

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

MINUTES
STATE ICC MEETING
DECEMBER 5, 2008, 1:00-5:00 PM

TOPEKA PUBLIC LIBRARY
MARVIN AUDITORIUM, 1ST FLOOR, #101A
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Tom Laing, Public Member
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Carol Ayres, KSDE
Carrie Hastings, SRS
Maria Martinez, Parent Member
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE
Tiffanie Krentz, Parent Member
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Representative Melody McCray-Miller
Richard Martinez, Parent Member
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member
John Meetz, KS Insurance Commissioner
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member
Nancy Krase, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS AT REMOTE SITES

Liz Stone, Miami County
Kendall Burr, Wyandotte County
Amy Owens, Infant Toddler, Johnson Co
Doug Greer, Children's Center, Hays, Ks

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, ICC Staff Coordinator
Jean Wilson, ICC Sr. Admin. Assistant
Dr. Bill Craig, Chair, Ks Autism Task Force
Janet Newton, KSDE, Parents-Teacher
Ryan Weir, KDHE-BCYF
Gary Kelley, Epidemiologist, KDHE
Kayzy Bigler, Families Together, Topeka
Ruth Jones, Infant Toddler, Osage, & Franklin Counties

MEMBERS AT REMOTE SITES

Dr. Linda Mitchell, State ICC Chair
Deb Voth, Provider Mbr

Dr. Dave Lindeman, Rep. Board/Regents

Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Mbr
Julie Broski, Parent Mbr
Susan Carriger, Provider Mbr,

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MARVIN AUDITORIUM, ROOM #101A
TOPEKA, KS

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order from the Wichita remote site, with a welcome to all present. Dr. Mitchell announced that Doug Bowman would facilitate this meeting from Topeka, utilizing internet-based technology, “LifeSize Videoconferencing”, for the first time.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minor edits were made to the November draft minutes. Sharon Hixson moved and Tom Laing seconded that minutes be approved as changed. The vote was unanimously passed.

PUBLIC FORUM

Tom Laing related at the November meeting there was discussion about the loss of money from the recent KSDE audit for some networks, with conversation addressing the possibility that money be restored to the networks. At that time, there was no motion, only discussion to explore the possibility of this intent. Tom asked that the Council discuss the matter more formally in this meeting, after speaker Dr. Bill Craig’s presentation was completed.

No one else chose to speak at this time.

Autism Task Force Presentation

Dr. Bill Craig, of Lake Mary Center and Chair of the Autism Task Force, stated that this group has been meeting over the last year and one-half. He shared the final report with copies to all at Topeka. (Members not present will be sent report next week). Dr. Craig explained the Vision Statement for autism support and services to which Kansas should aspire: screening for developmental delays within the first year of life, autism spectrum disorder (ASD) screening within the second year, referring children to get diagnostic assessment within 6 months of positive ASD screening, and evidence-based intervention services for children under age 8, being readily available for all Kansas children with an ASD. An additional recommendation is for high quality supports throughout the life span, and that all families, public, federal, state, and private providers fully participate in achieving this vision.

Dr. Craig spoke in detail about seven (7) recommendations for the legislature to consider and adopt. He also recommended that the “Best Practices in Autism Intervention for Kansas” Handbook be incorporated as guidelines into all state agency policy manuals. (Refer to the Autism Task Force Report for details).

Dr. Craig concluded by asking for the full support of the State ICC for all seven (7) recommendations with support for a joint dynamic mapping website tool for Kansas, listing services available for parents and other providing agencies.

Discussion and questions then ensued. Tiffanie Krentz began by asking if the intent was for services to be fully funded for all children with intensive needs or limited to only those with autism. Dr. Craig responded that they propose altering the funding formula to enhance services for ALL children with intense needs

Dr Craig brought up the issue of a catastrophic aid fund within the Part C system for children with high cost needs, specifically children with autism. Dave Lindeman stated that the Department of Health and Environment at one time had a fund set aside for high cost needs. However, at that time the Networks in the Part C system were not in favor of a set aside fund. Based on feedback from the field the KDHE released the funds through the funding formula to the Networks.

Dr. Bill Craig added that next month a bill will be introduced into the Legislature creating a requirement for health insurance policies to provide coverage to children for autism services. Six states now have mandated autism health insurance coverage; a dozen more are considering this legislation. The Autism Task Force expects hearings in January 2009, but expects active opposition. They have excluded businesses having fewer than 50 employees, hoping to make the bill more palatable.

