KANSAS INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

MINUTES
SICC MEETING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2008, 1:00 PM

SRS LEARNING CENTER, ROOM B
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member
Tom Laing, Public Member
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Member
Bobbi Mariani, SRS
Carolyn Nelson, KDH&E
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member
Susan Carriger, Provider Member
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
John Meetz, KS Insurance Commissioner
Carol Ayres, KSDE
Julie Broski, Parent Member
Nancy Krase, Provider Member

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
Deb Voth, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, ICC Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, ICC Sr. Admin. Assistant
Janet Newton, KSDE – Parents-Teachers Programs
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Tiffany Smith-Birk, KDHE

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

None

MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Board/Regents Rep.

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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with welcome to all and particularly, to the new State ICC member, Carol Ayers, from KSDE. Gayle Stuber, KSDE, explained that Colleen Riley is in Wichita today at the Multi-Tier Assistance (MTAS) Conference.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES
The following edits were made to the drafted July minutes: Sharon Hixson was removed from the Members Present listing, being listed twice. On Page three: Corrected to Bill Number #365. Page five corrected to read, "Tom Laing asked about the development of the score card". Tom Laing made a motion and Sharon Hixson seconded, that the July Minutes be approved as corrected. Motion passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM
Maria Martinez announced that the Assistant Technology Expo Conference (ATK.KU.edu) is going to be in Wichita at Century II on October 1-2, 2008. There are continuing scholarships available for individuals and family members and they are going to open up their vendor hall the first evening, with a need for 6 or 7 workers. Later that same week in Wichita, is a Self-Advocates' of Kansas Conference. The keynote speaker is Bernard Carvello, who is the father of self-advocates. If anyone attended the ERC 30th anniversary, he was one of the keynote speakers. He has a powerful story of living history and families need to be there. You can get on the SAC.org website, click on Information, and contact Craig Knutson if you wish to attend.

Sharon Hixson commented that our Council not use the "SICC" acronym, as it sounds better to say, "State ICC". Linda Mitchell stated that she agreed and thought that it connoted a negative sounding acronym. Doug Bowman however, stated that in the Federal Legislation, it has been shown as "SICC" for the acronym.

Linda Mitchell announced that the Governor's Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect is going to be October 29-30, 2008, in Wichita. On the national level, the Division for the Early Childhood's Conference is October 27-30, 2008, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Maria Martinez announced that the Kansas Association of Education of Young Children Conference (KAEYC) will be September 10-11, 2008, in Manhattan, Kansas. On September 13, 2008, the Families Together is having an Infant-Toddler Conference in

Garden City. This is the only conference done by Families Together that is held specifically for the families of infants and toddlers with special needs.

Tom Laing told about the Early Learning Coalition Meeting he had attended recently. At that last meeting there was much planning of the 31 facility tours around the State of Kansas for legislators. Sharon, Tom, and others, made an effort to make sure that the infant-toddler networks would be involved in some tours. In the Hays, Kansas area, Doug Greer is involved, Deb Voth is involved in the Wichita area with Rainbows United, Inc. It is certainly happening at Leavenworth, Ks with Dawn O'Brien's participation and it may happen in El Dorado, Ks..

Sharon Hixson related that Amy Owens is involved in Overland Park, KS and Jennifer Tassett is playing a large part in the Dodge City area with tiny-K programs. More will play a part but perhaps just not in a leadership role. If anyone wishes to help, or needs answers to any questions please let us know. Part B and Part C need to be very visible in this advocacy effort across the state.

Sharon Hixson stated that starting the week of September 29th through October 3, 2008, the Ready for School Week will be held. It is hoped all SICC members hear about it. This is an effort to make early childhood a campaign issue with all candidates. There are 31 areas of the state where they are really working hard to have tours and events. Anyone in any county or community can do this to add to the effect.

Maria Martinez mentioned that Jim Slattery and Pat Roberts will be in attendance at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchison, and this would be a good opportunity to approach them on these issues.

Sharon Hixson also talked about the Early Learning meeting she attended very recently, where they are supporting the Step Up For Kids Program on September 16, 2008, and is going to be on the State Capital steps.

