

MINUTES

**Combined Meeting of the
Kansas Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
&
State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)
November 10, 2010
Topeka Zoo's Gary Clark Learning Center**

SEAC members in attendance:

Ann Elliott, Janice Frahm, Bill Griffith, Penny Hoffman, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Karen Kroh, Shawn Mackay, Mike Martin, Larry Meyer, Matthew Ramsey, Colleen Riley, Anne Roberts, Vicki Sharp, SueAnn Wanklyn, Anita Wiley, Bryan Wilson

SICC members in attendance:

Carol Ayres, Jill Bamber, Doug Bowman, Julie Broski, Barbara Craft, Sharon Hixson, Eva Horn, Kris Kellim, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Nancy Krase, Tom Laing, Dave Lindeman, Richard Martinez, Darla Metzger, Michelle Ponce, Gayle Stuber, Tish Taylor, Misty Van Nostrand, Deb Voth, Dale Walker, Tom Kohmetscher

Guests in attendance:

John Copenhaver, Commissioner Diane DeBacker, Deputy Commissioner Dale Dennis, Deputy Commissioner Brad Neuenswander, Sabra Shirrell, Donna Marshbank

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**Welcome &
Introductions**

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, SEAC Chairperson & SICC member, and SICC Chairperson Eva Horn, called the meeting to order at 9:10 am, welcoming SICC & SEAC members to this 2nd annual combined meeting. Members then introduced themselves. Kathy provided a brief overview of SEAC functions and goals.

Guest John Copenhaver, TAESE/MPRRC, congratulated the Councils as the first known state to have combined SEAC/SICC meetings, noting that Kansas recognized for collaborative services to students. John reminded members that this year marks the 35th year of IDEA, noting how far services to Special Education students has come due in part to SEAC and SICC Councils who've provided advise and positive changes for children, infants and toddlers. Members should feel honored with their position and celebrate our accomplishments!

John presented Colleen Riley, State Director of Special Education, with the MPRRC/TAESE Glen L. Latham Lifetime Achievement Award – given out for the past 10 years to State Directors of Special Education.

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Approval of agenda

The agenda was approved by a motion from Sharon Hixson and seconded by Larry Meyer.

Approval of minutes from previous SICC and SEAC meetings

The September '10 SEAC meeting minutes were approved on a motion from Ann Elliott, and seconded by Vicki Sharp.

The October '10 SICC meeting minutes were approved with edits on a motion from Sharon Hixson, and seconded by Deb Voth.

Purpose of the combined meeting

Colleen Riley thanked Eva, Doug, Kathy, John Copenhaver, and Sean Smith for their leadership last year getting this combined meeting started. Previous to that Council members had discussed coming together to talk about supports for the education of students/infants and toddlers in Kansas. This year's meeting was planned with less formal presentations in order to provide time for more informal type discussion. She noted that it is wonderful to see the bridge by the Councils with the natural overlap of services.

SEAC – overview

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer referenced the SEAC information in the handout packet, addressing membership responsibilities. She noted that as part of the upcoming OSEP Part B Verification Visit with KSDE, SEAC complied with OSEP's request to address a series of 10 questions.

Website: www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2466

SICC - overview

SICC member Doug Bowman referenced the SICC information in the handout packet, and briefly explained the role of the SICC which was established in 1986. Dave Lindeman provided information about the KITS project that provides resources and services to infants and toddlers age 3-5. A lending library is part SICC's Family Voices taskforce, chaired by Julie Broski. Julie noted the taskforce was initialized one year ago. Eva also discussed another initiative on transition to help ensure families and students are getting those services.

Websites: <http://www.kansasicc.org/>

KSDE report including information about Implementation of SB 359

Dale Dennis provided handouts discussing how this law deals with changes to how categorical aid funds are distributed on a teacher basis, divided by coop to come up with an average = \$685.00. The law includes if below \$675 amount districts would get the funds, above that amount districts would not receive the funds. A hearing by a special committee on School Finance takes place Nov. 16th with the idea of repealing the rule. The "Fix" to cat aid was passed 9-1.

Dale talked about Maintenance of Effort, explaining the concept behind his handout letter - the State of Kansas cut Special Education by 12.8%, and other

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state agencies were cut by 12.3%. This resulted in a waiver request to the federal government by the Governor. The response from the U.S. Department of Education included partial approval of the waiver amount requested.

Dale discussed another major funding problem occurs with the human service caseload, when it goes up at-risk kids goes up as well. (see handout)

State general fund is up \$50 million for July – Sept. Consensus estimate up \$17.8 million. Next year projected revenue up \$25 million.

ARRA funds that went away is over \$400 million – across the board. Bottom line – next year’s budget will be squeezed so tight the budget will have no wiggle room. The budget should be submitted before the holiday break.

Question: What can we do?

Answer: Now and first of January communicate w/legislator to: 1) fund SpEd to keep MOE or lose federal funds; 2) give schools \$50 million out of the jobs bill \$; 3) mention repeal SB 359.

SEAC members suggest meeting with your local legislator now through Thanksgiving – it’s a critical time – do it in person.

