

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

MINUTES
STATE ICC MEETING
OCTOBER 3, 2008, 1:00-5:00 PM

DOCKING STATE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM #784
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member

Bobbi Mariani, SRS
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Nancy Kruse, Provider Member
Deb Voth, Provider Member
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Carol Ayres, KSDE
Dr. Dave Lindeman, Rep. Board/Regents

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, ICC Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, ICC Sr. Admin. Assistant
Gayle Stuber, KS Board/Education.
Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet
Margaret Zillinger, SRS
Karl Hockenberger, tiny-K Foundation
Eileen Leifhert, Children's Head Start –
Wichita, Ks
Bethany Larson, KU Student-Lawrence
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co. Infant-
Toddler
Sue Scott, tiny-K Foundation
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, N.W.Ks.
Educational Center

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
John Meetz, KS Insurance Commissioner
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Member
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT ON
PHONE

Jim Johnson, Sunflower
Cathy Estes, Sunflower

MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative

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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with a welcome to all.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following edits were made to the drafted September 2008 minutes: Sharon Hixson asked to change the Ready for School Week, which was actually September 29-October 3, 2008 (on page 3), and on page 2, fourth line down, add the State ICC values statement. Sharon Hixson moved and Susan Carriger seconded that the minutes be approved as changed. The vote was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer stated that she had a phone call from another special education director concerning an audit they had gone through recently on infant-toddler staff services funding. The issue was concerning the loss of a lot of money they had claimed for para-educators used in home-based services. (Doug Bowman reiterated at this point, that this discussion would continue during the Funding Committee Report toward the end of the meeting).

Governor's Children's Cabinet

Jim Redmon, Executive Director of the Cabinet for the last 5 years, began by stating that the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund is directed by statute to undertake four initiative responsibilities: (1) advising the Governor and the Legislature regarding monies credited to the Children's Initiative Fund, (2) evaluating programs which utilize the children's initiative fund monies, (3) assisting the Governor in developing and implementing a coordinated comprehensive delivery system for children and families of Kansas, (4) supporting the prevention of child abuse and neglect through the Children's Trust Fund. Kansas started the Children's Trust Fund in 1980; it was the first children's trust fund in the United States. It does deal with primary prevention of child abuse and neglect and is funded through license plates' sales, marriage license fees, and the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant. This is a federal grant that has been increased over that last 4-5 years as we've leveraged for more dollars. These grants go out to communities for the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect in the state.

In 1998, Kansas received the Tobacco Settlement dollars. Then starting in 1999, Kansas put together legislation outlining how the dollars should be spent. Kansas has held to the model of putting these specialized monies into health for its children and families.

The Children's Cabinet is made up of nine members; five are appointed by the Governor, four are appointed by the Legislature. The Chair, (Melissa Ness) is appointed by the Governor. The main function of the cabinet is to look at how the CIF funds are spent, evaluate those programs and then recommend to the Governor and Legislature how CIF should be spent in the future. The Legislature and Governor make final decisions on all budgets.

Jim Redmon related how they evaluate children's programs through a process with the Kansas University, to determine what goals and outcomes are, if programs are making progress, and meeting their outcomes. This is a very extensive process, which we are in the middle of, right now.

The Children's Initiative Fund ended up last year with about \$65 million left to be spent. The decision of the Children's Cabinet was to focus these funds on Early Childhood. A little less than half of the fund is now invested in Early Childhood programs. In comparison to where this fund was 3 years ago when less than 20% of those monies went into Early Childhood.

In regard to the role of the Children's Cabinet, it is very dedicated to ensure these dollars are accountable; and that outcomes for children are on the forefront of any system or program. In the funding of the Early Childhood Block Grant, a lot of this thinking goes into the RFP (Request for Proposal), developed by the Cabinet.

The Cabinet really assumes three roles: (1) as convener to bring people together, (2) as incubator, we turn ideas into programs, (3) turn these programs over to other people

The Pre-K Pilot program was turned over to the Department of Education. The Cabinet had a role in getting it started and are very happy how we transitioned it into the Department of Education and how it is progressing now.

Smart Start started small and has now grown into \$8 million dollars providing services in 37 Kansas counties. There are lots of people at the table now, to ensure Smart Start grants are administered accountably. The Early Childhood Block grants for the \$11.1 million of C.I.F are underway. The ten percent Cash Match questions took up a lot of our time. There are 38 applications covering 72 counties in Kansas. Jim mentioned the Cabinet is going through an internal review - to be completed October 21, 2008, and then it is to be approved November 2, 2008. We have hired Jane Weiler, previously of SRS, to be our new early childhood director. She has an extensive background in reviewing grants and evaluating their progress.

