

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

MINUTES  
MARCH 7, 2008, 1:00 PM

AIRPORT HILTON INN  
WICHITA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN WICHITA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member  
Deb Voth, Provider Member  
Tom Laing, Public Member  
Sharon Hixon, Public Member  
Nancy Krase, Provider Member  
Dave Lindeman Bd/Regents Representative  
Julie Broski, Parent Member  
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member  
Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member  
Gayle Stuber, KSDE

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator  
Jean Wilson, Sr. Admin. Assistant  
Anne Aytes, Leavenworth County  
Susan Harsh, Rainbows Butler County  
Michelle Storz, DSNWK  
Deanna Berry, Russell Child Dev. Ctr.  
Terri Norgren, Families Together, Inc.  
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Northwest  
KS Educational Service Center

MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative  
Maria Martinez, Parent Member  
Ryan Weir, KDHE Representative  
Susan Carriger, Provider Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT ON  
PHONE

Rocky Nichols, Disability Rights Center

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Representative Melody McCray-Miller  
Richard Martinez, Parent Member  
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member  
Scott Bruner, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.  
Letitia Holub-Taylor, Provider Member  
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee  
Bobbi Mariani, SRS Representative  
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member  
John Meetz, KS Insurance Department

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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with a welcome and introductions.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Dave Lindeman suggested the minutes be amended to add Gale Stuber to those present. Letitia Holub-Taylor was absent, not on phone. Single word changes were requested by Sharon Hixon and Tom Laing to pages 6 and 7 and made. Sharon Hixon made a motion that the SICC February 2008 minutes be approved as amended. Nancy Krause seconded the amended minutes; vote passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

None presented.

NATIONAL GOVERNOR'S ASSOCIATION (NGA)

Doug Bowman reported there is a \$10,000 grant being made available at the end of March through the NGA to about six states for streamlining and coordination for early childhood councils. The recent re-authorization of Federal law called for reorganization or alignment of head start councils. The Children's Cabinet is going to apply for this NGA competitive grant to refine and retool to make the Early Learning Coordinating Council (ELCC) a larger more encompassing early learning council.

Ensuing discussion covered questions on the \$10,000 grant's adequacy to accomplish its Council goals. The question arose if the Council should support the ELCC effort for this grant. Many thought SICC should provide input and a letter be sent to the NGA. It was felt important that SICC specifically state to NGA, why SICC supports this grant.

Tom Kohmetscher suggested SICC be a part of the planning to ensure SICC's issues are included in this grant's planning, collaborating in the spirit that SICC should be a part of the planning.

Kate Wolff stated that the Governor supports the grant proposal the ELCC has worked out with Jim Redmon of the Children's Cabinet. Kate felt Jim would not object to sharing information with the SICC. One of the main issues the grant will address is to target the ELCC work in coordinating early childhood issues with state agencies, as directed by the Legislature.

Tom Kohmetscher suggested that SICC work to suggest (at a minimum) in the grant's writing, an inclusion of "all children" in the grant's wording.

Tom Laing moved that SICC get a copy of the final NGA proposal for the \$10,000 grant, send it to all members of SICC (and Executive Committee), then make decision(s) from input and review, with a written support letter to the grant with an offer of assistance by SICC. Tom Kohmetscher seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Task	Who	When
Get Copy of NGA Proposal, Review, Make Recommendations, Send Support Letter.	Executive Committee	Deadline: April 1, 2008 For Letter/Recommendation For Assistance to NGA

#### KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE CONSUMER HEALTH WEBSITE

From the KU Medical Center, Julie Broski project manager, spoke about the new Kansas Health online comprehensive website from KHI's new consumer health club. This was funded as part of the collaborative project of its health transparency plan (and with Kansas State Library). It is written in a medical health language consistent as a part of the KHI's Library with very reliable data on health and wellness, prevention of disease, chronic disease descriptions, and easy guides to navigate to other health systems. The website is a great resource with a health literacy component for service to providers. Dental and mental health areas need further development and suggestions are welcome for more input criteria, such as on mental health. A very useful tool button, "Release of Price and Quality", is also coming with added ability to find doctors' locations and key words with descriptions. In January 2009, there will be a "Go Local" button added as a provider finder on local and remote areas. Use of this website by SICC and everyone shall reinforce everyone's desire to meet family's needs, sharing information.

#### DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER

Rocky Nichols joined us by phone and announced that on March 12, 2008, the Disability Rights Center holds their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event. Maria Martinez also services as a board member of the DRC. Rocky mentioned that House Bill #2761 will expand the capacity at community level with a 3-year plan to eliminate waiting lists for all Medicaid waiver services.

