

# Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services DRAFT

Meeting Minutes – Topeka, KS  
January 31, 2014

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Duncan, Chair and Governor's Representative  
Pamela Beach, Department for Children and Families  
Elaine Bowers, Senate Representative  
Matthew Connell, Provider Member  
Sharon Hixson, Public Member  
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Provider Member  
Dr. David Lindeman, Regents Representative – phone  
Darla Nelson-Metzger, Parent Member  
Melisa Schellhamer, Parent Member - phone  
Sabra Shirrell, Kansas Dept of Health & Environment  
Janice Smith, Public Member - phone  
Vera Stroup-Rentier, Kansas Department of Education  
Susan Threinen, Provider Member

## **NON MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Marcia Boswell-Carney, KDHE  
Kathy Johnson, Part C Coordinator/Topeka  
Paco Price, Rainbows United/Wichita  
Gayle Stuber, KSDE  
Sarah Walters, KDHE  
Carrie Hastings, Dept. for Children & Families

## **MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Kansas Insurance Department Repr  
Representative Position  
Tammy Scheopner, Parent

**Call to Order:** Mary Duncan, Chair of the Kansas ICC, called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked for introductions.

**Meeting Minutes:** Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer moved that the November and December 2013 meeting minutes be approved as written. Darla Nelson-Metzger seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved.

**Meeting Agenda:** Pamela Beach made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Darla Nelson-Metzger seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

## **Public Forum:**

- Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer talked about providing testimony to the House Appropriations subcommittee hearing on the KDHE budget on Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>. Doug Bowman and Mary Duncan also testified.
- Doug presented a letter from the tiny-k alliance – a non-profit that brings local tiny-k programs together. The letter reported that Part C referrals are up 36% and the per child funding is the lowest it's been in 15 years. The letter states that, without additional funding, the responsibility for finding the fund rests with the local entities. The alliance supports additional funding for tiny-k programs state-wide.
- Doug Bowman shared the written testimony given by Mary Duncan and Doug on January 29<sup>th</sup> to the House Appropriations subcommittee. Kathy Johnson, a Part C coordinator for Shawnee County, testified at the hearing as well.
- There was a proposal to increase funding for Part C programs that will appear in the subcommittee report. The proposed increase of \$250,000 would come from the ending balance of the tobacco settlement/Children's Initiative Funds.

**Meeting of the Minds:** The meeting of the minds topic was the proposed funding of all-day kindergarten. The ICC and its guests were divided into small groups to discuss the topic and then reported back to the full Council.

**Part C APR/SPP report:** This task force met on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2014. The discussion was detailed and very productive. The SPP is ready for the ICC Chair's signature. Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer moved to approve the SPP. Sharon Hixson seconded the motion. The motion was approved by vote. Marcia will submit the signed SPP today (1/31/14). Sarah Walters shared that, while KDHE is still awaiting the final changes to the new report format (2/2015), they met with a technical assistance facilitator from the Mountain Plains Regional Resource Center to help the Kansas team begin the writing process. The new SPP will be submitted to OSEP to show the changes in the indicators.

**Website Update:** Pamela Beach gave an update on the status of the website and requested help with areas of the website. Work on the website should begin in February with the hopes of going online in late spring. Pamela asked for the Council's help with populating certain areas of the website (newsletter, resources, and FAQ) and asked for Council members to add their name to areas they would like to help with. All website submissions will go to Pamela for approval.

#### **Committee/Work Group Reports:**

**Communication/Collaboration workgroup:** Sabra reported on the last work group meeting. The workgroup is going to look at how the Council communicates as a whole, as well as how we communicate with the LICCs across the state. The group is looking into a survey to gather more information from various stakeholders that they feel would be helpful to their work.

