

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

MINUTES  
MAY 2, 2008, 1:00 PM

PUBLIC LIBRARY  
TOPEKA, KS

MEMBERS PRESENT IN TOPEKA

Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, Public Member  
Tom Laing, Public Member  
Sharon Hixon, Public Member  
Nancy Krase, Provider Member  
Colleen Riley, KS Board of Education  
Deb Voth, Provider Member  
Dr. Leticia Holub Taylor, Provider Member  
Karen Beckerman, SRS  
Carolyn Nelson, KDHE  
Jennifer Rojas, Parent Member  
Dr. Eva Horn, Public Member  
Tiffany Krentz, Parent Member  
John Meetz, KS Insurance Commissioner  
Julie Broski, Parent Member  
Cayla Wright, KHPA-Medicaid Rep.

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Staff Coordinator  
Jean Wilson, Sr. Admin. Assistant  
Tiffany Smith-Birk, KDHE  
Misty Van Nostrad, Families Together  
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS  
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee Co. ITS  
George Getto, Beach Ctr. On Disability  
Jean Ann Summers, Beach Ctr. On  
Disability  
Gayle Stuber, KS Dept. of Education

MEMBERS PRESENT ON PHONE

Dr. David Lindeman Board/Regents Rep.  
Maria Martinez, Parent Member

NON-MEMBERS PRESENT ON  
PHONE

None

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Thomas Kohmetscher, Provider Member  
Susan Carriger, Provider Member  
Representative Melody McCray-Miller  
Kate Wolff, Governor's Representative  
Richard Martinez, Parent Member  
Senator Julie Lynn, Senate Appointee

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MAY 2, 2008, 1:00 PM  
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Dr. Linda Mitchell, Chair, called the meeting to order with welcome and introductions.

ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Several edits were made to the draft April minutes. Sharon Hixon moved that the April 2008 minutes be approved as amended. Tom Laing seconded the motion and the vote passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Carolyn Weinhold announced the Kansas Fatherhood Coalition published a very helpful directory with a special section for fathers and children with special needs. Carolyn brought free copies for all present. The directory was funded by the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) and Head Start collaboration office. The directory will be online at the KPIRC website in the near future.

Carolyn also announced this would be her last appearance at SICC Meetings. She is retiring from the State of Kansas on May 16 and extended an invitation for everyone to come to her retirement party Thursday, May 8, 2008 at the Great Overland Station, Topeka, Ks, from 2 pm to 4:30 pm.

Linda Mitchell announced her attendance at a training session this week in Topeka sponsored by Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Organization (CAPRO). Linda stated this conference material will also be included in the Governor's Conference sometime in October 2008.

BEACH CENTER PRESENTATION

Linda Mitchell introduced two spokespersons from the Beach Center. They started with a grant to insure all stakeholders were brought together. The building of the Beach Center on Disabilities website, [www.beachcenter.org](http://www.beachcenter.org), turned into a huge project by the University of Kansas. The Community of Practice now has 384 members; one-third are Kansans, the rest are nation-wide members. George Gatos, Research Associate, is continually developing the Community of Practice website. Jean Ann Summers stated they began with a face-to-face program. Talk progressed to issues of exploring families' support needs. A book written by Virginia Visey and Pat Wesley entitled, Evidence Based Practice in Early Childhood, stimulated the project group.

The Beach Center COP page allows members with an account to enter the website anonymously, see discussions, and join discussions. The website is for all families to chat

with professionals; parents, researchers, policy leaders, practitioners, and parents, including 70 researchers and 30 policy leaders.

This website is now available nation-wide to all practitioners and parents. Beach Center has been gathering signup information from potential members to serve them better. Families currently gather information from other parents, such as, how to handle a vacation, and other situations.

Jean Ann and George encouraged SICC members to brainstorm on the possibility of a sub group to build and maintain a “Kansas Corner” webpage on the Beach Center website. Templates, or sample letters, are available for downloading from the website for use now, for complaints regarding evaluations, requests, etc., for all interested.