Tom Laing stated that the Coordinator of the Step Up for Kids program, Gina McDonald, is no longer with KCSL as of yesterday. Her position was eliminated. Sharon did not know who the new person would be but thought the lead person now, would be Chris Erwin at United Way, for anyone to contact. Patrick Woods is going to be the "Dad" representative. They are really getting it organized nationally and also Step Up for Kids in Kansas is being celebrated.

<u>Chair and Staff Report</u>

Linda Mitchell thanked and congratulated all those who stepped up to chair or be convener of each of the State ICC Committees: Sharon Hixson, Nancy Krase, Dave Lindeman, Deb Voth, Eva Horn, Julie Broski, and Tom Laing.

1. Doug Bowman discussed the Interim Committees and stated that the Autism Task Force continues to meet in its second year of existence. They had several sub-

committees working on several issues: an insurance group that has drafted language of a bill they are going to introduce in January when the Legislature comes back to Topeka. It would mandate that anyone who offers health insurance in the State of Kansas cover certain services for young persons with autism. There is another sub-group working on scholarships for those who wish to pursue a degree in services related to young persons with autism. There is a "best practices" sub-group that is doing a fairly intensive research of the literature and their goal is to come back with a recommended "best practices" policy

2. Doug also related there is a Special Education Funding Task Force – The Legislature told them to revisit the topic of how is the best way in which the State should be distributing Special Education money. This group will be meeting on September 22, 2008. There is a recommendation from the Executive Committee. They discussed this topic and believe it would be good for the State ICC to present testimony on that afternoon of the 22nd. The testimony that the Executive Committee recommends would not weigh in on any particular method. The point of this testimony is to remind this panel that as they make their decisions, to not focus on it just as a K-12 issue. For kids from birth to age five, Special Education funding has a huge impact on the services for those families. So often, the birth to age five group is forgotten, when discussing special education funding.

Tom Laing made a motion that the Chair or whoever else goes, to make comments to the Special Education Funding Task Force group urging them to review and take into account funding distribution needs for Part B and Part C services for children ages birth to age 5.

Sharon Hixon seconded Tom Laing's motion. The vote was unopposed and passed.

Task	Who	When
Attend Special Education	SICC Chair, and Other	September 22, 2008
Meeting-Ref. Funding/ 0-5.	Attendee(s).	P.M. Meeting

Doug Bowman mentioned that there is another interim committee that is looking at HCBS issues (Home & Community Based Services). They are looking at rates, funding mechanisms, salaries, etc. There have been some comments that they might revisit the basic policy decision of those Medicaid waivers that start at age five and go up. Are they going to revisit these and consider extending Medicaid waivers down below age five? If so, we obviously want to be part of this discussion.

Tom Laing stated that he thought the rumblings of this issue were started within the State ICC. Given that the HCBS group is meeting only two more times before the end of this year, the State ICC should consider that to be reviewed. Tom remarked that Senate Bill 365 would have provided additional services for home and community services. The interim committee studying these issues may reconsider limitation of waivers to only those over the age of five years. If so, this would open the possibility of enhanced services for early childhood and SICC needs to monitor this closely.

Maria Martinez stated there are a lot of issues that tie into these benefits, such as child care issues. It would help if the family could have some type of respite for support when away from the child or children. Specifically with the DD Waiver, there are lots of people on the waiting list. Maria felt that the DD Services could be expanded for autism, head injuries, and other issues.

Tiffany Smith-Birk asked if the HCBS also included mental health children and Tom Laing stated that these children are covered under SED (emotionally disturbed). Tom did not believe there was a waiting list for SED.

Linda Mitchell interjected that the State ICC should narrow the discussion back to the HCBS (community based services for functionality of family to be more self-sufficient) waiver on this motion. Each waiver is different.

Tom Laing stated that the Chair is Representative Bethel, Vice-Chair is Senator Apple. Other representatives include Representative Melody McCray-Miller, Representative Henry, Senator Kelley, Representative Brenda Landwehr, and others. Tom then made a motion that the ICC write a letter to that committee requesting age limitations on HCBS waivers (age 5 and above) be reevaluated and eliminate and include children 0-5 currently excluded under the DD Waiver.

Maria Martinez seconded Tom's motion; the vote was unanimous and motion passed.

