

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013

The mission of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services is to ensure that a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services is available in Kansas to all children with or at risk for developmental delays from birth through age 5 and their families.

INTRODUCTION

The Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council (ICC) is based in both federal law and state statute. We serve as an advisory body to state agencies and others with most of our members appointed by the Governor. Our area of focus concerns children with (or at risk of) disabilities or developmental delays aged birth through five years and their families.

ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS - STRATEGIC PLAN

Family Voices Committee

- Empowering Families, promoting leadership and participation in LICCs (In Progress)
- Under-served populations, including mentally challenged parents and military families (In Progress)
- Family-Friendly Transitions (In Progress)
- Addressing Under-Served Populations (In Progress)
- Complete the Transition Survey (Discontinued)
- Reach out to Others (i.e. Families Together and case managers) (In Progress)

Systems Committee

- Identify partners, their missions, and goals; seek commonalities (In Progress)
- Develop email lists of local ICC chairs and parents as a tool to provide ongoing communication (Completed)
- Identify initiatives and advocacy efforts impacting the early childhood community (In Progress)

Service Delivery Committee

- Personnel shortages (Survey Completed)
- Ongoing mentoring and other professional support/development (In Progress)
- Partner with Higher Education (ECHO group) (In Progress)

Evidence-Based Practices

- Effective Partnerships with Local ICCs (On-Going)
- Assure Kansas ICC Web Site is Evidence-Based (On-Going)

- Finish Review of Transition Position Paper (Completed)
- Assessment as next Position Paper (Under Consideration)

Web site Task Force

- Complete Review of Needs and Suggest any Possible Changes (In Progress)

ACTIVITIES

Council activities are largely directed by the Strategic Plan (see above) and our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the state agencies. Much of our activity occurs at the committee level.

HIGHLIGHTS

A list of specific Council accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2013 includes:

As a result of the educational efforts of the State ICC and advocacy by many other partners, the 2013 Kansas Legislature maintained level state appropriation/funding for Part C and other early childhood programs for FY 2013. (MoA#9).

In Topeka, a highly successful Parent Leadership Conference was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners on October 5-6, 2012. Over two hundred parents benefited from the basic tutorial in policy-making and how best to influence policy decisions at the local, state and federal levels. (MoA#1).

The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan (SPP) for Part C of IDEA. Particular emphasis was also given regarding the data surrounding transition at age three. The ICC signed and approved the Part C State Performance Plan, as part of the February 1, 2013 submission to the US Department of Education. (MoA#3).

A highly successful and collaborative Early Learning Day event was conducted on February 13, 2013. Several hundred children's champions came to Topeka and met with policy makers concerning relevant issues. (MoA #9)

Technical assistance and support in many different forms was given to several Local ICCs. Staff attended eleven local meetings benefitting nine different Local ICCs. These included: Stockton, Liberal, Shawnee county, Pottawatomie/Wabaunsee, Atchison, Sedgwick County, LakeMary in Paola, Northwest Kansas, and Douglas County. Among the topics of discussion were the role of the Local ICC in local services, potential changes in local lead agencies, and updates on activities in Topeka. (MoA#5).

The Special Education Advisory Council again met jointly with the Kansas ICC on November 6, 2012. The goal was to coordinate advisory functions, especially in regard to children aged 3-5 years. (MoA#2)

KANSAS ICC ROSTER

PARENT MEMBERS:

Tammy Shoepner (Garden City), Darla Nelson-Metzger (Topeka), Julie Broski (Overland Park), Jill Bamber (Leawood), Melisa Schellhamer (Topeka)

PROVIDER MEMBERS

Susan Threinen (Overland Park), Nancy Krase (Wichita), Deb Voth (Wichita), Dr. Leticia Taylor (Overland Park), Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostemeyer (Oakley)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Sharon Hixson (Hutchison), Janice Smith (Wichita), Dr. Eva Horn (Lawrence), Dr. Dale Walker (Kansas City)

LEGISLATORS

Senator Jean Schodorf (Wichita), Representative Gail Finney (Wichita)

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Chairperson Mary Duncan (Governor's Office), Dr. David Lindeman (Board of Regents), Sabra Shirrell (Kansas Department of Health and Environment-KDHE), Tiffany Smith (Kansas State Department of Education-KSDE), Pamela Beach (Department for Children and Families - DCF), Kris Kelim (Kansas Insurance Department)

KANSAS ICC MEETINGS, LOCATIONS, AND ACTIONS

July 25, 2012 in Wichita

We met with John Copenhaver to continue our conversations on the role of the State ICC. It was announced the Kansas will receive a letter of "Findings" from the US Department of Education concerning part C of IDEA. We had a discussion with Kansas Education Commissioner Diane DeBacker regarding child find activities for young children experiencing a visual and/or hearing impairment.

September 28, 2012 in Topeka

There was discussion on how to improve communications with our Local ICC partners. KDHE staff gave a detailed report on the recent "Findings" letter for Part C from the US

Department of Education. The ICC Annual Strategic Plan was approved. Executive Committee elections were held. Susan Threinen was elected to an open position. A brief notice of anticipated challenges coming for Children's Initiative Funds was given.

October 26 in Manhattan

Much discussion centered on the use of technology. Our hosts from Kansas State University detailed their on-line course offerings and the history of same. A local partner report was given by Riley County.

November 6, 2012 in Topeka – joint meeting with SEAC

Each Council gave an overview of its mission and activities for the benefit of members from the other Council. Agency reports were more detailed than usual. A report on homelessness was given by KSDE staff. A report on teacher licensing was given. We had an extended discussion on Children's Initiatives Funds.

December 14, 2012, in Topeka and at Interactive Television sites

Technical problems hindered our meeting. We received a local partner report from Johnson county and Northwest Kansas. KDHE staff presented on their Annual Performance Report (APR). The Council approved it for submission after the first of the year. A Legislative preview was provided. There was discussion regarding the concept of "maintenance of effort" as required by federal law for both Part C and Part B. A letter will be sent to all 165 Legislators introducing them to the Kansas ICC.

January 25, 2013 in Topeka

We reviewed other State ICC web sites, with an eye towards improving our own. An overview of the Governor's Budget Recommendations was given. Staff gave a review of Legislative action, to date.

April 26, 2013 in Topeka

A local partner report was given from Shawnee county. There was extensive discussion regarding a possible Kansas ICC newsletter. Staff gave a Legislative report. A request was favorable received to create a task force later in the summer for the purpose of reviewing the formula used to distribute funds to all 37 Part C local providers.

APPENDIX

Letter to all 165 Kansas Legislators concerning the Kansas ICC
Testimony before House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means on budgets
Position Statement – Transition of Services for Children at Age Three Years
Council Committees Summary document