Task	Who	When
Discuss At June Conference, a webpage “Kansas Corner” for Beach.	SICC	Deadline: Sept, 2008

## CHAIR & STAFF REPORTS

### Staff Committee Report

Doug Bowman related he had written the SICC support letter as requested, in support of Infant Mental Health funding, to the Chairs of House Appropriations and Senate Ways and Means. The Senate and the House have now worked the Omnibus Appropriations or final budget bill. The Infant Mental Health funding did not get reinstated in either the House or Senate versions of the budget. The Infant Toddler line item within the KDHE budget in both House and Senate versions got a \$1 million increase. This is what Secretary Bremby of KDHE asked when he submitted his budget request to the Governor. The Legislature did shift the State General Funds for Infant Toddler services replacing them with tobacco funds. In the short term, this action does not immediately have any downside, but could be an issue in the long term. This is both the House and the Senate position and it will not be a conference committee discussion point or position in the last days before recess.

The other item is the Early Childhood Block Grants - in the same floor amendment (that was carried by Representative Melody McCray-Miller), FY 2009 funding was put in the budget at \$11.1 million in tobacco funds for these block grants. Once again, this mirrors the Senate position so these are completed and done, unless something drastic occurs.

Doug stated that potential expansion of the Medicaid Waiver for autism services is one of the conference committee’s topics for discussion. The House has an addition of 100 slots; the Senate still has the status quo of 25 slots. There is a Pre-K pilot fund (line item) that is administered by the Children’s Cabinet but at present, no decision was made to move this fund to Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) however, this may be one of the items yet to be discussed.

### Advocacy Report

Deb Voth expressed her concern about Advocacy messages and getting these messages out to the networks, urging them to send messages, because of the urgency.

Doug asked if at this late stage in the session there would still be time to advocate. The Legislature will get emails, and messages but opportunities are now time-diminished to reach a House or Senate member for a discussion. Doug did suggest if any SICC member or parent member had any relationship with one of the budget conferees they can reach, they are the persons making the decisions now.

Discussion began by Tom Laing saying he believed there was still time and urged advocates to call Legislators to ask, “why not”, and to hold the legislative members accountable. It is good that SICC let them know that we are still watching. Tom suggested SICC asking about “decoupling” by explaining, decoupling is when a state’s tax codes are tied to the Federal tax codes. Rather than have a tax code tied to the Federal codes, a state can decouple its tax codes from the Federal codes.

Tom related how this year in Kansas, the economic stimulus package created an immediate and large state tax break for corporations in the amount of \$87 million. The Legislature can stop this by decoupling for just one year or so.

Deb Voth urged all SICC members to continue to ask what you did today to help families. She stated that there will be drastic consequences down the line without this adequate funding. This is an election year and it is very difficult to force issues, but the SICC could ask the Legislature to decouple the tax codes for one year to assist in the overall state budget picture.

### ICC COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Funding Committee

Dave Lindeman had no new news to report

#### Partnerships Committee

Maria Martinez had no news to report.

### AGENCY COMMITTEE

#### KSDE Report

Colleen Riley announced that Jennifer Spencer has resigned her position from KSDE as the staff responsible for the Parents as Teachers. KSDE has now posted and advertised this position. In addition, KSDE is interviewing for the Early Childhood position that was vacated last June.

Kansas Expanding Opportunities Initiative application was sent and KSDE is now awaiting acceptance. The Early Learning document has been updated and Gail Stuber and staff will soon provide training. Recently, an Early Childhood collaboration meeting was held jointly by KSDE, Head Start, KDHE, and KITS for early childhood planning. A

panel presentation was given at the Head Start Collaboration Meeting in Wichita - an attachment on this funding was handed out to SICC members and all present.

Colleen offered a suggestion to Linda Mitchell, Doug Bowman, and the SICC: that each year when Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) is started (the Part B advisory panel) at the beginning of the school year, an orientation is always done. This next orientation is to be facilitated by John Copenhaver from the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center. John is willing to facilitate this joint training and information at an SICC meeting. Additionally, members of SEAC have stated SEAC would like to hold at least one meeting jointly, with our SICC next year. KSDE has a lot of similar issues and John's input would be very beneficial for everyone.