Task	Who	When
Write SICC Letter to	SICC Executive Staff	September 12, 2008
HCBS, Ref: Funding 0-5.	Doug Bowman, J. Wilson	Or Next Week

Doug Bowman also related that the Early Learning Coordinating Council is going to meet September 12, 2008, next Friday at 1:00 PM, at the Children's Cabinet Offices, for the first of a series of conversations around the topic of "early childhood governance" – a phrase some are not comfortable with and would rather it be phrased as "coordination of early childhood services. Doug Bowman will plan to attend this meeting.

Doug Bowman handed out the August 2008 Report to all present and stated that this handout was used at the recent Regional Part C Meetings where most but not all of the Part C Coordinators from the Local Networks were in attendance. The report provides information on the vote on the House floor on May 1, 2008, concerning the 11.1 million dollars for the Early Learning Block Grants and the additional million dollars for tiny-K services.

Doug Bowman had a call from a mother who called the SICC office asking to help her sort through some issues pertaining to the law. Doug then tried to refer her to the person of the appropriate agency whom he felt she should discuss the matter. She reassured Doug that she had already been in conversation with this staff person.

At that point, Doug thought the matter was resolved. Later, Doug found out he was acting from a limited amount of information. Doug would have answered her questions much differently, had he had the full picture; the moral of the story is: that the State ICC as an advisory body, should always first ask, "Have you already talked to the appropriate person at the local level or state agency level first?" It is not that SICC wishes to turn people away, but SICC must be very careful to be sure the Council is not suddenly an authority reinforcing an specific point of view, when we may not have all of the facts.

Linda Mitchell restated our Federal and State bylaws at this point, "State ICC's purpose is to recommend and assist state agencies and the governor's office". The Chair stated that "all of us get calls from parents and professionals that are asking questions that really we should not be answering in behalf of the State ICC. The Council members definitely need to say, "Here is the person you need to talk to

Carolyn Nelson stated that in these situations, the Council members should refer them to the "Make A Difference" lines – 1-800-332-6262.

Tom Laing stated that it is not easy to call any state office get their name and phone number and have Doug Bowman or the correct agency call them back promptly.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee
Dave Lindeman stated the Funding Committee will meet again September 24, at 10 AM. From the early August meeting, discussion centered how their activities related to plans for the Year 2009. The committee is developing the analysis score card (matrix) of the funding resources for the 0-3 and the 3-5 age programs; how to make it an easy to read document and not too complex.

Following this committee meeting and matrix development, Dave sent the matrix to each agency partner asking for input and assistance in identifying dollar amounts to enter into the matrix. There was uncertainty that all had received it.

Dave Lindeman will resend the 8/15/08 matrix again to the agencies. The matrix will soon be given to all Council members.

Advocacy Committee
Sharon Hixson and Nancy Krase, Co-Chairs of the committee, talked about the phone conference call they held in late August. The memo that Doug passed out with the roll call was a result of this committee's efforts. Sharon read off the members of the committee. We are also trying to get information out about the Ready for School program - they do not have a special handout at this time.

Policy Committee
Tom Laing stated that their committee met on August 7th and they worked through the Strategic Plan material. Tom passed out a list of several specific suggested changes to the plan: On page 2, we had a recommendation to add a new statement which relates to reviewing the values of the Council as stated in our By-Laws. Any amendments needed, will be recommended to the State ICC for consideration. If the recommendations are adopted, these values would be used to evaluate policies.

Doug Bowman elaborated that Gail Stuber's Committee wanted to transfer the "BEST team" review of child care licensing into Improving Services and they wanted to trade you that, for "creating a user friendly process for those seeking to provide input to the SICC on policy barriers that impede delivery of services".

Tom Laing suggested that an Executive Committee member sit in on each of all other committees so that they can always help clarify any misunderstanding

Improving Services Committee
Eva Horn, convener, reported that the committee did have one meeting in early August. First, the committee looked at the Strategic Plan and then the committee reviewed the work scope. We started with the gaps in services, to identify these. What is reasonable for a one-year plan was considered. The committee wants to put in place a regular annual update of what Part B and Part C are doing in terms of their performance on the standards (federal report); when is an appropriate time for these documents to be reviewed

AGENCY REPORTS

KHPA (Kansas Health Policy Authority) Report
Cayla Wright stated that the Target Case Management has been reviewed by CMS and they are putting in a policy change related to coding. If there are further questions about any procedural codes, please call Cayla Wright at (785) 96-7222.

