICC members in conjunction with the Leadership Conference in Wichita, beginning the morning of Thursday, July 30th. They need to get an early count. You are invited to stay for the Leadership conference, as well. Carol reminded the State ICC that they are also welcome to join SEAC in November 2009. Details will follow.

Linda Mitchell stated that she wanted to make it clear that there is no charge for any State ICC Members' attending the KSDE/KDHE Leadership Conference in Wichita in July.

(See full KSDE report))

Insurance Report

John Meetz had no report.

KHPA Report

Cayla Wright covered Maria's questions from last meeting, with answers and copies of documents. Delays of application processes were addressed with my manager, Dr. Margaret Smith. They are being sent to Dr. Andy Ellison, who is acting Executive Director, due to Marcie Nielson's resignation. I called to get some answers on the current Medicaid applications process and found the backlog is up to 11,000 applications. We are not yet out of compliance with the 45 day rule. Sometimes, we are waiting on more documentation that was not supplied with the original application.

By the end of this month we have to lay off 14 employees and we hope it will not cause Medicaid applications to be delayed beyond the normal processes.

We cannot force anyone to serve Medicaid patients and become a provider with us (it is optional). We know there is a lack of providers in the Finney county area. I have a list of providers that currently have openings as of this week in Finney County and surrounding areas. If anyone has questions, please let them know to call me at my contact information.

Transportation for children was another question Maria had for me. In Western Kansas, a child may have to travel to see a physician over 50 miles. If they use commercial transportation, the vendor needs to call in to get an approval, before they need to go. In that case, we will put a six-month approval on file for that child.

Cayla Wright had English and Spanish booklets covering Medicaid and Medicaid children.

(See full KHPA report).

Discussion ensued about the necessity of the helmet (Star Band). It is a critical issue to some parents. Dr. Eva Horn expressed that there seems to be a real increase of more children needing these helmets. Cayla stated that there has been extensive research on the use of the helmets. KHPA continues to not cover the cost of them. Generally, unless there is absolute necessity to close the child's skull suture lines, or to heal other problems with the suture lines, they are still considered cosmetic. With the "Back to Sleep" programs and interventions, parents will have to find other avenues for covering costs of these helmets.

Cayla reiterated a change going live July 1, 2009 - the family service coordination has to be billed with this unique new provider number. Please continue to bill with current ECI Number, for counseling, speech language, therapies, etc. We know coverage for screenings and hearing tests are desired, but budget constraints prevent this and these have to be put on hold.

SRS Report

Doug highlighted the agency's written report. (See full SRS report).

Kansas Legislative Report

Even though the legislative session is over, the budget sits on the Governor's desk. John Meetz announced that the budget bill was actually signed early this morning. There were three vetos: none of them related to services for young children.

Complicating things, this year more than any other year, the legislature came up with a balanced budget almost to the penny. They did not give much of a margin for error. In so doing, they gave the agencies cuts and told them to choose how to make these cuts. Each agency is going to implement their budget cuts in their own manner by July 1st. An additional struggle is to factor in the federal stimulus dollars in a way to stay in

compliance with the federal requirements attached to those funds (for maintenance of efforts, etc.)

For general education, the base state aid for each pupil was \$4,433 per pupil at this time last year. This got backed off to \$4400 for this school year, with the mid-winter cuts. For next year, it will be \$4,280 per pupil. Special Education will be \$23,000 per full time position for next year. Additional: no capitol outlay, no professional development plans monies

Tom Laing stated the networks have been notified that they are getting a cut as a result of Special Education funding. The Legislature decided that Special Education levels for next year will be \$23,000 per FTE. Additionally, Community Developmental Disabilities Organizations (CDDO) state aid was eliminated. Those hit hardest by this include: Sedgwick County, OCK, Arrowhead West and all the Southwest Counties, Reno County, Futures Unlimited, Hutchinson, and DSNWK in Northwest. Kansas.. In addition, the waiting list for waiver services remains same and will grow.