KSDE Updates

Colleen Riley provided the following updates:

Kansas MOE Waiver Request:

A copy of OSEP’s final response to the Kansas waiver request was distributed to Council members. She noted that KSDE and schools have a federal obligation to provide services regardless of cuts in funding.

Additional waiver communication documents are available on-line at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2583> .

Verification Visit:

The Part B visit by OSEP is planned Nov. 15-19 ’10 @ KSDE. This visit occurs as a result of the waiver request that the Governor made to USDOE OSEP due to budget restraints. This visit is focused on fiscal and FAPE. The visit will include two OSEP teams: KSDE based team; on-site team that will visit schools.

Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer remarked that SEAC provided written answers to a set of questions requested by OSEP in preparation for the visit. She will provide any requested feedback from OSEP to the SEAC response document.

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Colleen will provide a summary of the meeting and OSEP’s technical assistance plan at the January ’11 SEAC meeting, and she will be available to provide the same to the SICC when asked.

Members posed the following questions:

Q: Is it possible this visit could change the MOE discussion at the legislative level?

A: There will not be an official letter from the visit provided by OSEP prior to the legislative session.

Q: Will this visit impact our level of determination?

A: No.

Q: Is there a waiver process for the locals?

A: No –schools have an obligation to meet maintenance of effort regardless of budget cuts.

Senate Bill 359

Dave Lindeman put forth a motion to expedite a joint letter by November 16th to legislators addressing repeal of SB 359, funding issues and the impact on education. Members agreed such a letter could serve as a tool for face-to-face meetings with legislators. Writers include Barbara Craft, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Eva Horn. Members will receive the draft for review before it is finalized. Brad Neuenswander offered input to the draft. Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer will presenter the letter at the November 16th legislative meeting.

**Public Forum /
Public
Comment**

None received.

**SPP/APR
Indicator
Update**

Part C

Sabra Shirrell reported Part C has 14 indicators to report on KDHE’s State Performance Plan (SPP) with two that relate to Part B – EC Outcomes System (OWS) data collection system where local programs place their information upon entry and exit from the program, a shared data system and now sustainability program to implement programs and train the trainer. The OWS help manual is currently being updated collaboratively by KDHE/KSDE, available at

http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECOOutcomes/AdminNdsKno/OWSGuide1_22_08.pdf

Last year SICC set baseline targets to the indicators, meeting two of the six indicators. KDHE will report to OSEP on slippage. Local program information can be accessed on the OWS web system, with state comparisons.

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Indicator concerning transition: Sabra reported there were several issues created by a systems dilemma and they are working to resolve those issues by next year, although can't go back to correct this year's data. Part C to Part B trainings are scheduled next spring.

Resources for Families updates

Families Together, Inc.

Darla Nelson provided an overview of the parent survey report that was provided to OSEP as part of the verification visit. Approximately 25 families reported. Members discussed how to get parents in front of the legislature.

KPIRC

Barbara Shinn provided handouts and a DVD.

Family Voices

Julie Broski provided an overview of how the SICC formed a Parent Council as a way to provide personal perspective that communicates the importance of early childhood.

Agency and Council Member Reports

SICC member reports

KSDE

Gayle Stuber provided the SES Early Childhood fact sheet, and the Homeless Education fact sheet – available at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=101>

KDHE

Analyst openings to be posted soon

KHPA

Scott Bears report included the Medicaid reimbursement letter that KHPA sent to the Govt. Medicaid Agency and to date he has not been provided a response.

SRS

Nothing to report

Insurance Commission

Nothing to report

Policy

Examine barriers to private insurance to kids who are eligible through their parents insurance, children need mental health services, homeless children. A report from BIA – resource contact person is Carrie Hastings from KDHE.

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Public Awareness

Sharon Hixson reported on Nov. 8th committee conference call that included discussion on letters to legislators about Early Development Services, enhancing parent advocacy skills, Tiny-K Day 2011 preparation, engaging local ICCs across the state. Next meeting Dec. 2nd @ 2:00 and she invites members to join in.

TO DO: Gayle Stuber will forward P-20 Council Recommendations to SEAC and SICC.

SEAC member reports

Homeless:

Anita Poe Wiley would like poverty data reported from Part C to Part B. She also would like to find a way to assure families have an IEP in-hand when they walk in to a new school. She reported on the increase in numbers of homeless children in districts this year. Members discussed whether protocol can be established under McKinney-Vento Act to ensure youth and their families are made aware of services available to Part C and Birth-3 eligible children.

TO DO: Carol visit with KSDE's Homeless Consultant Tate Toedman and report back.

Transition

Dale Walker provided information on the newly created Transition C to B task force to advise and assist with establishing better records on what are those numbers and who are those children, what are the numbers for Part C children who don't then qualify for Part B, and what are the numbers of Part B who exit out early. He noted that often times reporting problems relate to errors in data transfer.

Other

Commissioner of Education Diane DeBacker dropped in with greetings from KSDE. She was delighted to hear the discussion about transition. The P-20 Council has been focused on smooth transition so there is no gap in services. She reported on the IDEA Celebrate 35 years at the state board meeting yesterday and the three students who talked about how services they received allowed their education to flourish.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm

