

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

October 6, 2006

SRS Learning Center – Topeka, KS

Welcome

Members Present:

Linda Mitchell, Public Member.
Nancy Krase, Provider Member
Alice Womack, SRS
David Lindeman, KU
Thomas Kohmetscher, Service Provider Member
Rep. Melody Miller, House member
Linda Kenney, KDHE (Secretary Bremby Representative)
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
Eva Horn, Public Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
John Meetz, Kansas Insurance Dept.
Jenny Rojas, Parent
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Dr. Margy Hornback, KSDE (Comm. Corkins Representative)

Non-Members Present:

Deb Voth, Rainbows United
Carol Busch, Kansas School for the Deaf
Claudia Shannon, KC Ks schools
Amy Herring, WY County LICC Chair
Lesli Girard, Families Together, Inc
Kathy Halpin, Sound START
Kimberly Shaw, Wyandote Co. Spec. Ed.

Doug Bowman, Coordinator
Brenda Kipers, Secretary

Members Not Present

Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Jennifer Crow, Governor's Representative
Senator Carolyn McGinn
Dr. Heather Rainwater, Provider Member

Meeting was called to order by Maria Martinez, Vice-Chair. The Chair, Richard Martinez, was ill. Introductions were made.

Motion by Sharon Hixson to approve the September 8 minutes as revised. Seconded by Tom Laing. Passed unanimously.

Sound START

Carol Busch gave a brief review of the Sound START proposal that was presented to the Council last month. This initiative comes from the Sound Beginnings advisory body and has been under consideration for about two years. The state would be divided into eight regions. Seven new FTE positions (plus the use of 1.5 existing positions) would be employed in the School for the Deaf. Enhanced resources and expertise would be made available to the 36 *tiny-k* networks. Ms. Busch is visiting all 36 networks.

Mr. Bowman started the discussion with sharing the contents of an e-mail message from Ellen Mellard. Her biggest concern centered around this proposal's duplication with existing services currently available from the 36 *tiny-k* networks. Dr. Mitchell also asked about the need for a separate system without fully using the existing infra-structure.

Ms. Busch replied that it was their intent to build upon the existing system of early intervention services. She believed that there were gaps to be filled.

Dr. Lindeman wondered if the intent was to address the needs of children who are unserved versus those children who may

be underserved. No answer was given. He further asked if the true need was to provide better training to those currently doing the work in the local networks.

Dr. Lindeman also asked the question: "Why wasn't this initiative placed in the KDHE budget?" Placing it in KDHE under either Infant-Toddler or Sound Beginnings seemed to be appropriate. No response was given.

Ms. Martinez asked Ms. Busch if a member of the Council could be in attendance at the next meeting of her advisory group. The response was affirmative.

Dr. Hornback told the Council that Commissioner Corkins was in support of this initiative, even though the proposal had been initiated by an independent, advisory group.

If this initiative goes forward, the Council may wish to clarify its position. If asked by Legislators or other policy-makers, the Council Staff should be clear on any Council position.

By Laws Revision

Dr. Lindeman gave a brief overview of the discussion on voting by proxy. The current Council by-laws prohibit doing so. Members were presented with a written proposal to allow such, under certain conditions.

Tom Kohmetscher opposes this proposal. He urges us to work to encourage more active participation by members, not make provisions for their absence.

Tom Laing asked if the appointing authorities might have a say in the concept of voting by proxy. Staff will research this.

Maria Martinez supports the proposal. Other entities she serves on allow it. The Council will vote on this issue in November.

Local Lead Agency Selection Sub-Committee

Tom Laing gave an overview of the draft report prepared by the Sub-Committee.

Claudia Shannon questioned the timing of formal notification of families. She didn't wish to unduly alarm them, until more definitive information was available.

Dr. Mitchell disagreed. She felt it important to deliver the message to families early in the process. This emphasizes their importance and their role in making policy within the system.

Staff will distribute the draft report to local networks and LICCs seeking their feedback. That input can be provided to the coordinator or Dr. Eva Horn.

Mr. Laing made a motion that the Sub-Committee review this feedback, develop a timeline for a final draft, and report to the full Council on December 1st. Seconded by Mitchell. Passed Unanimously.

Oral Health Kansas

Marcia Manter gave a report on the status of oral health activities in Kansas. Special emphasis was given to the oral health needs of young Kansans with special needs. Ms. Manter commented that we need more dental providers who will

take the extra time needed for special needs children.

Funding Committee

Dr. Lindeman gave a report on the Funding Committee. They have begun a concerted effort to re-visit the topic of special education funds (categorical aid) and the means by which it is distributed to local networks. Ms. Hixson wanted to clarify that no immediate changes are expected in the near future. Ms. Carriger was impressed by the positive atmosphere around these discussions.

Coordinator's Report

Mr. Bowman gave a brief summary of where we stood in comparison to our strategic plan. Immediate attention needs to be made to prepare for our December 1st meeting.

Doug also briefed the Council on the work going into a proposed Medicaid waiver for young children with autism. Details are a bit sketchy. This group will meet again on October 27th. Susan Carriger agreed to represent the Council. The Legislative Education Planning Committee also met earlier this month on this same topic.

October 27 will be a busy day. The long-standing parent advocacy training will be held in the Capitol. Doug helps with these sessions. On that same day KSDE will be conducting its next stakeholder meeting to work on targets for our State Performance Plan. Maria Martinez will represent the Council.

Doug reviewed the plans for the November 3rd Council meeting in Manhattan.

When asked, Rep. Melody Miller agreed to introduce a bill for the Council. The topic will be "earmarking" general education funds generated by children aged 3-5 years with special needs.

AGENCY REPORTS

Mr. Meetz gave a brief report on the meeting between Commissioner Praeger and the *tiny-k* Foundation last summer.

KDHE provided a written report. Ms. Kenney that KDHE staff wrote an issue paper to support the School for the Deaf initiative: Sound START. It is not feasible to include this in the KDHE budget.

Ms. Kenney also reported that the KDHE budget included a \$250,000 increase for Infant/Toddlers Services for training and other state infrastructure needs. She also reported that things were going well in Wyandotte County, to the best of our knowledge.

Dr. Hornback reported on the September KSDE visit by federal staff from the Office of Special Education Programs. The written report will be coming soon. She also spoke about the October 27 stakeholders meeting. Parent Involvement is one of the three new indicators being considered. Maria Martinez will represent the Council.

Ms. Womack gave a written report. In response to a question, she will have someone come discuss child abuse/neglect issues at our January meeting.

Sharon moved and Susan seconded the motion that we adjourn. Passed unanimously.

Next meeting will be 9:30 am in Manhattan at the Work Force Center, 205 South 4th Street. At 1:30, an optional lecture at Kansas State University on the value of early intervention will be available. The speaker is Dr. James Heckman.