SRS Report
Bobbi Mariani reported with a handout that SRS has made funding available in Shawnee and Crawford Counties to address needs of 150 relative care givers, usually grandparents. Funding will continue through 2009 to improve quality of provided care.

SRS and KSDE have implemented a new web based process for direct certification for free school meals that eliminates the old paper process streamlining direct certification for KSDE, school districts and SRS staff.

More details are in her written report.

SRS also states that a single phone number (1-800-922-5330) is to now be used statewide for reporting abuse and neglect starting September 1, 2008; recommended by the Governor's Task Force on Child Protective Services.

KSDE
Gayle Stuber started her discussion by noting that only 14 states that met federal standards for both Part B and Part C. Kansas should be proud. KSDE had terrific support to achieve some of these goals. The interagency work done between KDHE and KSDE on transitions at age three were a point of emphasis.

See the KSDE written report for more details.

KDHE Report
Tiffanie Smith-Birk commented on the recent regional meetings of Part C coordinators. She thanked Cayla Wright, Doug Bowman, Joe Porting, Jim North and others.

See the KDHE written reports for more details.

Insurance Report
John Meetz reported that he has spoken with Clarke Schultz and they are required by law, to have a periodic review of all health insurance mandates. John will check next Monday to see whether they are having another meeting soon and will get back to Doug Bowman on this matter.

Doug Bowman stated that insurance mandates are not an easy sell in Kansas and John Meetz agreed.

Doug Bowman remarked October 3, 2008 is the next State ICC Meeting to be held in the Docking State Office Building in Room 724, from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Doug also noted that traditionally, State ICC goes on the road in the month of November and the State ICC should be thinking where the Council wishes to meet.

Eva Horn remarked that there is a reporting in October on autism by SRS. She will get more communication on this.

Linda Mitchell stated that every State ICC member will be assigned to a committee by the October meeting; Meeting Adjourned.

ALL REPORTS PRESENTED AT THIS MEETING TO FOLLOW:

State ICC Report – BOWMAN - August 2008

The State ICC is re-organizing its committee structure. We encourage the participation of anyone who wishes to contribute. Most all of the committee business is conducted by telephone conference calling. Some e-mail work is also involved. Let us know if you are interested in joining us!

The four committees are:

- Funding

- Advocacy
- Policy
- Improving Services

On May 1, 2008 the Kansas House of Representatives made an historic amendment to the Fiscal Year 2009 state budget. It invested $11.1 Million from an overage of tobacco settlement funds into the first year of the Early Childhood Block Grants. Never before, had this large of an investment been dedicated to early childhood support systems. The Children's Cabinet will make decisions on where and how these funds will be invested later this fall.

In the very same action, an additional $1 Million was appropriated to *tiny-k* services.

A roll call was made of that historic vote. We encourage you to bring up this topic at every opportunity: in candidate forums, when conversing with candidates, and in letters to the editor of your local paper. These are just a few examples.

Those who voted "YES" are to be commended, and encouraged to elaborate on their motives for investing in young children.

Those who voted "NO" are certainly entitled to an opportunity to explain their vote. Perhaps they have changed their mind. More importantly, what will they do when confronted with any future votes that provide support for young families?

Those who are just now running (and new to the campaign scene) will want to express their opinion on any future votes that are meaningful to young Kansans.

(roll call on back)

Here is the roll call. Taken from the House Journal of May 1, 2008 (pages 2413- 2414).

Yeas: Barbara Ballard, Tom Burroughs, Sydney Carlin, Pat Collotin, Barbara Craft, Marti Crow, Paul Davis, Nile Dillmore, Oletha Faust-Goudeau, Bill Feuerborn, Geraldine Flaharty, Vaughn Flora, Stan Frownfelter, Delia Garcia, Doug Gatewood, Mario Goico, Raj Goyle, Robert Grant, Tom Hawk, Broderick Henderson, Jerry Henry, Don Hill, Tom Holland, Deena Horst, Terrie Huntington, Annie Kuether, Harold Lane, Bill Light, Judith Loganbill, Margaret Long, Steve Luckert, Ann Mah, Melody McCray-Miller, Dennis McKinney, Terry McLachlan, Julie Menghini, Ronnie Metsker, Tom Moxley, Cindy Neighbor, Bill Otto, Tim Owens, Shirley Palmer, Jan Pauls, Michael Peterson, Eber Phelps, JoAnn Pottorff, Jill Quigley, Gene Rardin, Charles

Roth, Candy Ruff, Louis Ruiz, Tom Sawyer, Tom Sloan, Sheryl Spaulding, Sue Storm, Josh Svaty, Vern Swanson, Dale Swenson, Annie Tietze, Mark Treaster, Ed Trimmer, Jim Ward, Vincent Wetta, Jerry Williams, Valdenia Winn, and Ron Worley.

Nays: Clay Aurand, Virginia Bemaer, Bob Bethel, Elaine Bowers, Anthony Brown, Steve Brunk, Mike Burgess, Richard Carlson, David Crum, Donald Dahl, Owen Donohoe, John Faber, Rocky Fund, Pat George, Lana Gordon, John Grange, Gary Hayzlett, Benjamin Hodge, Carl Holmes, Mitch Holmes, Steve Huebert, Joe Hummerickhouse, Dan Johnson, Richard Kelsey, Mike Kiegerl, Jeff King, Lance Kinzer, Forrest Knox, Brenda Landwehr, Peggy Mast, Ty Masterson, Joe McLeland, Ray Merrick, Jim Morrison, Judy Morrison, Don Myers, Melvin Neufeld, Mike O'Neal, Robert Olson, Joe Patton, Virgil Peck, Larry Powell, Ted Powers, Richard Proehl, Marc Rhodes, Don Schroeder, Susan Schwartz, Clark Shultz, Arlen Siegreid, Lee Tafanelli, Jene Vickery, Jeff Whitman, Kenny Wilk, Bill Wolf, Kay Wolf, and Kevin Yoder.

Absent or not voting: Jeff Coyler, Kasha Kelley, and Jason Watkins.

TO: Kansas State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

September 5, 2008

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Update Report

Accountability and Early Childhood Outcomes Conferences
Attendees from Kansas: Carolyn Nelson,Tiffany Smith-Birk, Margy Hornback, Peggy Miksch Colleen Riley, Carol Ayers.

August 25, 26, 27, 2008 Kansas Part C Regional Meetings 10am- 3pm
Database Updates from Jim North & Medicaid updates from (Cayla Wright and Brenda Kuder). Topeka, Salina and Dodge City

Kansas Early Learning Collaboration working on grant for the Early Childhood Block Grant with Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL), Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KAPATA) , Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA), Kansas Division of Early Childhood (KDEC) , Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH) and Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRA) and local communities.

SRS Report for State ICC Meeting
September 5, 2008

- Informal Care Giver Pilots. SRS has made funding available in Shawnee and Crawford Counties to help address the needs of approximately 150 relative care givers, usually grandparents. Activities include socialization among care givers; information from local mental health professionals, early childhood teachers, child development specialists, and extension agents; access to resource kits with age appropriate toys and instructional CD's; gift cards for supplies; and home site visits. These projects will continue through SFY 2009, with the outcome of improving the quality of care being provided.

- SRS and KSDE Modernize Free School Lunch Process Starting with the 2008-2009 school year, SRS and KSDE are implementing a new web-based process for direct certification for free school meals. Direct certification is the process of providing automatic eligibility for free Child Nutrition Program benefits to students who are already eligible to receive food assistance (food stamps) or Temporary Assistance to Families (TAF). SRS will provide monthly updates of children newly approved for food assistance or TAF. This new process eliminates the old paper process, and streamlines direct certification for KSDE, school districts and SRS staff.

- Impact of Food Stamp Benefit Improvements of the Farm Bill on Kansas Consumers These provisions will be effective October 1, 2008. The Program is reauthorized through FFY 2012.

    - Standard Deduction: Increases the standard deduction for household sizes of 1-3 from $134 to $144. In Kansas, 80.4% (68,219 cases) of the food assistance cases are in a household of 1-3 people. It is estimated that benefits for FFY 2009 will increase 2 million dollars* due to this change.

    - Dependent Care Deduction: The current caps on the dependent care deduction have been lifted. (The current maximums allowed are $200 under age 2, and $175 for 2 and up.) It is estimated 324 cases (containing 394 children) will be affected, with an increase in benefits for FFY 2009 totaling $100,000*.