The lead agency (SRS) now realizes that the “highly qualified” qualifications created for the Medicaid waiver, omits some professions who are highly qualified. However changes in the waiver will not likely occur in the near future

Other news: Dr. Craig mentioned legislation for a scholarship program managed by the Board of Regents for graduate degreed health providers wishing to specialize in autism services. Those who agree to work in underserved areas of Kansas will receive help with educational costs.

Dr. Craig requested that the Council support the Autism Task Force recommendations and asked the Council to review what the Autism Task Force is proposing. .

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee Report

Dave Lindeman stated that this committee has not met but Cayla Wright and Bobbi Mariani assisted in getting fiscal data for the committee’s proposed matrix of funding.

Sharon Hixson returned to the topic of categorical aid audits. A local network had not recovered any of the funds being disputed after going through the appeal mechanisms for recovery of categorical aid funding. It was reported that there is not any categorical aid funding for para-professionals under individual student contracts. Sharon stated this goes against current models of service delivery considered “best practice” and networks have received this reimbursement in the past. Sharon suggests that the State ICC could do more to support *tiny-K* networks.

Discussion ensued that the networks possibly need to be advised on interpretation of audit guidelines (who provided the service, what the service is, what an appropriate service is).

The Funding Committee continues to work with the KSDE to provide a future training to the networks on utilization of categorical aid; scheduled as a part of the Coordinators’ meeting on January 21, 2009. It was suggested to bring prepared questions to this training, to clarify categorical aid issues.

Much discussion ensued in the meeting, about recommendations for local networks. The Funding Committee will:

- (1) Produce a list of written questions (copy to Council) for Patty Gray and Mike Murphy, before the January 21, 2009 Part C Coordinators’ Categorical Aid Training conducted by KSDE.
- (2) IF NEEDED, we will follow after the January 21, 2009 KSDE Training, with a carefully written letter to KSDE on these issues.

Carol Ayres related that KSDE has a new early childhood team and asked the State ICC to give the Special Education Team due consideration in this matter.

Advocacy Committee Report

Sharon Hixson remarked the State ICC received 42+ surveys for evaluation of State ICC meetings. The State ICC also mailed out congratulatory letters for their election to 165 legislators with information about the purpose of the Council and services for children aged birth to five years with special needs. Sharon announced that tiny-K Day is to be February 25, 2009. Sharon stated the Advocacy Committee meets every 4th Monday at 1:30 PM and welcomes anyone to join them.

Policy Committee Report

Tom Laing stated that at the last meeting, the Policy Committee asked the Council to review suggested written changes to the by-laws (see handout). The Committee will have another meeting before the State ICC meets January 23, 2009, when changes will be amended hopefully. Please email/send comments back to Doug Bowman, Tom Laing, or Julie Broski.

Improving Services Committee

Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor announced that the committee had met twice with much discussion on provider qualifications, and training within the Medicaid Autism waiver. Specifically, the group has looked at two positions; the Autism Specialist and Intensive Individual Supports positions.

AGENCY REPORTS

KHPA Report

Cayla Wright announced a meeting on possible changes to Targeted Case Management set for December 18th. She will have an update report ready for the State ICC meeting in January. The effective date for any possible changes is February 14th, 2009.

KSDE Report

Carol Ayres related that December 5, KSDE met with local policy makers regarding the Kansas Pre-School Program. They are working on a set of recommendations, so that legislators can clearly understand how to include ALL in the new pre-school models.

Insurance Report

John Meetz was not present. No report.

KDHE Report

Ryan Weir presented information about the nearly completed Part C Annual Performance Report for OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs), or the State Performance Plan.

The APR reveals how the State of Kansas is progressing. Ryan stated that Indicator 7 is still not quite complete. He distributed a 56 page report to all members last week by email and asked for input from Council members before their deadline early next year.

SRS Report

Carrie Hastings was welcomed by Doug Bowman, as the new SRS-EES Head Start Collaborator. Carrie explained the SRS report concerning Earned Income Tax Credits, now in English and Spanish (refer to the SRS report for more details).

Chair & Staff Reports

Linda Mitchell shared insight from Early Childhood School Readiness Coalition's meeting held November 25th, 2008. The group discussed the recent recommendations made by the Children's Cabinet. In this recommendation the Cabinet withdrew funding for several programs creating an amount equal to \$8.4 Million. They further recommended that these funds be targeted to specific programs that had proven their worth. Included in that recommendation, was an additional \$1 Million for Part C.

