

**KANSAS INTERAGACY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON
EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

**October 5, 2007
SRS Learning Center – Topeka, KS**

Welcome

MEMBERS PRESENT

Dr. Linda Mitchell, CHAIR, Public Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE Representative
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Deb Voth, Provider member
Nancy Krase, Provider Member
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
Dr. Dave Lindeman, Regents Representative
Colleen Riley, KSDE Representative
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS Representative
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Dr. Letitia Taylor, Provider Member
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative (on phone)

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Senator Julia Lynn, Senate Appointee
Rep. Melody McCray-Miller, House Member
Commissioner Sandy Praeger, Insurance Dept.
Scott Bruner, Kansas Health Policy Authority

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT

Doug Bowman, CCECDS Coordinator
Angie Bauer, Families Together
Peggy Miksch, KITS
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Debbie Mai, Rainbows United
Anne Aytes, Nurturing Families

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair started the meeting by welcoming everyone and called the meeting to order. Introductions were made by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Maria Martinez made the motion to accept the minutes of 09/07/07 as drafted. This motion was seconded by Tom Laing. The motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

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None chose to speak during this time.

INTERIM COMMITTEES

Mr. Bowman described the work of the Autism Task Force and its sub-committees. The full Task Force will begin working on its report at the October 25th meeting..

Doug also reported on the recent activities of the 2010 Commission. A summary of its plan to re-align children's programs was previously distributed. The Legislative Education Planning Committee (LEPC) will take this topic up at its October 15th meeting.

Kate Wolff was asked to reply to a question about the Governor's perspective. Ms. Wolff began by emphasizing that the question of governance and where early childhood programs reside in state agencies was an important question, but it is was not the only question. The Governor's office is monitoring closely the interim process in this topic area.

When specifically asked about Part C, Kate began her answer by acknowledging the lengthy process undertaken by the Council last winter and spring. The Council's efforts were greatly appreciated. Right now, it did not seem wise to move Part C, when potentially another move may be underway soon. Decisions on these matters are being carefully considered.

COUNCIL BY-LAWS

Dr. Lindeman reviewed the proposed change in ICC by-laws for the Council. The primary change was in detailing the powers of the Chair pertaining to committees. He then made a motion to approve this change as distributed by e-mail last month. The motion was seconded by Tom Laing, and then approved unanimously. Dave thanked the task force for their work.

CCECCDS COMMITTEES

Tom Kohmetscher and Eva Horn had previously expressed interest in filling the vacant seat on the Executive Committee. Deb Voth was nominated at this time, but she respectfully declined the nomination. By way of a written ballot, Dr. Horn was voted as the new member of the ICC Executive Committee.

Mr. Bowman presented basic information on the CCECCDS budget, showing last year's actual expenditures and the current year budget figures.

Some discussion occurred around the topic of sending Council members and/or staff to the NECTAC conference in December. It was agreed that sending the new Chair would be beneficial to the Council. We may also send a parent member, if there is interest. If funding allows, we may also send the Coordinator.

Debbie Mai gave a report from the Advocacy Committee. Plans are underway to conduct another tiny-k Day in the Capital. We are also exploring a similar public relations event for local

partners to conduct at the local level using a similar theme and materials for greater state-wide consistency. Their next meeting will be at 10:30 on December 7th.

There was also a request to investigate creating a possible CCECDS brochure. The staff and Chair will pursue this. Staff will also do the groundwork in collecting data on staff shortages.

Carolyn Weinhold also announced that the Parent Advocacy Training set for later in October was now full, and they must now start turning people away.

Dave Lindeman gave a report from the Funding Committee (see attached). There was discussion around the federal proposal to eliminate reimbursement to Local Education Agencies (LEAs) for certain Medicaid services. Tom Laing made a motion that the draft letter previously distributed will be sent (with some edits) and copies provided to our entire Kansas Congressional delegation. Nancy Kruse seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. There is some talk that Medicaid may eliminate ALL funding to LEAs. The fiscal estimate on this would be over \$3.6 Billion nation-wide.

In regard to on-going discussions of categorical aid funding, Colleen suggested putting together a large group of stakeholders. This group should be larger than early childhood, because the topic is larger. After careful research of alternatives, a proposal could be considered. She further noted that a change in statutory language would be required, so the timeline would not be short.

It was suggested that we might “piggy-back” on existing discussions in the KASEA (Ks Association of Special Education Administrators) organization. They have a Legislative Sub-Committee chaired by Susan Sapp. Dave, Sharon, and Julie volunteered to assist in this.

AGENCY REPORTS

Colleen Riley reported for Education that they are working to complete the revised state rules and regulations that mirror the recent federal changes in IDEA. Public hearings will be in November.

Colleen spoke to the open position for Coordinator of 619 (Early Childhood Special Education).

Ms. Riley also reported that Commissioner Posny is completing a re-organization of KSDE that will include one team versus the current three, and a name change to special education.

Colleen also reported that work continues on the State Performance Plan (SPP). She wanted to highlight #12, regarding the transition from Part C to Part B. Efforts to align the data from these two distinct systems are underway. Although we may not reach a perfect score (which is the federal target), we are seeing improvements.

Finally, Ms. Riley discussed the Expanding Opportunities application. There is no actual funding associated with this proposal, but a limited number of states will receive technical assistance courtesy of the federal government. The specific topic is child care services for children with special needs.

Carolyn Weinhold reported from SRS (see attached). She noted that Alice Womack will be retiring soon, but that Secretary Jordan will be asked to name an ICC designee. SRS wanted to also note the upcoming KDHE public forums on the topic of child care licensing regulations.

Carolyn Nelson reported from KDHE (see attached). She highlighted the family service coordinator training in Wichita on January 3, 2008 with Mary Beth Bruder.

The KDHE budget as submitted to the Division of Budget included an increase for Part C of \$1,047,787. Deb Voth praised this action and noted that in the entire history of the program this was the only time the lead agency had asked for an increase in its budget requests.

When asked if there were other topics, Dave mentioned the proposal for a “Deaf and Hard of Hearing Bill of Rights”, which was distributed earlier. A temporary committee to investigate this topic was suggested. Volunteers included: Deb Voth and a Rainbows staffer, Susan Carriger, Julie Broski, Joe Porting (KDHE), and Melanie McCay-Cody (KSDE).

Our next meeting will be Friday, November 2, 2007 in PARSONS at the KU Media Center on the campus of Parsons State Hospital.

MEETING ADJOURNED