Linda Mitchell stated that the Disability Rights Center is also the Advocacy system for Kansans' disabled rights to not be abused and is protected under federal, state and constitutional laws. Staff provides legal referral, legal or self-advocacy free of charge for all. The DRC headquartered in Topeka, serves all of Kansas. If legal rights are an issue, the Disability Rights Center is a valuable resource.

#### AGENCY REPORTS

Gayle Stuber reported for the Kansas Department of Education with a quick overview. Public reports of performance on each of the state's indicators will be out mid-March per district, and levels of determination will be available around mid-April 2008. The Special Education Process Handbook is out and on the KDHE Website. Patty Gray is the contact person at [gray@ksde.org](mailto:gray@ksde.org) if questions. A cross-agency, effort of KDHE, SRS,

Head Start Collaboration, and KSDE, will start collaboration to apply for a technical assistance grant through National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI), due in April 2008. Training is being provided on Early Childhood Outcomes to meet needs of all providers in Part B and C. At the end of June 2008, training will be completed for the Kansas Early Learning document by KSDE, KITS, and SRS. Training will then begin on use of standards and curriculum alignment. At end of summer 2008, about 1,000 copies of the complete document will be available for all. Gail will send a copy to Doug Bowman at that time.

Doug Bowman added that pertaining to those stakeholders now meeting to review the special education reimbursement guide, Patty Gray has extended an invitation to anyone on SICC who would like to assist their group. This will be a way to provide input.

#### ANNUAL OSEP REPORT

Ryan Weir announced that on February 1, 2008, KDHE submitted the Annual Performance Report and now awaits feedback from OSEP. KDHE is now working on the second year of determinations for everyone's use in preparing grants and all levels of determinations will be made available for grant preparation sometime in April 2008.

#### SRS REPORT

Doug Bowman announced that Bobbi Mariani's written SRS Report will be emailed out to all SICC members next week. Bobbi was unexpectedly unable to attend the SICC Meeting from Topeka.

Dave Lineman stated SICC should once again ask that SRS respond to our questions regarding the FY'09 Budget. Funding for the current year of Council activity is secure.

#### INSURANCE REPORT

None

#### ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Deb Voth spoke about four bills before the State Legislature on childcare licensing. The Committee received negative feedback and asked for the SICC to give guidance.

Doug Bowman stated that the hearings are Monday, March 11, in the House Federal and State Committee. The Sub-Committee tabled these and the Full Committee (Chair) told them to return to work on these bills.

Discussion was held about House Bills #2003, 2851, 2053. Doug Bowman related how one bill would allow cities, counties, and school districts to create their own childcare licensing regulations. The other two had to do with the adult to child ratio that is currently in childcare regulations. One bill would allow for the doubling of the number of children to be served whenever a Holiday, Spring Break, school break, etc. Another is not quite as severe, allowing for two children to be added to those being supervised.

Deb Voth remarked that Wichita established its own childcare licensing; which exceed the current Health & Environment childcare licensing regulations, but they passed it because they were concerned that the regulations would be weakened and wanted to set firm parameters. Deb Voth moved SICC take a position against these proposed bills and provide written testimony. Motion was seconded by Tom Laing. Vote was unanimous.

Task	Who	When
Give Written Testimony to State Legislative Committee On Bills Before House: Bills #2003, #2851, #2053	Doug Bowman	April 30, 2008

Nancy Krase reiterated that March 12, 2008 is tiny-K Day in the First Floor Central Rotunda at the Capital starting at 8:30 am. She invited all to go visit their representatives and to get in touch with them. She suggested writing a letter to leave with them, taking pictures of children, telling how the services helped, or that a particular child now graduated, was doing well.

#### PARTNERSHIP REPORTS

None

#### FUNDING COMMITTEE

None (follow up on reimbursement guides).

#### CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

Kate Wolff asked if there were any other issues to address that she could reiterate to the Governor. No issues were brought up. She related that Early Childhood and Lead Agency issue (in particular) have not gotten a lot of attention in the Legislature and commented that SICC issues will be addressed later in the spring after the large looming decisions on Kansas Coal and Energy issues are resolved.

#### ANNUAL REPORT

Doug Bowman had sent the Executive Committee copies of the draft version of the ICC Annual Report and asked if appendices should be attached (copies of testimony, local partners, etc.). The Legislative Leadership group will get a distribution of this report and a copy will be posted on the SICC website.

Task	Who	When
Get Annual Report to Legislative Leadership Committee Get Annual Report Posted On SICC Website	Doug Bowman	By April 4, 2008

Tom Laing stated the Annual Report seemed very technical and suggested that a more video type insert with children's pictures be included on the site showing actual pictures of children assisted through Part B and C (for website).

Doug Bowman will complete a template for an SICC Brochure soon and then it will be sent to the University of Kansas media staff.