The Coalition was now recommending that the \$8.4 Million would be better utilized if it was put it into the Early Childhood Block Grants. Several members of the Coalition attended a meeting with the Governor's staff immediately following this 11/25 meeting.

Sharon Hixson reported from the recent meeting of the Early Learning Advocacy Council, an ELAC message for recommendations of funds being in block grants. Sharon recommended the State ICC send a letter of thanks to the Children's Cabinet, for their original proposal of some Children's Initiative Funds (CIF), and the \$1 million addition for *tiny-K*.

Dave Lindeman moved that Doug Bowman acquire a copy of this information from the Children's Cabinet, and formulate a possible thank you letters from the State ICC. The motion was seconded by Sharon Hixson. After some discussion, the motion was withdrawn. Doug Bowman will acquire the information from the Children's Cabinet and forward on to the Executive Committee for their consideration.

The State ICC Meeting for January 23, 2009, will be held in Menninger Room #206 on the Second Floor at Topeka City Public Library, 1-4 PM. This meeting will be another LIFESIZE Video Conference. Linda Mitchell adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Adjourned.

KSHE Report

December 5, 2008

Go To KSHE website link to the OSEP Report (52 pgs),

<http://www.kdheks.gov/its/index.html>,

Click on Link to APR in lower middle of Main Page

SRS Report for State ICC Meeting

December 5, 2008

Head Start Collaborator

SRS is pleased to announce that EES Central Office has filled the PSEI position vacated by Carolyn Weinhold in May. Carrie Hastings has accepted the position of Special Initiative Manager/Head Start Collaborator within the Services and Access Section. Carrie is a graduate of Washburn University, with a Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Development. Since graduating in 1993, she has completed Masters level courses in early childhood special education at Washburn and vision services through Utah State University. Starting out as the center director and teacher of Osage County Head Start, she has been involved in Head Start since 1995. Over the past ten years she has been employed at the Prairie Band Potawatomi Early Childhood Education Center, in Mayetta, with the Prairie Band Potawatomi Indian Nation. Carrie has served as a co-teacher in the Head Start / Early Childhood Special Education collaboration classroom, and currently serves in the management of the center.

Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)

In 2008, the overall federal funding for the Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) was \$2.6 billion. This funding level resulted in Kansas receiving \$24 million as

compared to the \$16.7 million received in 2007. Included in the 2008 funding is approximately \$3 million in emergency funding which was released late in FFY '07 and was utilized to supplement regular benefits during the 2008 program. As in past years, the Agency transferred 15% of the block grant funding to KHRC's weatherization program. This amounted to approximately \$2.3 million.

Congress has passed a continuing resolution for LIEAP funding for the 2009 season. The CR provided record levels of funding for LIEAP. Total funding was at the authorized ceiling of \$5.1 billion. Kansas receives a total of \$49.6 million under the CR (\$45.4 million from the block grant and \$4.2 million from contingency funds.) The agency will transfer \$6.8 million to KHRC for weatherization activities this year.

SRS received 50,101 applications for LIEAP during the 2008 season and approved 41,795 households for LIEAP benefits with the average benefit being \$533.23. The LIEAP application period for the 2009 season will begin January 20th, 2009 and end March 31st, 2009.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) outreach for 2008 includes distribution of ATips For Taxpayers@ information in English and Spanish, providing EITC posters to Regional SRS offices and Access Points, and providing EITC information electronically for distribution at the food sites for low income, elderly, alcohol/drug and Battered Women=s Shelters. EES partnered with Kansas Gas Service to distribute EITC insert cards to 550,000 households with January 2009 monthly billings sent and also will include EITC information in the March 2009 quarterly newsletter sent to 550,000 households. In addition, EES partnered with the Child Care Provider Coalition (CCPC) to include EITC information in the CCPC January/February 2009 Newsletter edition that will be sent to 147 child care providers and 111 health departments. Providers and the health departments will be encouraged to pass along the EITC information to parents.

KSDE Report to the State Interagency Coordinating Council

November 25, 2008

Kansas Preschool Program Framework

School Readiness Framework:

School Readiness occurs when families, schools, and communities support and serve children effectively so that all children have the ability to succeed in various learning environments.

KECCS: Goal 3: Early Care and Education Services

To develop a comprehensive and coordinated early childhood care and education system in Kansas encompassing birth – 5.

- Objective 3.1: Increase the number of children of all abilities receiving high quality early care and education.
- Objective 3.2: Increase the number of early care and education programs that are available for all children.

- Objective 3.3: Increase the effectiveness of transitions from early care and education to kindergarten through high quality classroom learning environments.

DRAFT Vision: The Kansas Preschool Program provides high quality learning experiences and comprehensive services to all children ages 3-5 years and their families through a community and school-based, collaborative process that requires braided funding and community partnerships.

Rationale: TO BE DEVELOPED (include the concept of “Maximizing public investment”)

Proposed KPP Components: (these will all need defining)

- Community and School Based
- Multiple Model/Delivery Services
- Universal access (ALL CHILDREN)
- Parent Involvement
- High Quality Programs
- Blended/Braided Funding Option
- Comprehensive Services

Guiding Principles (from the Kansas Early Learning Document)

1. Children are born ready to learn and their families and caregivers are their first teachers.
2. Learning is a lifelong activity and every environment is a learning environment. Positive early experiences support school success.
3. Children’s success in school and in life is everyone’s responsibility. Children, families, school, and communities all need to be prepared to support success.
4. School readiness involves the whole child in the context of the family and the community. This includes the child’s health and development in the following domains:
 - a. Physical
 - b. Social-emotional
 - c. Communication and Literacy
 - d. Cognitive
5. Integrated services must be available to all children, appropriate to the age, abilities, and culture of each child.
6. Children enter school ready to learn regardless of a wide range of cultural backgrounds, learning experiences, and differences in abilities. Such differences may require adaptations of traditional education.
7. There is a strong, direct connection between the early years and later success in school and life. Public policy and resource allocation must demonstrate children are a high priority to Kansas.

Goals for the Kansas Preschool Program

1. All children aged 3-5 years will have the opportunity to participate in the Kansas Preschool Program.

2. All programs participating in the KPP will meet the KPP high quality standards, including alignment with the Kansas Early Learning document.
3. Community collaboration is required among public and private partners, building upon existing programs and infrastructure.
4. The KPP will connect children and families to appropriate community services that support early learning and promote healthy, stable family environments.
5. The KPP builds upon relationships with families and partners, focusing on the child within the context of the family and the community to promote life long learning.
6. Early childhood licensed (BA or above) teachers will provide high quality, appropriate learning experiences for all children.
7. Parents will have a choice regarding their child's early learning experiences.
8. The KPP will be accountable to stakeholders, funders, and policy-makers through an evaluation process at the state and local levels.

Proposed OUTCOMES for the Kansas Preschool Program

Program:

1. Early learning environments are high quality as determined by research and theory.

Child:

1. Child learning in the following four domains will improve over the year as determined by developmentally appropriate assessments:
 1. Physical Health and Development
 2. Social-Emotional Development
 3. Communication & Literacy Development
 4. Cognitive Development

Community and Schools:

1. All 3-5 year old children will be provided the opportunity to participate in a high quality early learning program that meets set criteria and is chosen by the parent.
2. Formal transition practices will be in place for all children entering the Kansas Preschool Program. ** (*this was added later*)
3. Formal transition practices will be in place for all children exiting the Kansas Preschool Program into kindergarten and the formal schooling process. ** (*this was added later*)

Proposed Transition Plan (2009-2010)

1. A multi- year plan for moving toward the KPP goals will be developed.
2. Current programs (four year old at-risk and Pre-K Pilot sites) will be maintained for one year (2009-2010) while the plan is developed.
3. Processes for these two programs and other partner programs can be different, but the outcomes should be the same. The process for getting to the outcomes can differ.

4. The RFP for the two current programs (Pre-K Pilot and Four Year Old At-Risk) will be modified to be more similar, moving both toward the KPP requirements.
5. State agencies and organizations will work to develop guidance in needed areas. For example: EC Auditing; Collaboration; Braided Funding.
6. Planning grants will allow communities to begin the process of collaboration required for the grant.

State Efforts to Support the Kansas Preschool Program:

- A Kansas Preschool Program registry will be available for parents and early childhood organizations and agencies.
- Formalized transition practices from birth to three programs into the KPP and from the KPP into Kindergarten will be guided and supported by state practices.
- Documents providing guidance in needed areas will be developed and made available statewide. Topics for the documents include: Early Childhood Auditing; Community Collaboration; Braided/blended funding; Alignment with the Kansas Early Learning Document.
- Develop a document to provide guidance to Birth – to – Three programs related to transitioning to the KPP.
- Develop a document to provide guidance to Kindergarten to third grade schools related to transitioning from the KPP to kindergarten and the formal school process.