- Minimum Benefit: Increase in the minimum benefit (for household sizes of 1 and 2) from $10 to about $14 per month with the amount being adjusted for inflation in subsequent years. In Kansas approximately 8,581 cases or 10% receive the minimum benefit of $10; with an increase in benefits for FFY 2009 of $200,000*.

- Resources: Tax-preferred retirement accounts (IRAs) and education savings accounts (Learning Quest) will now be exempt for households applying for food assistance. This removes the current disincentive for working households to save for retirement and education.

- Name Change: The official name of the Food Stamp Program has been changed to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). SRS plans to continue to call the program the Food Assistance Program.
  (*Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, Dorothy Rosenbaum, May 19, 2008.)

- SRS-EES is pleased to announce enhanced access to EBT account information. Four new web portals into the eFunds EBT system will soon be available on the web. 24x7 secure access will be made available via a Child Care Provider portal, Merchant portal, Cardholder portal and Agency portal. The portals will provide access to accounts from anywhere that a computer can be accessed. Child care providers and merchants will be able to view and update some of their information, read news and other documentation, view daily EBT deposits-- with drill down capability to see details of each payment and more. Vision cardholders will be able to view card balances, review transactions and make child care payments to their provider. Agency staff will be able to perform the same transactions currently accomplished through their PC Admin access, in addition to printable reports, and other functions not available in PC Admin.

- Let's Help Inc. On Monday, August 11, 2008, Let's Help gave written notice ending their participation in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) effective September 30, 2008. Their responsibilities included distributing a monthly CSFP food commodity package to mostly elderly in Douglas, Shawnee, Jefferson, Osage, Pottawatomie, Jackson, Franklin and Wabaunsee counties, and quarterly TEFAP food commodity distributions in Shawnee County. They will complete both August and September's CSFP distributions, and have received a TEFAP shipment, which they will distribute on August 28th. Arrangements are being made to ensure a smooth transition from Let's Help to a new distributor of CSFP and TEFAP foods.

- SRS implemented a single toll free statewide line to report abuse and neglect on Sept 1, 2008. This single phone number to report abuse was recommended by the

Governor's Task Force on Child Protective Services in their November 2007 report. The number is
1-800-922-5330.

- Kansas had an onsite visit in August from DHHS ACF Region VII office regarding compliance with determination of eligibility for Title IV-E foster care funds for children.

- Kansas received notice from ACF of a Federal FY 08 Adoption incentive award. Kansas award amount is $809,025. For the federal period used in the determination of award, Kansas had over 800 adoptions.

- Mental Health Youth Initiative Program. The Youth Initiative Program helps youth with serious emotional disturbances ages 12 to 18 develop individual and group leadership skills. Youth from the program gave a presentation to the Children's Subcommittee of the Governor's Mental Health Services Planning Council (GMHSPC), highlighting the challenges they face due to the stigma associated with their mental illness and the actions they and their family have taken to address those challenges. There are six program sites in the state: Winfield, Junction City, Concordia, Wichita, Independence and McPherson, supported by a grant from SRS.

- Youth camp. Approximately 60 youth in the custody of JJA and SRS convened in Topeka at Washburn for an independent living summer camp. The youth attend sessions on life skills such as money management and healthy relationships.

Kansas State Department of Education Overview
Sept 5, 2008

1. The Early Learning Services Unit is a part of the Special Education Services Team. Members of the Unit include consultants who coordinate the programs at KSDE focused on children ages birth to eight years.

2. Janet Newton started August 18, 2008 as the Parents As Teachers (PAT) coordinator. She is a wonderful addition to the Unit and the team. We are very glad to introduce her to the SICC. Janet will be one of the KSDE team members participating in the SICC.

3. The School Readiness Project has been in place for five years. For the past three years, data has been collected through teacher observation on approximately 2,000 entering kindergarten children. Gayle presented an overview of the project to the State Board last week on August 12th. A one page overview of the results is attached.

4. The Pre-K pilot is now being administered by KSDE. This pilot program has been under the Children's Cabinet for the past two years. The pilots are located in 12 sites across the state. A major purpose to provide 'universal' high quality early learning opportunities for all children. The Early Learning Services Unit is working to put on a Pre-K Pilot Summit on September 12th. This meeting will provide current Pre-K Pilot sites the opportunity to share their 'lessons learned' as well as network with other pre-k pilot sites.