There are several positions now open in SEAC with representation across Kansas. The Executive Committee will review nominations next week and give them to the State Board for appointment.

Task	Who	When
Facilitate With Deb/Colleen Riley/John Copenhaver & Larry Meier for KSDE Presentation to KS SICC.	Linda Mitchell, Doug Bowman & Jean Wilson	Deadline: June 30, 2008

Linda Mitchell asked about funding for Parents as Teachers. Doug stated that there was an attempt to consider an increase with the Omnibus Bill, but it did not pass.

Colleen stated that members of Parents as Teachers are out in force voicing concerns.

Colleen Riley stated that that this summer will bring further consideration of a possible change in Special Education funding. It is hoped that a task force will be put into place to provide ample opportunity for stakeholder input.

## AGENCY REPORTS

### KDHE Report

Carolyn Nelson announced Tiffany Smith-Birk is currently working in Part C as Coordinator. Tiffany's background is in the mental health and social welfare field. KDHE is very glad to have her. A Part C coordinators' meeting held a few weeks ago had 35 of the 36 Kansas Infant-Toddler networks present. Determinations for the second time were made and we were pleased about the indicators and outcomes for the State Performance Report. The Federal Grant has been routed for signatures and will be forwarded to OSEP next week. Part C estimates show a reduction in the federal grant amount of \$9,068. This will be absorbed through administrative levels at KDHE. At the annual Head Start Conference, Peggy Miksch represented Part C on the panel and also with the community network breakout. Most panel questions were about children aged 3 to 5 and for the "at risk" program in the schools. There were 110 registered persons attending. Ryan Weir, who compiles all the data for Part C, was asked to present at the National Data Managers in June 2008, and he is to be congratulated for the honor.

### SRS Report

Karen Beckman reported for SRS. The Medicaid waiver for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorders is currently serving 25 children. There are over 150 children on a waiting list. SRS is working to develop a system of service delivery. House Bill #2637 – Kansas Life Lines Services was passed - a service for low income families for lower telephone rates.

Deb Voth asked for Karen Beckman to report back to SICC on the work done concerning special needs rates for child care. Karen agreed to do so.

### Insurance Report

John Meetz announced the Interim Committee will be re-hearing all health insurance mandates that are currently on the books this summer, plus those proposals introduced in this Legislative session. When this occurs, John will advise SICC. Mental Health parity is one mandate for which the Insurance Commissioner highly advocated when she was in the Senate. This requires insurance companies to cover mental health services up to a certain amount, which is better than had previously been the case. Recently, the Autism Task Force has been advocating for coverage of autism services being mandated.

### KHPA Report

Cayla Wright reported that at a recent Head Start meeting in Salina, concerns were raised around Medicaid codes. The provider manual will be re-written very soon and attention will be given to how Early Childhood Intervention (ECI) Medicaid services are integrated into the Head Start manual. KHPA is very concerned and has been meeting with Head Start Providers, to address this issue before the beginning of the next school year.

Carolyn Nelson raised concerns from the recent coordinators' meetings related to Infant-Toddler documents received from Medicaid. Current changes in Targeted Case Management (CMS) are very confusing and difficult to understand. Carolyn is seeking clarification from Brenda Kuder. Cayla agreed to get a meeting set up.

Tom Laing remarked on recent confusion of the KHPA Policy Manuals with decisions having been sent to providers. Tom said a letter was sent to Andy Allison of KPHA, suggesting a process or protocol be set up with a draft being made available for public comment before the final KHPA Policy Manual is given out to the public. Tom suggested a 30-60 day review process to improve the process before the manual is released.

Cayla will take SICC's suggestions back to KHPA for discussion and solutions.

### ICC STRATEGIC PLANNING

Doug Bowman announced the all-day June 6, 2008 Conference (in Topeka). Planning is proceeding with Rae Anderson (as facilitator) from the National Child Care Information Center. Catering is being planned by Staff.