There is a provision in the Part B side of the ARRA language that allows for the US Secretary of Education to issue waivers to the maintenance of effort provision of IDEA on a state by state basis and a year by year basis. There has been only one time in the past, that a waiver has been approved (during the Katrina Hurricane for State of Louisiana.) The Kansas budget is built upon the assumption that such a waiver will be forthcoming for Part B. NO such option is available for Part C.

The Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) was held harmless from budget cuts for the early childhood programs: Smart Start, block grants, Parents as Teachers, Part C, Kansas Preschool, etc. This is victory for the early childhood communities of Kansas.

In SRS, the childcare subsidy program and quality improvement activities did not get hit hard by the budget cuts. They are also expecting some ARRA monies to flow into Head Start. Some will flow by formulae methods, and most (especially Early Head Start) will be by competitive grants due soon.

We are not sure of the extent of cuts to Community Developmental Disabilities Organizations (CDDO). These are Cabinet level decisions, but state aid flexible monies often used in the past for early childhood, will likely be gone because of budget cuts. Mental Health services will be cut substantially also.

Nancy Kruse asked about if School for the Deaf will be closing. Doug and Tom stated together, there has been no final outcome on the closing of institutional sites included (KNI, Parsons, Schools for the Blind and Deaf, Rainbows Mental Health, Beloit Juvenile Correctional Facility, etc). A commission is studying these matters. In December, there will be decisions made on these. Tom Laing stated that the State ICC should keep this on our agenda.

Funding Committee

Dave Lindeman reported this committee has not met.

Advocacy Committee

Sharon Hixson stated that this committee met shortly on the Monday after last month's ICC meeting. I hope we mobilized some communications with legislatures at the end.

The Advocacy Committee will not meet next week and will address canceling this next meeting with an email going out today.

Policy Committee

Tom Laing distributed a notice and report for the Policy Committee meeting to be held between now and the June Strategic Planning Meeting. The meeting date will be set after polling committee members for a date.

Tom Laing and Julie Broski stated they haven't had a meeting, but will have a report soon. They suggested several topics to review at the June Strategic Planning Meeting: Julie has pointed out that we advocate for programs that are considered an entitlement, yet we don't have sufficient funds to get the job done. The State ICC has a quandary to do so:

- (1) The Council itself needs to have a better understanding of the federal requirements regarding entitlement
- (2) We need to understand what reports we do submit that do verify in fact, that we are meeting that requirement
- (3) When we present information to the legislature and to other state agencies, how do we articulate and meet a standard of excellence for infants and toddlers.

If in fact we are under-funded, then the only way we are meeting the entitlement policy is watering it down so it is not excellent. We need to find a better way of expressing this in our language so that we can advocate for additional resources while at the same time not run afoul of anyone who suspects the State is violating the law.

Another point brought up was: "Does the State ICC know what the lead agencies needs are - what are we expecting the lead agencies to accomplish when administrative activities are held, - do they have the resources to do what they need to do, - and what are the federal expectations of the lead agencies, and other questions".

Improving Services Committee

Tish Holub Taylor completed her autism training today. It is very organized, very comprehensive in regard to their objectives. Our next meeting will be June 11, at 9:30 AM. I am hoping that will be okay with everyone's schedule.

Chair and Staff Report

Doug stated that the activities pertaining to the upcoming vacancies around our State ICC table are proceeding. I have spoken to Legislative Leadership. The legislative

coordinating council will meet on June 4th, 2009, and I revisited with them the two legislative positions on the State ICC. I hope they will either re-confirm or make new appointments at that time.

Doug has spoken to the Governor's appointments office to ensure the State ICC is going to get full consideration in a timely manner. I have revisited with each Council member whose term is expiring on whether they would consider being re-appointed. I passed this sentiment on to the Governor's staff. Finally, I have been publicizing far and wide, how anyone can fill out the form, and be considered for an appointment.

Doug Bowman reminded everyone that all State ICC members are invited to join the new ICC members orientation scheduled July 30th in Wichita, in conjunction with the Leadership Conference.

Linda Mitchell announced that the Strategic Planning Conference for the State ICC and all others interested in attending, is to be held at the Kansas School Board Association Building in Room #101 (785-273-3600). Their address: 1420 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, KS. A noon lunch will be catered. Details will be forthcoming. We hope everyone can attend.