Our Early Childhood Governance discussions will lead to a report to the 2010 Commission. We will give a series of options to the state. Many of you at this table will

be involved in discussions with the Early Childhood community and our stakeholders in Kansas. We hope to have the report done and ready by January 2009. I would hope to not overstate its importance in what is going to happen to early childhood governance with the Legislature. We have a lot of states to review out there but many approaches will not work for Kansas.

Melody McCray-Miller asked if it is the decision of Cabinet how the dollars are to be used. Jim Redmon's answer was "yes". Melody asked another question about the incubator role which Jim stated is the third function of the Cabinet. Melody has read the RFP for the Early Learning Block grants and knows that their sustainability is not guaranteed. Jim Redmon answered, "There are many grants, but the Cabinet wants to make sure there is continuity and the Cabinet asks people to re-apply in the future – if they are meeting their goals. The one-year grant is all that is guaranteed".

Sharon Hixson asked, and Jim Redmon stated that there is a list of who currently gets the Smart Start and Trust Fund grants is on the Cabinet's website, www.ks.childrencabinet.org.

Deb Voth asked Jim Redmon if there were assurances or certain safeguards that are built into programs to make certain that these services are accessible for children with disabilities. Jim is checking to make sure.

Linda Mitchell stated that there are communities that are not afforded the assistance and expertise to write good grants. Jim Redmon stated that the Cabinet has been very intentional to take rural communities into consideration with the process: The Cabinet calls them back saying, "*your budget does not make sense, please rewrite your request for proposal*". Some people are not always happy but the Cabinet gets better outcomes, because of this in the final proposal.

Deb Voth asked what the ELCC membership makeup was and Jim stated the Children's Cabinet website has a link to more information on the ELCC.

Linda Mitchell stated that one of the strengths of the State ICC is that it is a Coordinating Council and reiterated to Jim our offer as a Council to assist in helping the Cabinet.

Tiny-K Foundation

Linda Mitchell introduced Sharon Hixson who talked about the tiny-K Foundation and its members. Ed Henry is President and Deb Voth is a current member. Karl Hochenbarger and Sue Scott were also present. Sharon Hixson passed out buttons, a report, and pamphlets on the tiny-K foundation history, outlining the state-wide member organization. Tiny-K has a board of nine with members to enhance the networks across the state. Supporting Networks to deliver services to children is the heart of what tiny-K does.

Sharon Hixson stated that she originally came on board as a Vista volunteer (with emphasis on organization and grant writing). In early 2007, tiny-K Foundation got a

Sunflower Fund Grant for nearly \$20,000 plus matching funds of \$2,200 from the tiny-K Foundation membership. Also in 2007, they had a March of Dimes Grant. In 2008, the tiny-K foundation received grants from The Ross & Marianna Beach Foundation and Compassion Kansas. The Foundation is now in a chicken-and-egg situation of needing to develop additional fund raising capacities to not only support the networks, but to support the Foundation's ability to raise funds for the Networks.

There will be a round table discussion with tiny-K members coming up on October 20, 2008. Sharon Hixson welcomed everyone present to sign up for the electronic tiny-K newsletter and stated that they are always welcoming personal or corporate donations. Our goal is to get a 30-40,000 population mailing list for a steady stream of individual \$20-\$30 donations. The experience of Ed Henry at KSDS has shown small private donations are very important – the \$25 donations saved KSDS.

Autism Waiver Report – From SRS

Margaret Zillinger from SRS has been working with Home Community-based Service Waivers. We have started and continue small. The waiver is currently serving 45 families. The waiting list is three times that large. Margaret's handout explained the waiting list.

In response to a question by Tom Kohmetscher concerning professional shortages, Margaret stated they are seeing some students leave the state upon graduation. The biggest challenge observed: getting enough providers.

Dr. Eva Horn remarked about the shortages of providers who meet the waiver's requirements to work with children with autism. Yet, newly licensed teachers clearly have the skills to work with children with disabilities. The waiver appears to embrace a narrow set of definitions, and there are few programs at universities that educate specifically for a professional in Autism.

Margaret Zillinger stated that we do not need to go back to the drawing board but to go forward with our current standard of best practice. We may re-evaluate at some future point in time, but for now we need to do a lot more recruitment. Experience in the delivery of services to a young child with Autism is the most critical factor.

Chair and Staff Reports

Linda Mitchell mentioned that the NEC-TAC Conference is held in December 2008 and asked that those members and parents interested in attending the NEC-TAC Conference should notify the Chair. Doug Bowman passed out copies of 2 letters requested in the September meeting, written to Dr. Posny, Department of Education for the purpose of potentially changing Special Education funding. The other letter went to the Home and Community Based Services' Interim Committee and its Chair, Representative Bethel.