Doug Bowman laid out the proposed agenda:

- (1) Review the last Year and the 2007-2008 ICC Strategic Plan

- (2) Visualize 12-24 months out or further, for SICC Goal setting ideas.
- (3) Break into small groups by topic or randomly (with a parent in each group). Each group is self-selective with a full range of topics.
- (4) Report back and prioritize the DRAFT Strategic Plan

Discussion ensued, with determination that parents be allowed to come early in the morning to start an orientation group - Maria Martinez proposed a parents' hour with SICC members, be held between 9 am – 10 am. Further, local parents may choose to join the monthly SICC parent call to prepare.

Further consideration will be given to future SICC logistics (time of meetings, do we continue meeting monthly, committee structures, etc.)

Tiffany Krentz related their family's great success story researching for a Seizure Alert Service dog through the 4 Pause Ability Organizations (4pauseability.org). With an 80% success rate, these dogs are trained to watch for seizures during sleep, in falling, special scents, and other behavioral patterns.

Sharon Hixon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Tom Laing seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

MEETING ADJOURNED

## **SRS Report for State ICC Meeting May 2, 2008**

### **Kansas Lifeline Service Program**

House Bill No. 2637 established the Kansas Lifeline Service Program which will provide discounted telephone service to low income households. The bill requires local carriers whose prices have been deregulated, and other interested local carriers, to enroll low income households in the program. The Kansas Corporation Commission would determine the income level of qualifying households. To facilitate the discount service, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services will provide a list of names, addresses, and telephone numbers of consenting low income households to participating carriers every six months. Participating carriers must enter a confidentiality agreement with the department to limit the use of the information to the provision of the discount phone service.

The discount telephone service is currently available to SRS recipients who may request this service directly to a carrier. SRS makes a form available to clients and assists in the completion of the form when necessary. The bill changes the current process by requiring the department, rather than the household receiving assistance, to provide a list of interested households to service carriers every six months.

### **HCBS/Autism Waiver**

The HCBS/Autism Waiver provides services to children with Autism from diagnosis to age 5 years of age through early intensive intervention treatment and by allowing primary caregivers to receive needed support. Twenty-five children are currently receiving services with 150 children on the waiting list. SRS continues to recruit providers for families receiving these services under the Waiver.

## **Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council May 2, 2008**

### **Kansas Department of Health and Environment Update**

- A. **Introduction of Kansas Part C Coordinator:** Tiffany Smith-Birk began work as the Part C Infant-Toddler *tiny-k* Services Coordinator on April 7, 2008. She has a Bachelor's degree in Children's Mental Health Criminal Justice and a Master's in Social Welfare. Her previous work experience includes case management with young children diagnosed with severe emotional disturbances and their families at the Family Service and Guidance Center in Topeka, Juvenile Intake and Assessment Counselor for the Kansas Children's Service League Child Adolescent Assessment Center, Family Court Advocate Coordinator for the YWCA Battered Women Task Force and Early Childhood Mental Health Technical Assistance Coordinator at Social and Rehabilitation Services.
  
- B. **Part C Coordinators Meeting:** Thirty-five networks were represented at this meeting. The new Part C Coordinator for Kansas, Tiffany Smith-Birk, was introduced. Topics discussed for the day included the local network grant application process, how local awards are determined, components of the networks' continuous improvement plans and KDHE's expectations of same, data sheets as related to completing network improvement plans, the determinations process, Medicaid and case management, the Outcomes Web System and Communities of Practice.
  
- C. **Part C Federal Grant Application:** The grant was completed in February followed by a public comment period that ended on April 18, 2008. No comments were received. The grant is being circulated at KDHE for appropriate signatures and will be submitted to the Office of Special Education Programs next week. There is an estimated \$5,968 reduction in FFY 2008 federal dollars for Kansas Part C for the funding year that begins on July 1, 2008. The KDHE Part C operations were adjusted by this amount in order to absorb this loss.
  
- D. **Annual Head Start Collaboration Conference:** KDHE Part C state and network staff participated in this conference on April 25, 2008 in Wichita as presenters and/or general participants. Topic for the day was "Blending Teaching & Braiding Funding of Special Education, Head Start & Community Services."