MEETING ADJOURNED

SRS Report for State ICC Meeting May 22, 2009

- **Work Incentive programs.** SRS initiated phase one of the Work Incentive program with the increase in the TAF earned income disregard on May 1, 2008 when the earnings disregard was increased from 40% to 60%. Phase two, the TAF Work Incentive \$50 payment began January 1, 2009. Customers are eligible for a \$50 monthly stipend, once they are no longer eligible for basic TAF assistance due to their earnings. These programs were designed to give TAF customers needed support as they began employment, increasing their ability to stabilize their lives, while allowing the state to count those cases in the federal work participation rate. We have seen a steady increase in the numbers of TAF customers who have benefited from the increased earnings disregard and the Work Incentive payment. To date, the average increase in usage of the earnings disregard is 34%. In the three months of the Work Incentive payment, we now have 525 cases eligible for this extended benefit. At this time, we are waiting for data to verify the improvement to our federal work participation rate.
- **Child Support Enforcement (CSE) Amnesty Day.** A child support collections Amnesty Day was held on April 23 in Wichita. More than 100 people were served, 46 warrants were lifted and more than \$13,000 was collected in back child support.

- **Kansas Rehab Services (KRS).** KRS held a public hearing on May 12, 2009, from the 5.4.7 Arts Center in Greensburg, KS, using an interactive web cast to connect people in 13 Kansas communities. The hearing focused on the FFY 2010 Update to the State Plan for Vocational Rehabilitation and Supported Employment Services, the agency's strategic goals, and potential uses of stimulus funding.
- **Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Contract Extension.** SRS has begun implementing service items obtained through the EBT contract extension negotiation. The optional 3 year renewal was successfully negotiated and the contract extended through February 2013. The following items, acquired at no charge to the state, will be implemented in 2009:
 - Data Warehouse – This will allow Central Office staff direct access to data contained in the eFunds (EBT contractor) system. This is useful for reports and data mining.
 - One Year Online History - This will allow Central Office and field staff access to a full year of online historical information in the EBT system rather than 180 days.
 - SIVR (Speech Interactive Voice Response) System – The current toll-free help lines used by eFunds require persons to enter information through a touch tone phone pad or to speak to a customer service representative. The SIVR uses voice recognition prompts rather than input from the phone key pads.
 - One Call PIN Select – EBT customers must now call two separate phone numbers in order to set the PIN for their EBT card. The new way will only require one call.
- **Adult Protective Services Conference.** Economic and Employment Supports, along with the Office the Attorney General co-sponsored and hosted a successful Adult Protective Services Conference in Topeka, May 12 and 13th. General session speakers provided information on working with individuals with disabilities and working with victims of domestic violence in later life. Breakout sessions covered topics such as financial exploitation, refugee assistance, and criminal prosecution. Participants included community service providers and CDDO staff, staff of SRS and the Attorney General's office, as well as county/district attorneys and domestic violence advocates.

**KHPA Report for State ICC Meeting
May 22, 2009**

- Follow-up on previous meeting questions
 - Delays in Application Process
 - Lack of PCP's in FN county area
 - HCK
 - Unicare
 - Transportation for children
 - Helmets/STARbands

- FSC/TCM Policy Update
 - Policy implementation scheduled for July 1, 2009
 - Reenrollment of Family Service Coordination is required
 - Re-enrollment packets mailed 05/05/09
 - Must bill FSC with new provider number

- 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.

KSDE Report **PART B – Section 619**

Work continues on the Improvement Activities for the State Performance Plan indicators. The current Annual Performance Report data collection period ends on June 30, 2009. Districts are busy with early childhood indicators in the summer months. In July, the networks are sending information indicating children who were referred from Part C to Part B as a part of the process for data collection for Indicator B-12 (Transition from Part C to Part B). This indicator collects information to insure that an IEP was in place by the child's third birthday. It is a compliance indicator and the target is 100%. While Kansas does not currently meet the target, progress is seen annually. This year 6 children across the state did not have an IEP in place by the third birthday. These children all had summer birthdays. A Q & A to further clarify and address that specific issue has been developed to assist with compliance in the indicator.