**Website workgroup:** report already given

#### **Agency Reports:**

**DCF:** Carrie Hastings presented on behalf of Kim Kennedy. The Child Support Saving Initiative/529 Program received a \$50,000 grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation, which will be used to broaden their outreach and translate some documents into Spanish. The Building Healthy Families program is a high school teaching resource that will eventually extend down to middle schools. Family Services Protection has added two new staff members. Kim Kennedy completed the Head Start State Collaboration Office needs assessment report and Kim will distribute the report upon request. Federal funds cut during the sequester in Fall 2013 may be restored, which will give back not only the original funding, but an additional \$1.025 billion increase to Head Start and Early Head Start.

**KDHE:** Sarah Walters reported that there were several requests from community partners to look at the funding formula. They studied many different formulae and option and are proposing a 12 calendar month cumulative count instead of a 6 month cumulative count. The hope is this change will account for the fluctuation in numbers. Discussion has been held regarding dismissing the live birth rate portion of the count. That change is not recommended.

**Insurance:** No insurance representative present.

**KSDE:** Vera Stroup-Rentier began her new post on January 6<sup>th</sup>. She is working on the transition referral system with her Part C partner at KDHE. Plans are underway to pilot this system from April – June 2014 with full implementation July 1, 2014. The Request for Proposals for the 2014-2015 State Pre-Kindergarten Program will be available in early February. The Kansas Early Learning Standards are posted on the KSDE website: <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3321> for a copy. The Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition Conference is scheduled for April 7-9, 2014 in Salina. The national NAEHCY conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri October 25-28, 2014.

**Families Together:** Families Together is conducting their Family Enrichment Weekend in April in Lawrence, KS.

**Staff Report:** Mr. Bowman gave further details and answered questions about the KDHE budget hearing in House Appropriations Sub-Committee earlier this week. There were lots of questions about the various funding streams accessed by local tiny-k programs. Mrs. Duncan and Doug will jointly testify before the Senate sub-committee. Senator Bowers made a pledge to converse with Chairman Masterson of Ways and Means before the Senate worked this budget.

**Adjournment:** The next Council meeting will be February 28 in Wichita at the Airport Doubletree immediately following the KDEEC conference.

Submit Part C SPP/APR to US Department of Education	KDHE staff	DONE
Create questions for FAQ segment in soon-to-be revamped ICC web site	Various Council members & staff	In Progress

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Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary

Sam Brownback, Governor

## ICC – REPORT – January 2014

### Family Services—Economic and Employment Services

#### HSSCO Report:

##### **HEAD START STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE**

The HSSCO application for grant funding renewal has been submitted to the Region VII Office of Head Start and is awaiting approval. In addition the HSSCO Needs Assessment Report has been finalized and is available for review. If interested in reviewing an electronic copy of the Needs Assessment Report contact the HSSCO Office.

##### **HEAD START & EARLY HEAD START NEWS**

On January 13 Congress released a bill to restore the sequester cut in Head Start. The bill released by the House and Senate Appropriations committees included a total \$1.025 billion increase to Head Start and Early Head Start. In addition to restoring the sequester cut, this increase includes an additional \$500 million for the expansion of Early Head Start and the creation of partnerships with child care.

##### **CDA 2.0/ THE NEW CREDENTIALING PROCESS**

The new CDA process will increase the value of the Candidates experience while keeping with many of the familiar aspects of the Council's framework for determining competency using the 6 CDA Competency Goals and 13 Functional Areas. The CDA Representative and Advisor roles have been converted into one role. In addition the CDA Exam is no longer administered during the Verification Visit by the CD Representative. Instead, the Candidates take the CDA Exam at a time of their choosing at any one of the PearsonVUE testing centers located throughout the country. Also, the CDA assessment fee has increased as of September 1, 2013 from \$325 to \$425. Lastly the Verification Visits include a Professional Portfolio review, review of training documentation, direct observation, and the opportunity for the Candidate to reflect on their strengths and areas of growth. The council has released the new Competency Standards books. These materials offer complete details about the new CDA process. According to the Council this new CDA Credentialing Process seems to be working effectively as shown in the increased numbers of CDA awards granted.