5. During the 2008-09 year, a Steering Committee will be created for the purpose of developing the Kansas Preschool Program (see attached for the description from last year's Governor's Budget). This will be a collaborative process and updates will be brought to the SICC every month.

6. Suggestion: as part of the early childhood work involves the early childhood continuum from birth to age 8 (and which could be extended to age 21 with children who have disabilities), it might be useful to review previous SICC discussion about using the National TA Center to facilitate a meeting with other groups (such as SEAC) that could enhance transitions between Birth to three and 3-5 as well as beyond into school age.

7. Kansas Early Learning document: This document includes standards for birth to age five. It is being revised and will be available in the fall. The document provides common language for all professionals working with young children and is aligned with the K-12 standards.

8. HURRAY!!! Both Part C and Part B met requirements (only 14 states did) on the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. THANKS GO TO CAROLYN NELSON and her team for their work in the Transition (Indicator 12). We celebrated the Data Exchange on August 1, 2008!

9. Verification Process for Indicator 7 - Early Childhood Outcomes. Information has been sent out for the verification process and we are fielding many calls with clarification questions. This process has a deadline for LEAs of August 29, 2008.

10. Indicator 12 - Transition from Part C to Part B information went out on Thursday to districts. This process is to be completed by September 15, 2008.

11. Colleen apologizes for her absence. She is leading the MTSS (Multi-Tiered Systems of Support) Conference of over 800 attendees in Wichita

Thursday and Friday.

12. As a note: The Recognition and Response component of MTSS is specific to early childhood and has been presented to several groups including Families Together in June, 2008 and the KSDE Leadership Conference in July, 2008.

NOTE: Governor's budget description of Kansas Preschool Program
To encourage collaboration and coordination between all early learning programs for three- and four-year-olds, the Kansas State Department of Education 4-Year-Old At-Risk pre-kindergarten program and the Children's Cabinet Pre-K Pilot program should become one program within the Department of Education, called the Kansas Preschool Program. The Pre-K Program will continue to be funded through CIF dollars, and the Children's Cabinet will have continued oversight of the funding, but adminstrative duties will transfer to KSDE.

Combined funding for these two programs should increase from $23.7M in FY 2008 to $27.7M in FY 2009. Quality standards, accountability requirements, and community-based partnerships should remain a part of the Kansas Preschool Program, as currently found in the Pre-k Pilot program.

Results from the School Readiness Project:
Learning in Kindergarten

As part of the School Readiness Project, kindergarten teachers have been providing data to KSDE for three years: 2005-2008. Teachers have provided data on:

- Entry and exiting skills of children in their classes
- Classroom practices (the Kindergarten Teacher Practices survey)

They have also facilitated collecting data from parents on home practices.

<u>Child Data</u>
The School Readiness Project examines child skill levels in several domains (oral communication, written language, math, general knowledge, symbolic development, physical development, social-emotional development, attentive behavior, and work habits). This information provides a snapshot of the 'whole child: what he or she looks like at entry into kindergarten and what he or she learns through the year.

<u>Classroom practices</u>
Teachers also provide data on their classroom practices so that teachers and administrators can begin to see what works best for different children, what kind of day format (all day, half day) helps children learn, and what kinds of professional development might help teachers better support student learning.

Home Practices

Parents provided data on home literacy practices, preschool experiences, and other family supports that may prove to support their child's success in school.

Results over the past three years (2005-08) indicate that:

- ✓ Children are entering kindergarten with good oral language skills
- ✓ Children have adequate social skills.
- ✓ Children who were read to every day had higher reading scores (2005-08) and scored higher on all academic achievement areas. (2007-08).
- ✓ Written language was the lowest area of skill.
- ✓ Children who are considered 'at-risk' (low income, ELL, IEP) do not have as high a level of skill in all domains.
- ✓ Children who attended preschool for a greater number of years prior to K scored higher on many of the more academic areas and lower in Attentive Behavior (2007-08).
- ✓ A significant proportion of parents have a difficult time finding quality child care.
- ✓ All domains of learning showed improved scores across the kindergarten year.
- ✓ Children in full-day kindergarten classrooms had higher spring scores in academic areas.