Doug Bowman noted the Sound Start Bill #2716, with appropriations of \$368,750. Hearings for this Bill are coming Monday. When the Legislature returns in April for the Omnibus Bill and after the revenue estimating group submits their April Report on the economy, and if these numbers are good, they will produce a stronger Budget. Doug produced information on certain other bills, a copy of testimony presented to Senate Education on Bill #408, which is the proposal for moving Part C Lead Agency designation from the Department of Health & Environment to the Department of Education. As a partial result of SICC testimony, they finally understood the Governor is empowered to make that decision.

Discussion began with members pondering implications of Bill #2716 (Sound Start). We would prefer these services be delivered through tiny-K Networks and concluded that SICC needed clarification because monies need to go through tiny-K.

Tom Laing made a motion that SICC get clarification of House Bill #2716. Does it enhance Part C (training, technical assistance, etc.). Deb Voth seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Task	Who	When
Provide SICC Details on Bill #2716.	Doug Bowman	April Meeting, 2008
With KDHE Assistance:	Carolyn Nelson	

Anne Aytes asked Doug Bowman if there were any news on funding for Infant Mental Health. Doug Bowman stated that the \$1 million of current funding had been cut. This was another budget item pushed to the Omnibus Bill.

The Council discussed House Bill #2761, which would eliminate waiting lists for Medicaid waiver programs and significantly increase community reimbursement rates.

The Council discussed targeted case management issues arising from the federal Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) and changes in the state plan which would have a significant impact on children's services providers.

Tom Laing moved that SICC send a letter to KHPA and SRS requesting that they meet with the Council to provide information on the TCM issues and changes, and answer questions. Deb Voth seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Task	Who	When
By Letter: Ask Scott Bruner Or Ray Dalton @ SRS For Details & Information On Targeted Case Management	Doug Bowman	April Meeting, 2008

Dave Lindeman mentioned at last month's meeting, there was much discussion on the Early Learning Block Grant and what it looked like.

Sharon Hixon stated tiny-K needed funding. Sharon believed SICC needed to educate groups on the stresses of running tiny-K programs.

Discussion ensued with the conclusion that SICC should be focused on getting \$2.1 million for tiny-K. In the near future, SICC should organize a workshop to bring all groups possible together for enlightenment.

Sharon Hixon moved to support Block Grants' \$23 million and \$4.6 million in the Pre-K programs for Early Childhood programs (Block Grant = \$5 million in 2008). Tom Laing and Tom Kohmetscher both seconded this motion. Votes: Passed Unanimously.

Task	Who	When
After Clarified/discussion W/Jim Redmon, Disseminate Conversation & Eligibility Information on Block Grant to SICC	Doug Bowman	April Meeting, 2008

Many praised Julie's idea for a SICC Conference. Julie Broski will bring ideas on a conference (with Doug Bowman's assistance), to the next SICC Meeting on April 4, 2008, in Topeka.

Task	Who	When
Plan SICC Conference	Doug Bowman, and Julie Broski	April Meeting, 2008

Tom Laing moved that SICC adjourn. Sharon Hixon seconded. Vote was unanimous.

MEETING ADJOURNED.

## **Kansas State Department of Education Overview**

1. KSDE Special Educations Services Team is working on several projects:
  - a. Public reports on performance on each of the state indicators will be out Mid-March.
  - b. Levels of Determination will be available around mid-April.
  - c. The Special Education Process Handbook is out! It is available from KSDE on CD or on the website (either up or up soon). No hard copies will be mailed out.
  - d. The Reimbursement Guide review has just begun. Special Education directors have met and reviewed. Another meeting is scheduled for March 12<sup>th</sup>. If you have questions or comments, please contact Patty Gray at [pgray@ksde.org](mailto:pgray@ksde.org).
2. Kansas Expanding Opportunities Initiative: This group began to meet in August. The purpose of this initiative is to develop a cross agency strategic planning initiative around inclusion. The group is working on the application for technical assistance through the National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI) which is due in April. Conference call are continuing as the group works to complete the application and develop the initiative.
3. Trainings on the Early Childhood Outcomes are being provided across the state. KITS and KSDE and KDHE staff are working collaboratively to meet the needs of all providers in Part B and Part C. See [www.kskits.org](http://www.kskits.org) for training dates.
4. The Kansas Early Learning Document is out and training is being provided by KSDE and KITS in collaboration with staff from SRS. Future trainings are listed on the KITS website, [www.kskits.org](http://www.kskits.org). This is ongoing through the end of April. Training on the document will be done in May and June for KDHE Health Department staff.
5. Early Childhood Collaboration:
  - a. KSDE early childhood staff is working with SRS, KDHE, and other agencies and organizations to develop the “how to use” sections of the Kansas Early Learning Document. (see above).

## **SRS Report for State ICC Meeting March 7, 2008**

**EES Assistant Directors.** Effective 2-24-08 there are 2 new Assistant Directors in Economic and Employment Support. Karen Beckerman is the Assistant Director for Benefits and Services. This includes oversight of all benefit and service oriented programs. Rachel Katuin is the Assistant Director for Management Support. This includes oversight of performance related functions as well as computer systems and budget.