#### **KANSAS EARLY HEAD START UP-DATES**

##### **NEW KEHS PROGRAM MANAGER**

The Department for Children and Families is excited to announce the newest member of our Strengthening Families Services team. On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Heather Mack joined our agency as the Kansas Early Head Start Program Manager. In her new position she will provide support and coordination for the 14 KEHS grantees, represent DCF on various interagency committees, and work closely with the Head Start Association.

## **KEHS GRANT APPLICATIONS**

The 2015 KEHS application has been released, and grantees have been notified of their estimated FY15 awards. Based on the agency's 2 year budget the award amounts for FY 15 are to remain the same as last year. As soon as the DCF budget is approved for FY15, Heather will notify KEHS grantees by email and by letter of the final funding amount.

### **Family Services—Prevention and Protection Services**

#### **Staffing News**

### **Family Services—Child Support Services**

#### **Child Support Savings Initiative (529 program)**

The Child Support Savings Initiative grants noncustodial parents a reduction in State child support arrears of \$2 for every \$1 deposited into a 529 account for the child. The Initiative received a big boost with a \$50,000 grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation. Funds from this grant will be used to broaden our outreach and translate some documents into Spanish. The expanded outreach is scheduled to rollout in mid to late February. As of the end of 2013, CSS had opened twenty accounts with a total of \$5795 invested for the children's higher education.

#### **Building Healthy Families**

Building Healthy Families, a high school teaching resource created as a result of a partnership between the Kansas State Department of Education and the Department for Children and Families, is now in the pilot phase this semester with 85 teachers registering to use the resource in the classroom to reach a projected 4225 students. . The teaching resource covers the following topics: healthy relationships, recognizing abuse, personal and relationship planning, marriage, healthy parenting, family financial literacy, parenting as a team, paternity law, meeting children's needs, and building strong families. This teaching resource Talks are already in the works between KSDE and DCF to come up with a teaching resource for middle school as well.

### **Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services KDHE Report January 29, 2014**

#### **Part C Infant Toddler Funding Formula**

KDHE is proposing a change in the formula to the local tiny-k programs to reflect a 12 calendar month cumulative count vs. a 6 month cumulative count. This is projected to help account for fluctuations in the number of children in the system during the year.

Attached, please find information regarding this proposed change and the projected impact on local programs for the next SFY (2015) as promised at last week's Coordinator Meeting.

The first page of the document is a look at how funding has fluctuated throughout the past few years. The second page is a look at how the proposed funding formula is projected to impact local funding for SFY (2015). Keep in mind that the changes projected for the next SFY (2015) are not a result of a change in the funding formula. Changes in birth rate and total number of children served are greater factors each year.

Other options considered but not recommended:

- Keeping the formula the same –
- KDHE has received consistent feedback that the funding formula needs to be changed because of the fluctuation.
- Doing away with the birth-rate all together –
- This option was rejected because it encourages local programs to make children eligible just to try to get more funding.
- 3 year cumulative count –
- This was rejected because there were not significant changes in the fluctuation of funding compared to the proposed option.

- Census-based funding only –
- Is a very complicated way of looking at things and would require more administrative time/support at KDHE than is currently available
- Changing the ratio of cumulative count to live birth rate –
- This did not have significant impact on the formula.
- Having a “hold harmless” clause in the funding formula –
- This option does not have a stable baseline due to all the fluctuations over the last several years, and a hold harmless provision would make permanent any negative fluctuation, depending on what base year was used.
- Having a ceiling on the percentage of change in funding allowed at the local level –
- Again, this requires more funding than is currently available.
- No matter what, there are always going to be winners and losers in the funding formula, regardless of the funding formula chosen. This is impacted more by demographics than the formula used to distribute funding to the local programs.