This is an annual collaborative conference planned and coordinated by Kansas Inservice Training System (KITS), KDHE Part C, KSDE Part B, Early Head Start, Head Start, Parents As Teachers, Early Childhood Mental Health and others.

- E. **National Memberships:** Ryan Weir, Program Analyst for KDHE Part C Infant-Toddler Services, has been asked by the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) to participate on a national committee and a national advisory group -- University of Maryland/OSEP Committee on Training in the Analysis of State Data Sets and the National Advisory Group: U.S. Department of Education, OSEP Data Accountability Center. These requests indicate the high quality of Ryan's Annual Performance Report data analysis and report summaries.

### **State Interagency Coordinating Council: May, 2008**

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

1. **KSDE Special Educations Services Team Update:**
  - a. We are getting a job description out for the Parents As Teachers coordinator. Until the position is filled, the grants, training work, and other work is being coordinated among members of the Early Learning Services team at KSDE.
2. **Kansas Expanding Opportunities Initiative:** The purpose of this initiative is to develop a cross agency strategic planning initiative around inclusion. The application for technical assistance through the National Professional Development Council Initiative (NPDCI) was sent in during April. The partners are waiting to hear if the application was accepted.
3. The **Kansas Early Learning Document** is being updated and edited. Sections on 'How to use the Guidelines' and "How to use the Standards" are in final development. The document should be ready for printing by early Summer. Training on the document will be done in May and June for KDHE Health Department staff. Further training is being developed to help programs align their current curriculum with the Early Learning Standards.
4. **Early Childhood Collaboration:**
  - a. Meeting for cross agency work on collaboration at the NAEYC professional development conference in June. KSDE, SRS, KDHE, Head Start will be participating.
  - b. KSDE/KITS Early Learning Services staff (Gayle Stuber, Patty Gray; Dave Lindeman; Peggy Miksch) participated in the panel presentation at the Head Start Collaboration Conference on April 25 in Wichita. The focus of this conference was blending and

braiding teaching and funding. An overview of some of the KSDE early childhood programs (Four Year Old At-Risk, Section 619, Parents As Teachers) was provided. A series of Questions and Answers was handed out. (see attached).

Kansas Department of Education Report

May 8, 2008

**Early Childhood Collaborative Programs  
Early Childhood Special Education, Four Year Old At Risk,  
Head Start and Early Childhood  
Funding Questions and Answers  
Kansas State Department of Education**

Q1. If an IEP team recommends placement in an EC classroom (i.e. community based or school based) can LEAs pay full tuition if the child's time in the EC classroom is considered special education instructional time?

**A1. If the IEP team recommends it and documents this in the IEP, then LEAs are responsible for paying the tuition to the community based school.**

**Q1a. What funds can LEAs use to pay tuition?**

**A1a. Special education funds may be used to pay tuition.**

Q2. If a child counted for Four Year Old At Risk funding is then identified as a child with a disability during the same year can the special education teacher be counted for categorical aid and the child counted for Four Year Old At Risk funding at the same time?

**A.2. Yes, if the special education identification occurs after the 9/20 enrollment count. However the following school year the child would be counted as special education on 9/20**

Q3. Can districts provide educational services for Head Start eligible children in an EC classroom funded by the district and receive funds from Head Start to provide that service for Head Start eligible children?

**A3. Yes, if that is the agreement with Head Start.**

Q4. Can Head Start provide family support services to all children in a district funded EC classroom that includes Head Start eligible children and be reimbursed by the district for services provided for children that are in the EC classroom but not eligible for Head Start?

**A4. If family support services are a high priority for the district, then districts may reimburse Head Start for this service. For the district to receive categorical aid for services provided to special education students, the provider must meet eligibility requirements for special education reimbursement.**

Q5. If the district Superintendent wants to serve all pre-k children in their home schools, how can Special Education, Four Year Old At Risk and Head Start funding be braided or blended to meet this goal?

**A5. The cost of the early childhood program would be paid with funds from Special Education, Four Year Old At Risk and Head Start in direct proportion to the percent of children from each source that are participating in the EC program.**

Q6. If a teacher has the appropriate licensure, can one teacher be the special education teacher and the Four Year Old At Risk teacher in the same classroom?