For Early Childhood Outcomes (B7) districts will be verifying data in August. It is a requirement by OSEP that a verification process takes place. All entries into the system for the current year should be entered by the end of July. The districts compare their data in OWS to data collected by the MIS in order to ensure that all data is captured. In the fall, we will begin to determine (jointly with

KDHE) our targets for this indicator and be asking stakeholder groups for input in the process.

Preschool LRE – Least Restrictive Environment (Indicator B6) is still being clarified at OSEP. The public comment period has ended and there is concern that many states could not ramp up their data systems quickly enough to begin reporting this data next year. Kansas is in a good position to do so, should the indicator be revived for the coming year.

The Special Education Services team continues to prepare for a mock verification visit to be held in September. The team is preparing by completing an extensive self assessment known as the CrEag. (WHAT IS THAT?)

On behalf of KSDE and KDHE, I am circulating a pre-registration for the July orientation. Depending on the interest, the orientation may be cancelled. It is the intent of our agencies to have full council participation in the orientation in order to have maximum benefit. If you would like, you may complete it and I will take it with me today. If not, I have sent the electronic version to Doug Bowman and he will be sending it electronically to the membership. Following the May 29th deadline, a communication will be sent to the membership with the results of the pre-registration. We HOPE that you can all attend, it really is an opportunity!

Reminder:

Colleen Riley on behalf of SEAC invites SICC member participation:

November 18, 2009
9:00 am – 4:00 pm – lunch included
KSDE Board Room

Council members wishing to attend should RSVP to Deb Burns at dburns@ksde.org for a lunch count. The SICC is invited to attend all or a part of the day. Any items for the agenda should be sent to Deb in advance.

Parents As Teachers (PAT)

The review of the 2009-2010 grants is complete and recommendations are being sent to the State Board of Education for approval at their June Board Meeting. The total Parents As Teachers state funding through the Children's Initiative Fund was level funded at \$7,539,500 for 2009-10; **truly exceptional news!** Seventy-three (73) continuation grants were received. Fifty-one (51) requested the same or less funding than 2008-09 and recommended for funding in 2009-10 as requested. Twenty-two (22) requested more funding than 2008-09 and were recommended for funding in 2009-10 with a 1.13% increase. One new grant was received and recommended for 2009-10. Following the State Board of Education June meeting, grant award letters will be sent to each grantee (mid to late June).

Peggy North-Jones presented *Considering Ethical and Professional Behaviors* at 4 sites April 27-30. This professional development opportunity sponsored by KSDE was open to any early childhood education profession. A total of 230 people participated including 168 from PAT programs; 40 from Early Head Start/Head Start programs; 2 from Healthy Families programs; 9 from child care programs including licensing surveyors; 3 from Tiny K programs; and 8 from other program areas. Peggy was unanimously provided a 5 rating (top rating) as an effective and knowledgeable teacher. One attendee stated, "This is one of the best classes I have attended in 30 years of Early Childhood training!" Peggy also has expertise in Early Childhood Mental Health and Reflective Supervision. We hope to bring her back to Kansas in the future.

PAT programs are currently collecting Parent Satisfaction Surveys and other data for the Annual Program Report and Recertification of Parent Educators and Supervisors.

Pre-K Pilot Program and Four Year Old At-Risk Program

Applications for both programs were merged into one application form under the title of Kansas Preschool Program. All applications have been received and will be sent to the Kansas State Board of Education for approval at their June Meeting. Letters will be sent to all Pre-K sites and school districts immediately following the Board vote. This will be the fourth year of the Pre-K Pilot program. It has been a successful year and a good learning experience for all. All sites have participated in email, conferences, and meetings with KSDE staff throughout the year. This has helped to answer Pre-K site questions as well as KSDE questions. We look forward to another successful year.

Four Year Old At-Risk programs have continued to expand with six new programs completing applications for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Early Learning Services Unit is working hard to collaborate with program staff from other state agencies and organizations. One example is the fall administrators' conference that will invite administrators from Part C, Part B-Section 619, At-risk four year old programs, Pre-K pilot programs, and Parents As Teachers programs. This will take place in Junction City in September. Save-the-Date information will be sent out by the end of May.