Doug Bowman also stated that the Parent Leadership Conference is in 3 weeks on October 24th, 25th, in Topeka, Ks. Doug also stated that the November 7, 2008 State ICC Meeting will be at Newton, Kansas' Public Library starting at 1:00 PM. There will be

conference call/phone-in capabilities at the meeting. At the December 2008 and January 2009 Meetings, the State ICC will try to do Interactive TV. Remind yourselves that in January, the State ICC is shifting to holding its meetings from the first Friday of the Month, to the fourth Friday of the Month. Doug also stated that on February 27th, the State ICC will be in Wichita with KDEC at the Airport Hilton.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

Doug Bowman stated that Dave Lindeman's position on the Executive Committee is to be vacant soon and that it is a 2-year commitment. The Executive Committee's function is taking up matters of the ICC that cannot wait until the next meeting such as writing letters, preparation for the next meeting and agenda order, making sure various work is in place. If no one wants this position, he will continue.

Sharon Hixson moved to put Dave Lindeman up for another term. Nancy Krase seconded this motion. The vote was unanimous.

Advocacy Committee Report

Sharon Hixson related events at their August 1, 2008 meeting and stated that Wednesday, February 25, 2009 has been set for tiny-K Advocacy Day; just before the KDEC Conference. The Advocacy Committee is to have an October 28th 1:30 PM conference telephone call.

Policy Committee Report

Tom Kohmetscher stated that a summary of the August 7, 2008 meeting follow up is to be announced.

Improving Services Committee Report

Dr. Eva Horn, convener, has set up a conference phone/call meeting for October 16, 2008 at 1:00 pm. Task will include electing a chair and recruiting more people to serve on this committee.

Dave Lindeman addressed Dr. Eva Horn, stating that it is disturbing that ECSE teachers are not considered qualified providers under the Autism Waiver. Specialized experience and education helps but would like to see the State ICC formulate a letter or policy on the matter of qualifications. Deb Voth stated that a lot of Autism hours are recognized but that SRS is looking at experience and education. Dr. Horn also stated that evidence-based practice does not have solid agreement. The Early Child Unified License at the Masters' Level has training in Autism, but this is not enough. This should be a "position paper", and the State ICC should make a statement concerning a diagnosis specific approach to service delivery.

Linda Mitchell and Dave Lindeman suggested that a letter on the criteria of qualification for Certified Licensure be a collaborative effort between KDEC, KSDE, the State ICC and others.

Linda Mitchell asked for a motion and Dave Lindeman made that motion to write this letter with Improving Services Committee; Tom Kohmetscher seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Task	Who	When
Write State ICC Policy Or	Doug Bowman, Dr. Eva	December 1, 2008 After
Position Paper, With Medical Community & Other SICC Members On	Horn & Improving Svcs. Committee, Executive Committee, & Medical	Consensus of Agreement On Final Written Position Paper Presented To All
Experience/Educational Criteria – Autism Specialist	Communities, for follow- ups, Part C, Waiting List.	State ICC Members, Professionals, Others.
Certification/Licensure		

Funding Committee Report

Dave Lindeman's committee met in Topeka reviewing funding streams of Part C and B. Dave also talked with Bobbi Mariani and Cayla Wright, who are assisting in getting some more numbers for our report.

Dr. Lindeman reported on the legislative appointed special education funding task force that met last month. They considered three different formulas, including the one currently used. There is no consensus emerging on a change.

Dr. Lindeman also reported that the KSDE auditing staff has recently completed audits on many tiny-K Networks and their use of categorical aid funding. Some networks that struggled in the past are now reporting much easier processes this cycle. Others report differently. At this time, we were joined on the phone by Cathy Estes and Jim Johnson of Sunflower diversified in Great Bend.

They currently access categorical aid on an amount per student, or contract basis. They expressed concerns that the auditors were disallowing home visitation services conducted by para-educators. They could not find the basis for this decision in law, regulation, or the reimbursement guide published by KSDE.

In response to a question, Jim stated that they would be submitting their formal appeal very soon. Deb Voth noted that once an appeal decision is made, it is final – with no further steps in the process.

After much discussion, it was decided to ask Mr. Johnson to provide to ICC staff any appeals material that was relevant (and did not breach confidentiality). Based upon this material, if the Council was still unclear of the basis for the KSDE decision to disallow, we would write a letter seeking clarification.

If the practice of providing home-based services by a para-educator is being called into question, it would have repercussions throughout the tiny-K system. Whatever the clarification of policy, we should explore the possibility of training in the near future to

avoid any further auditing problems. It is in everyone's best interest for the rules to be clear, and the need for proper documentation to be communicated to local providers.

SRS Report

Refer to their handout.

KSDE Report

Refer to their handout.