**A6. Yes. Categorical aid will be paid on a pro-rated basis based on the number of special education students versus the number of Four Year Old At Risk students.**

Q6a. How can the funds be braided/blended in this situation?

**A6a. The cost of the program would be paid with funds from Special Education and Four Year Old At Risk in direct proportion to the percent of children from each source that are in the classroom.**

Q6b. In cases where the At Risk teacher is also endorsed in special education, can a district apply for categorical aid independent of their cooperative or interlocal if they choose to serve special education students in their local At Risk program?

**A6b. Yes**

Q7. When Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) teachers and Early Childhood (EC) teachers co-teach in a Four Year Old At Risk or Head Start classroom and there is a ratio of less than 50% of children with disabilities in relation to typically developing peers will categorical aid be pro-rated for the ECSE teacher?

**A7. Categorical aid for collaborative EC/ECSE programs will not have categorical aid prorated for the ECSE teacher if following *two criteria* are met:**

- 1. The district planning a collaborative EC/ECSE program has submitted the EC/ECSE Collaborative Program form included in the *Special Education Reimbursement Guide* by the date indicated each year; and**
- 2. Program implementation accurately reflects the description provided in the EC/ECSE Collaborative Program form submitted to the state.**

Q7a. Can this co-teaching model be pre-approved for full categorical aid for the ECSE teacher and any special education paraprofessionals placed in the classroom?

**A7a. No pre approvals are necessary as funding is based on the two criteria outlined in A7. .**

Q8. When an ECSE teacher is an itinerant teacher in a Four Year Old At Risk or Head Start classroom and there is a ratio of less than 50% children with disabilities in relation to typically developing peers will the ECSE teacher's categorical aid be pro-rated for his/her time spent delivering services in this setting?

**A8. No. If the ECSE teacher is providing special education services in this setting, categorical aid will not be reduced.**

Q9. Is there anything in the Four Year Old At Risk program guidelines that would prohibit the designation of the ECSE teacher as itinerant placing the sole responsibility for the general education teaching on the Four Year Old At Risk Teacher?

**A9. No.**

Q10. If children with disabilities are placed in a Four Year Old At Risk program and are served by an itinerant ECSE teacher for a set amount of time each week, can the time the child spends in the Four Year Old At Risk program without special education services be reimbursed with Four Year Old At Risk funds?

**A10. No. The ECSE teacher generates categorical aid based on her/his FTE not on the amount of service provided per child and Four Year Old At Risk funds are generated by actual child count on September 20. In addition, each child in the program (special education and At Risk) generates .5 FTE of general state aid.**

Q11. Can children in Four Year Old At Risk programs serve as peer models in integrated special education classrooms?

**A11. Yes. Any child without an IEP may serve as a peer model in an integrated special education classroom.**

Q12. Can the Four Year Old At Risk program exceed the recommended number of 17 students in a classroom by adding children with disabilities that are served by an itinerant special education teacher?

**A12. Yes. However, the size of the classroom and the number of slots for the Four Year Old At Risk program should be carefully reviewed, as well as the intensity of needs – both for the 4-year-olds and those on IEPs. Some balance must be preserved, so that all children's needs may be addressed. The teacher must be prepared to meet significant challenges. There may not be more than 20 total children in the classroom (with 2 teachers).**

### **Clarification for Four Year Old At Risk and ECSE Funding**

Funding for the Four Year Old At-Risk program is based on the number of identified at risk children in attendance on September 20 and reported in the 9/20 enrollment count. Once districts have been notified that their program has been selected for funding, the approved number of four-year olds attending the district at-risk preschool program must be included in the enrollment counts when calculating the school district's general fund.

Funding is weighted based on district demographics for at risk children. In addition to the weighted funding, each child that meets the criteria for the At Risk program on 9/20 generates .5 FTE of Base State Aid per Pupil (BSAPP).

While children identified for Head Start and/or Early Childhood Special Education do not generate funds for the at risk program; these children can participate and be included in at risk classrooms. Children with IEPs generate .5 FTE of Base State Aid per Pupil (BSAPP) in addition to special education funds.