As KDHE studied the current funding formula it became evident that regardless of which formula is chosen, the constant up and down movement for the local programs will continue. Each of the funding formula options KDHE studied had fluctuations in funding at the local level. Shifting demographics in the state impact the system in many ways, funding distribution is one of those ways. KDHE recognizes that there are unique issues in every program that impact the need for funding stabilization. There were a variety of options studied and KDHE has made every effort to minimize the negative impact on the local programs. We will continue to monitor the funding formula and may make additional changes on a regular basis, i.e. more often than once every 10 years.

Please provide KDHE with feedback, if you have any by February 15th. – Email to Sarah at [Swalters@kdheks.gov](mailto:Swalters@kdheks.gov) is the best format.

The final decision will be made before the grant applications go out to the local programs in March of 2014.

### **APR**

The Annual performance Report is being presented for the SICC signature. It is due to be submitted on February 3, 2014.

KSDE Report - January 2014

### **Early Childhood Special Education, Section 619** (Submitted by Gayle Stuber & Vera Stroup-Rentier)

KSDE has a new Section 619 Coordinator! We are very pleased to let you know we have filled our Early Childhood position that Tiffany Smith previously held with Vera Stroup-Rentier! Vera is a wealth of experience in the field of early childhood and will be a tremendous asset to our team as well as local districts. Vera began her work on the ECSET services team on January 6, 2014.

Both the Part and Part B program are working on their Transition Referral System. Plans are underway to pilot the system from April to June with full implementation of the system July 1, 2014. This will replace the existing system which is right now done by hand delivering the referrals to the state 619 Coordinator.

### **Technical Assistance System Network (TASN)**

There are many resources available regarding Early Childhood through the KITS – TASN website: [www.kskits.org](http://www.kskits.org) These resources include an Early Childhood Resource Center and a Training Calendar.

**Parents as Teachers** (submitted by Janet Newton)

The Parents as Teachers program is in its second year of data collection using the Foundations for School Success web application. Data collection is working smoothly. The 2012-13 PAT Annual Report is attached and can be found on the KSDE website at:

<http://www.ksde.org/Agency/DivisionofLearningServices/EarlyChildhoodSpecialEducationandTitleServices/EarlyChildhood/ParentsasTeachers/KansasPATAnnualProgramReports.aspx>

**School Readiness Data Initiative** (Submitted by Gayle Stuber)

The Core Planning Team is working to move forward on the development of an Early Childhood Integrated Data System. As part of this work, information on Data Security, Privacy, and confidentiality of data is being shared to School Readiness Data Stakeholders on February 4, 2014. The School Readiness Framework (2012) provides the structure for the Data Initiative work.

**State Pre-Kindergarten (formerly the Four Year Old At-Risk) Program** (Submitted by Gayle Stuber)

The RFP for the 2014-15 State Pre-Kindergarten Program will be available in early February.

**Kansas Preschool Program (formerly the Pre-K Program)** (Submitted by Gayle Stuber)

KPP leaders from the sites of the Kansas Preschool Program continue to meet and get training on developing their KPP Leadership Team for MTSS. The first face to face meeting was held January 9, 2014 in Topeka.

**Kansas Early Learning Standards** (Submitted by Gayle Stuber)

The Kansas Early Learning Standards are posted on the KSDE website. Please go to:

<http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=3321> for your copy. In the past, the Early Learning Standards have been printed for distribution. Due to the added costs and the reality that in the past several years, fewer than half of the printed copies were ever requested, no hard copies will be made of this revision.

**Homeless** (Submitted by Tate Toedman)

The 2014 national conference was in Kansas City—an exciting opportunity to support children and families and to learn more about programs and supports as professionals. We have started working on the 2014 national NAEHCY conference that will be in Kansas City, Missouri at the Westin Crown Center October 25-28. We typically have between 900-1000 attendees.

Our Kansas Statewide Homeless Coalition conference is scheduled for April 7-9, 2014 at the Ramada Inn and Convention Center in Salina. See the attached flyers for an overview and a request for proposals.