

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012

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 disabilities or developmental delays aged birth through five years and their families.

ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS - STRATEGIC PLAN

Family Voices – (Darla Nelson-Metzger and Jill Bamber, Co-Chairs)

- 1) To reach out to and involve families in program implementation and policy making decisions in the local communities.
 - Develop and test new means to improve connectivity/communication between parents
 - Encourage networks and families to fill 2 parent seats per network on L-ICC
 - Develop user-friendly materials on Kansas ICC, Local ICCs, and parent roles
 - Visit with parents on the L-ICCs
 - Help brainstorm with networks struggling to fill parent seats on how to encourage parent participation
 - Collaborate with the Public Awareness Committee and Families Together to improve parent leadership training
 - Collaborate with the Public Awareness Committee and Tiny-K Foundation for awareness events in the local communities and in Topeka
 - Assist local networks in planning local awareness and story sharing
- 2) Collaborate with transition task force to establish family friendly practices and building more informed parents into transition processes.
 - Provide family perspective on how we study transition
 - Work with Families Together to document experiences with other families transition process
 - Ask select parents to document positives and concerns of the transition process and any questions of policies

- Provide recommendations to develop/tweak parent satisfaction surveys and interpreting data
- Advise and assist TTF in bringing transition focus back to the family.
- Collaborate with Part C & Part B to advise and assist in state-wide communications, policies, paperwork, etc. that involve parent involvement. (ie IFSP forms, brochures, etc.)

Public Awareness - (Nancy Krase and Sharon Hixson, Co-Chairs)

- 1) Engage in two-way communication with targeted audiences on the necessity of early intervention services.
 - Active communication with policy-makers and local early childhood supporters in district, in Topeka, in person, digitally, and using traditional print methods. CCECDS and its Public Awareness committee will encourage and support this throughout year.
 - Encourage participation in Early Learning Day on February 8th, 2013 in Topeka.
 - A separate tiny-k Day will NOT be scheduled.
- 2) Family Leadership Development (with Family voices).
 - To reach out to and involve families in program implementation and policy making decisions in the local communities.
- 3) Enhancing State ICC to Local ICCs meaningful two-way communications. Focus upon improving family participation in LICCs.

Transitions Task Force – (Dr. Dale Walker and Susan Carriger, Co-Chairs)

- 1) To ensure that children and families have a positive and seamless transition experience, the Transition Task Force will advise and assist Part C *tiny k* and Part B- Section 619 in their work toward maintaining compliance with OSEP guidelines related to transition through the following activities:
 - Part C *tiny k* and Part B-Section 619 will plan for informing the SICC about the MOU for transition between Part C to B developed in Fall 2011 and presented to early childhood networks.
 - The Transition Task Force along with the Part C and Part B Coordinators and staff, will work together to identify how the Task Force can assist Part C and Part B to support local networks and ICCs in preparing network MOAs and for disseminating information about transition to programs and parents.
 - The Task Force will advise and assist as needed in the development of guidance materials to be used to support local networks with transition from Part C to Part B.
 - In collaboration with the Family Voices Committee and with provider members, the Transition Task Force will review and plan for ways to advise and assist Part C and Part B in gathering satisfaction information from parents and providers about their experiences throughout the transition process and how to use that information in an ongoing manner to inform, monitor and ensure that the transition process is smooth and seamless.

- The Transitions Task Force will discuss the technical assistance paper, *Designing and Implementing Effective Transition Processes* <http://www.nectac.org/~pdfs/topics/transition/ECTransitionPaper.pdf> and summary of the *Early Childhood Transition Self-Assessment Form* as a means of providing information about the transition process and content used across networks.
 - The Transitions Task Force will provide support to the State lead agencies to facilitate their efforts supporting local networks and ICCs with the preparation of materials for parents and providers that will help to facilitate smooth and seamless transitions for children, families and providers.
 - The Transitions Task Force will advise and assist with planning for annual transition regional meetings on transition.
- 2) To inform the SICC about the status of infants and toddlers in Part C and Part B, and how children and their families proceed through the transition process the following data will be requested:
- How many, or what percent of children in Part C meet their goals and are deemed ineligible for continued Part C services prior to age 3?
 - What are the numbers of referrals made between Part C to Part B?
 - How many, or what percent of children receiving Part C services are found to be ineligible for Part B?
 - Other data relevant to Part C and Part B to support transition and the transfer of data including qualitative and quantitative information about families' perspectives and experiences that will help to inform and monitor the transition process to ensure smooth and seamless transition.
- 3) In collaboration with other state-level committees and agencies (i.e., the School Readiness Task Force, KDHE, KSDE, etc.) the Transition Task Force will discuss strategies for the collection of longitudinal data of interest to the SICC to address questions about the status of children who have received services through Part C and Part B once they reach school, the strengths and areas of need related to the transition process, and the long-range impact of transition activities and policy on child outcomes including:
- How many or what percent of children who meet their Part C goals prior to age 3 and are discharged prior to age 3 are receiving special education services in grades 1 – 3?
 - How many or what percent of families of children who are exited prior to age 3 years from Part C are unable to find, afford, or are waiting for child care when children are exited from Part C until age 5 when they are eligible for kindergarten?
 - What percent of children who are found to be ineligible for Part B are receiving special education services in 1st – 3rd grade?

Policy Committee - (Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Chair)

- 1) Develop work plans by which to organize a meaningful response to the question of whether or not local partners are maximizing utilization of third party payments for services rendered under IDEA. To develop practical responses in the event that locals are under-utilizing third party payers.
- 2) Advise and assist state and local efforts to ensure that services are available to young Kansans who are identified as being among populations possibly underserved (as identified by the federal government). These would include: foster care, homelessness, Native American, and those needing mental health services.
- 3) Provide clear documentation of per child Part C spending, in comparison with other budget and economic indicators. To measure the adequacy of State and Local investments in Part C and develop a “state of the networks” report for policy-makers which honestly assesses the strengths, weaknesses, and projected issues for Part C.
- 4) Improve SICC capacity to evaluate parent participation at LICC level, and to assure a more accurate reflection of parent perspective in our policy advisory capacity.

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 2012 includes:

As a result of the advocacy efforts of the State ICC and many other partners, the 2012 Kansas Legislature maintained level state appropriation/funding for Part C and other early childhood programs for FY 2012, in spite of the drastic economy and an initial proposal to reduce Children’s Initiative Funds. (MoA#9).

In Topeka, a highly successful Parent Leadership Conference was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners on September 30 - October 1, 2011. 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. A second collaborative Parent Leadership training was conducted on June 23, 20012 for over 100 Early Head Start parents. (MoA#1).

The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan (SPP) for Part C of IDEA. The verification visit of September by staff members of the US Department of Education was the focus of much of the year. Particular emphasis was also

given regarding the data surrounding transition at age three. Several ICC meetings included information focused upon these issues. The ICC signed and approved the Part C State Performance Plan, as part of the February 1, 2012 submission to the US Department of Education. (MoA#3).

A highly successful and collaborative Early Learning Day event was conducted on February 8, 2012. (MoA #9)

Technical assistance and support in many different forms was given to several Local ICCs. Staff attended thirteen local meetings benefitting ten different Local ICCs. Among the topics of discussion were the role of the Local ICC in local services, potential changes in local lead agencies, and updates on activity in Topeka. (MoA#5).

The Special Education Advisory Council again met jointly with the Kansas ICC on November 10, 2011. The goal was to coordinate advisory functions, especially in regard to children aged 3-5 years. (MoA#2)

A letter was sent by the Council to Governor Brownback seeking clarification of his initial proposal to re-organize state agencies. (See Appendix) The Governor's formal Re-Organization Order issued later that month did not include changes in the designation of lead agency for Part C. (MoA #9)

The Council reviewed, revised, and approved a Position Statement: "The Provision of Services for Children Birth Through Five Years of Age with Developmental Delays or Disabilities". (MoA #9)

KANSAS ICC ROSTER

PARENT MEMBERS:

Tammy Shoepner (Garden City), Darla Nelson-Metzger (Topeka), Julie Broski (Overland Park), Jill Bamber (Leawood), Misty Van Nostrand (Lawrence)

PROVIDER MEMBERS

Susan Carriger (Overland Park), Nancy Krase (Wichita), DebVoth (Wichita), Dr. Leticia Taylor (Overland Park), Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostemyer (Oakley), Janice Smith (Wichita)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Sharon Hixson (Hutchison), Billie Manderick (Topeka), Dr. Eva Horn (Lawrence), Dr. Pamela Shaw (Shawnee), Dr. Dale Walker (Kansas City)

LEGISLATORS

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

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

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 (Social and Rehabilitation Services-SRS), Mary Duncan (Governor's Office), Kris Kelim (Kansas Insurance Department)

KANSAS ICC MEETINGS, LOCATIONS, AND ACTIONS

July 28, 2011 in Wichita – John Copenhaver provided facilitation. The set of questions from the Office of Special Education Programs within the US Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs in anticipation of their upcoming verification visit were discussed in detail. This verification visit focused upon Part C of IDEA services in Kansas. A timeline for creation of a final response document was approved.

September 25, 2011 in Topeka – A revision to the Council By-Laws was approved. Among the changes was an enlargement of the Executive Committee to six. Elections were held for the Executive Committee. Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer and Darla Nelson-Metzger were newly elected to positions. Newly appointed members were welcomed, and outgoing members were thanked for their service. Jill Bronough replaced Richard Martinez as a parent. Janice Smith replaced Thomas Kohmetscher as a service provider. A letter of support will be sent to the Kansas State Department of Education for the Kansas application to the US Department of Education Race to The Top Early Learning Challenge grant.

October 28, 2011 in El Dorado – The Council heard details of services in the Butler County areas. The format for the Council Agenda and minutes were altered from previous ones in an attempt to enhance accountability.

November 10, 2011 in Topeka – This was the annual, joint meeting between our Council and the Special Education Advisory Council. We were provided a preliminary report on the KDHE Part C visit from the US Department of Education and a status report on data being collected concerning transitioning children at age 3 from Part C to Part B. Kansas In-Service Training System (KITS) gave a report on their services. Families Together and the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) also reported. There was some initial discussion on the recently released proposal by the Governor to re-organize state agencies. Newly appointed public member, Billie Manderick, was welcomed. She replaces Tam Laing who was commended for his service to the Council.

December 16, 2011 in Topeka and several Interactive TV sites across Kansas – Dr. Robert Moser, Secretary of KDHE, met with the Council. He clarified the details

surrounding the Governor's proposal to re-organize state agencies. The final version of this proposal will be submitted to the Legislature in the following month. It will not include any change in state lead agency for Part C. During our public comment section, several persons chose to speak to this matter. Note was made of the Governor's decision to designate Mary Duncan as Chair of the Council. Dr. Eva Horn will continue as a member, and was thanked for her service. Additionally, Mrs. Duncan appointed Deb Voth to serve as Vice-Chair of the Council. The Council approved its Strategic Plan for this year. An initial discussion of the Part C Annual Report resulted in the creation of a short-term task force to examine this document in detail. A preview of the 2012 Legislative session was provided.

January 28, 2012 in Topeka – KSDE staff gave a report on the Race to The Top Early Learning Challenge grant. Kansas was not successful in this competition. KDHE staff gave a report on their Part C Annual Report. A Council Task Force on this topic also reported. The Council approved this Annual Report. A preview of the 2012 Legislative Session was provided by staff, complete with an analysis of the recently released Governor's Budget Recommendations.

February 24, 2012 in Wichita – KDHE staff led a discussion on the letter from the US Department of Education that followed our verification site visit of last Autumn. A review of Legislative activity was provided, including copies of testimony on budgets and bills.

March 22, 2012 in Topeka – Mr. Tom Laing gave an advocates perspective on the proposed changes to Medicaid services and contracts. A proposal to consider possible changes to the Council website led to the creation of a task force to consider this topic. A review of ongoing Legislative activity was provided by staff.

April 27, 2012 in Topeka – An orientation session was provided for new members of the Council. Local partners provided input on the topic of possible reductions in funding through Children's Initiatives Funds and the impact on services if this occurs. A policy statement on the provision of services was approved. A review of Legislative activity was provided by staff. The Council approved and adopted the recently revised Position Statement on the Provision of Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education Services.

May 18, 2012 in Topeka – A presentation from Child Care Aware provided information on their many services. The Memorandum of Agreement which makes possible the activities of the Council was approved at an amount \$3,000 less than the current year. This was due to changes in the Re-Organization of State Agencies. The offer from KSDE to meet with Mr. Copenhaver in Wichita next July was approved. A motion was approved to send out a letter to all 165 Kansas Legislators concerning the appropriation of Children's Initiative Funds. Staff was directed to purchase a new computer with funds left over at the end of the fiscal year.

June 15, 2012 in Topeka – The Council held its annual Strategic Planning Session. After much discussion, the committee structure of the Council was modified for the next year. New committees include: Family Voices, Systems, Service Delivery, and Evidenced-Based Practices. Our meeting schedule for the next year was set. An initial start on the Council’s next Strategic Plan was begun.

APPENDIX

Letter to Governor Brownback concerning Re-Organization of State Agencies & Part C
Letter to all 165 Kansas Legislators concerning Children’s Initiative Fund appropriations
Testimony before House Appropriations and Senate Ways & Means on budgets
Testimony Concerning SB 260 – Special Education Funding
Position Statement – Provision of Services for Children Birth through Five