**Human Service Management System.** In FY 2009 SRS will begin the first phase of the Human Services Management project. HSM is a business technology project focused on increasing outcome-based, client-centered, integrated delivery of services by replacing the current legacy systems. The current systems were developed with technology that is now outdated and are not easily updated when new programs or modifications to existing programs are needed in a timely manner. These antiquated systems require staff to complete error prone off-system determinations, paper intensive manual work arounds, and are cumbersome to use. System changes are expensive and cannot keep pace with state and federal eligibility policy changes. Phase one is a collaborative effort between SRS and the Kansas Health Policy Authority (KHPA) to develop and implement a new integrated benefits and eligibility system called Avenues that is flexible and more easily modified in order to keep up with the addition of new programs, federal mandates, and changes to existing programs. The new system will allow staff to focus more on prevention and improving customer service. An RFP is expected to be released at the end of 2008.

**LIEAP.** As of March 4, total applications approved have been 21,848 with an average benefit of \$420.68 and a total of \$9,189,281.50 paid. Applications will continue to be available through Monday, March 31, 2008.

**TANF.** The reauthorized Federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program established stricter work requirements for states by eliminating states' flexibility in defining work activities and increasing the verification requirements of clients' hours counted toward work participation. These changes increased the difficulty of meeting the TANF work participation rates and have a significant impact on the workload of SRS staff. In order to be counted in the work participation rate, a family must receive TAF cash assistance. The very families who are successful, obtain jobs, and subsequently lose TAF cash eligibility, are the families barred from being counted in the work participation rate. Allowable work activity definitions are also much narrower in scope, including what meets the definition of activities such as job readiness, job search, community service, work experience, and allowable education/training. Staff have reviewed the cases of all individuals required to participate in work related activities, and are developing plans that will meet the new requirements. States

may receive a fiscal penalty each year of from 1% to 5% of the TANF block grant for failure to meet the required participation rates.

**Child Care Subsidy.** Analysis continues on policy changes around child care plan hours authorizations for benefits. Policy simplifying hours allotted for school-age children and children with disabilities is expected to be implemented this summer. Hours for children with disabilities would be applicable for the entire time the child is in a care at an enhanced rate.

**Addiction and Prevention Services.** A new Problem Gambling Coordinator starts on March 10. She is Jean Holthaus, a long time employee of Prevention and Recovery Services (the local Regional Prevention Center in Topeka) and current president of the Problem Gambling Coalition. The Solutions Recovery Care Coordination model has been rolled out statewide as of the month. Also, eighteen providers received new treatment grant awards through ValueOptions-KS. These are all for expanded Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant services. Total distribution: \$750,000. Award announcements went out last week.

**Child Care Provider Union Update.** Discussions continue between the state (SRS and KDHE) and Child Care Providers Together (AFSCME union) to reach a mutual agreement on issues faced by regulated home child care providers. The Governor signed an Executive Order in 2007 recognizing CCPT for discussions and asking the state and the union to work together to solve issues.

**Children and Family Services.** CFS received our report of findings from the DHHS Administration of Children and Families CFSR federal review. This review occurs approximately every 4 years for a state's child welfare system. CFS is the process of drafting a program improvement plan due to ACF by 4/11/08. Compared to others states who have had their review, Kansas findings are positive.

CFS programs are very strong in timely investigations of reports of child abuse and neglect.

Kansas needs to improve with timely permanency for children and placement stability. In addition, Kansas needs to improve at engaging fathers in our case planning and increase our worker contacts with fathers to support effective case planning.

**Child Support Enforcement.** CSE contracted for a statewide customer service call center in Halstead, Kansas during 2007. The call center operates between 7 AM and 7 PM Monday through Friday and allows SRS CSE customers to quickly access a trained CSE service representative who can answer their questions. This allows SRS staff to concentrate on locating missing parents, establishing paternity, and establishing and enforcing support orders. In partnership with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, in October 2007, CSE implemented the provisions of K.S.A. 32-918 which allows for recreational license sanctions in

cases of child support nonpayment. This sanction is generating valuable new collections, particularly in cases that had seen little success from standard remedies. The Kansas Payment Center (KPC) disburses all child support payments in Kansas. In spring 2008, the KPC vendor will introduce a Visa-branded debit card for parents receiving support. An outreach campaign has been planned to educate custodial parents about the advantages of changing from paper checks to “e-disbursement” and about the need to choose between a debit card or direct deposit. For parents unfamiliar with banking, special effort will be made to help them learn how to manage their account. Increasing the volume of “e-disbursements” speeds up delivery of support payments, eliminates overhead for the KPC, and reduces undisbursed collections.