KDHE Report

Linda Kenney reported that she had seen a rough draft of the report of the Autism Task Force that will be delivered to the 2010 Commission next week. It will include a recommendation to change the formula used to distribute funds to the 36 tiny-K Networks. They seek to use a "weighted" formula approach to make more funds available to serve young persons with Autism.

Sharon Hixon announced an Early Learning Advocacy Meeting, October 14, 2008, 12:30-2:30 PM at Topeka Public Library. Linda Mitchell adjourned meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

The next meeting will be November 7, 2008, at 1:00 on 7th at the Newton Public Library.

SRS Report for State ICC Meeting October 3, 2008

Food Assistance Grants: Funding of \$150,000 was provided again this year from bonus money for Food Assistance Outreach Pilot Grants. A selection committee of regional and state staff selected seven grantees from across the state. Grantees include: Catholic Social Services, Great Bend- \$22,456.01; Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. (SKIL), Parsons- \$25,000; Community Access Center, Independence- \$ 20,567; East Central Ks Area Agency on Aging, Ottawa- \$24,702; Catholic Charities, Inc., Pittsburg- \$ 9,373; Harvesters – The Community Food Network, Kansas City- \$22,320; and Independence, Inc., Lawrence- \$22,830.

Last year was the first year this grant was funded. Six grantees were selected for the term of Oct. 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008. Two of the grantees completed their activities on June 30. The other four grantees have had their time extended past the June 30th timeline and will continue doing outreach activities outlined within the grant.

Drivers License Sanction for Nonpayment of Support: In October 2008, letters will be mailed to 2,151 debtors who owe more than \$500 in past due child support and have not made a payment in the last 60 days. The letters will inform debtors of the new law that allows the Department of Revenue (KDOR) to restrict the driving privileges of any driver who owes more than \$500. Those debtors who fail to respond to the letters or begin

payments will be targeted for an additional courtesy letter and the formal 30-day notice of the proposed sanction. Debtors who fail to respond to the notice of the proposed sanction and whose debt remains above the \$500 will be reported to KDOR for license restriction. It should be noted, the primary focus of this sanction is to promote voluntary payment of support, not to restrict driving privileges.

Kansas State Department of Education Overview

1. The Pre-K Summit scheduled for September 12th had to be cancelled due to weather (and VERY WET roads!). The roads to the meeting were closed at 7:30 that morning. So a follow-up conference call was set for the next week. Most questions were around getting KIDS# for the children and some budgeting questions.
2. The Pre-K Steering committee has been set up. There is one group of practitioners that will meet in mid-October and mid-November. A second group of policy folks will meet after these meetings to review the results of the discussion. Early childhood and special education is included in all aspects of this discussion and will continue to be a part of the planning for the Kansas Preschool Program.

October 2008 SICC Report – Carol Ayres & Gayle Stuber

State Performance Plan update

Indicator 7 – Early Childhood Outcomes

Data continues to be analyzed for the draft SPP. The final report is due in February 2009. The number of children reported has increased drastically since the last report. Early Childhood Outcomes are collected in three broad areas:

1. Positive social-emotional skills (including social relationships),
2. Acquisition and use of knowledge and skills (including early language/communication, and literacy for three, four, and five year olds),
3. Taking appropriate action to meet their needs

To determine child progress on the outcomes, information is collected at two points in time: 1) when children first enter the early intervention or preschool program and 2) when children permanently exit the early intervention or preschool program. Assessment information is collected and used in a rating process using the Child Outcomes Summary Form, developed by the Early Childhood Outcomes Center, to document the rating process. This information is then submitted into a statewide data collection system administered through the Kansas State Department of Education called the Outcomes Web Based System (OWS).

Part C and Part B will be working together to review, revise and republish the “help” manual for this system throughout the coming months.

Indicator 12 – Transition of Children from Part C to Part B

There has been significant progress in the process of reporting children who transition. Data has been initially reviewed and the results will soon be finalized. Letters to districts informing them of their compliance status will be sent in October.

Indicator 12 captures the transition of children from Part C to Part B and is a compliance indicator on the State Performance Plan (SPP). The indicator, "Percent of children referred by Part C prior to age 3, who are found eligible for Part B, and who have an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthdays", has a target of 100% established by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Regular meetings with KITS (Peggy and Margy), Carol and Tiffany are planned to continue to work together on these indicators and strengthen the relationship between Part C and Part B at the local and state levels.

October 2008 KDHE Report to SICC Report – Linda Kenney

Linda Kenney reported on the rough draft of the report of the Autism Task Force that will be delivered to the 2010 Commission next week. It will include a recommendation to change the formula used to distribute funds to the 36 tiny-K Networks. They seek to use a “weighted” formula approach to make more funds available to serve young persons with Autism.