

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

**DRAFT MEETING MINUTES – Topeka, KS – DCF Learning Center**

**August 16, 2013**

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Duncan, Chair & Governor's Rep.  
Tiffany Smith, KS Dept. of Education  
Sabra Shirrell, KDHE  
Susan Threinen, Provider Member  
Janice Smith, Public Member  
Dr. David Lindeman, Regents Rep.  
Sharon Hixson, Public Member  
Pamela Beach, Dept. for Children & Families

## **MEMBERS ON TELEPHONE**

Deb Voth, Provider Member  
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Provider  
Melissa Schelhamer, Parent Member

## **NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Doug Bowman, Coordinator  
Kim Kennedy, Head Start Collaboration  
Sarah Walters, KDHE  
Nancy Krase, Wichita (phone)

## **MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE**

Ks. Insurance Department Rep.  
Darla Nelson-Metzger, Parent Member  
Tammy Scheopner, Parent Member  
House Position  
Senate Position

Mary Duncan, Chair of the Kansas ICC, called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked for introductions from those around the table and on the telephone.

## **ADOPTION/APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Janice Smith moved and Tiffany Smith seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously. The minutes from April 26<sup>th</sup> were distributed by e-mail. Tiffany Smith moved approval. Susan Threinen seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

## **PUBLIC FORUM**

No one chose to speak at this time.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The task chart from previous meetings was reviewed.

**WEB SITE UPDATE** The small work group that has been addressing this issue continued to make progress over the summer. A July meeting with INK representatives (Information Network for Kansas) reviewed a first rough draft. A template will soon be available for review. The goal is to maintain the existing web site till the new one is launched. Work will continue on the new web site even after it is launched.

### **Formula Used in Distributing Part C funds among the 37 Local Providers**

A brief history was given of this formula which has not changed in almost 20 years. The possibility of revamping the formula was considered several times in the past, but it has remained constant. This formula utilizes two factors in distributing funds: a three-year average birth rate (25%), and a six-month cumulative count of children served (75%). After a brief discussion, that included a review of the Council's role to advise and assist, a decision was made to create a work group. Volunteers included: Deb Voth, Kathy K-O, Sharon Hixson, Mary Duncan, and Kim Kennedy.

{Since that time, KDHE has asked for more time to consider the issue internally. The work group will await further notice, if and when it is needed.}

**Committees** None of the Council committees had anything to report other than the written summary of their year's efforts that will be attached as an appendix to the Annual Report. There will be elections for Executive Committee open slots at the September 13<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

Written reports will be sent out electronically, and are attached to these minutes.

### **Chair/Staff Report**

Staff reported two trips to local ICCs. Mr. Bowman went to Manhattan last month and will be in Salina next week. Additionally, he spoke about the purpose of the LICC to the new Coordinator training class in July, and to the entire Part C community on a recent webinar concerning the revised Part C policy manual.

Mr. Bowman commented on our status with appointments. Several outgoing members have received letters thanking them for their service. The Chair and staff are also preparing a nice certificate suitable for framing. The two legislative members will await the next meeting of the Legislative Coordinating Council.

There was a brief discussion around the Annual Report. Staff was directed to add the document summarizing committee work as an appendix. Pamela Beach moved adoption of the Annual Report with that minor edit. Tiffany Smith seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mrs. Duncan spoke about next month's strategic planning session. In regards to standing committees, it was the consensus that less is more. We should reduce the number, when possible. Furthermore, Council members should NOT be told that

they are required to serve on at least one committee. Voluntary participation will lead to more enthusiasm by all. We will take a break on the 13<sup>th</sup> for lunch, and walk up the hill to the Kanza Café, where everyone will purchase their own meal.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

The next meeting of the Kansas ICC will be at 9 am on Friday, September 13<sup>th</sup> in the DCF Learning Center at Second and MacVicar in Topeka. It will be our annual strategic planning session.

Task	By Whom	Deadline
Distribute ICC Annual Report	Staff	8/30/2013
Finalize Strategic Planning Session logistics	Staff and Chair	8/30/2013

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Phyllis Gilmore, Secretary

Sam Brownback, C

**ICC - REPORT - August 2013**

**HSSCO Report:**

- The HSSCO office is working in collaboration with the Kansas Head Start Association and Head Start Technical Assistance & Training to sponsor a state-wide school readiness summit. A date for the summit has not be set . However, a late February date of 2014 is being considered. At this time the team is in the early stages of planning. More information will be reported as the logistics unfold.
- Edits of the Early Learning Standards are currently being finalized and are expected to be posted by the end of August. In the next phase of the revisions

we will be working on a training and implementation piece. More information will come out later as the training and implementation plan is developed.

- A follow up from the 2012 annual HSSCO Needs Assessment Survey is being conducted. The follow up questionnaire will be sent to all Kansas Head Start programs. Priority areas to be highlighted are: Health Services, Services for Children Experiencing Homelessness, Family Literacy, School Transitions and Alignment with k-12. The purpose of the needs assessment is to measure the level of coordination and collaboration of early childhood services in the communities that serve Head Start children and families. All questionnaire responses are due back to the HSSCO office by Tuesday, October 1.

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

**Alternative Response.** During the 2012 legislative session, PPS secured funding for 20 additional Social Worker positions. The new staff was hired in September 2012, trained on the Solution Based Casework prevention model and in November 2012 began providing new prevention services to Kansas families that are at risk of having children removed from their home. Initial feedback has been encouraging and feedback from staff involved has been positive.

**New Child Welfare Contracts.** PPS negotiated and awarded new Foster Care and Family Preservation contracts in December 2012. The new contracts included increased emphasis on maintaining children in the homes when it is safe to do so as well as providing emphasis on placement and permanency plans that focus on the well-being of children placed in the Secretary's care. The enhanced services are being accomplished with the benefit of substantially reduced costs compared to the current contract. The new contracts go into effect July 1, 2013.

**Regional Reorganization.** PPS is completing a reorganization of regional operations. As a result of the reorganization, each region will maintain three processes that mirror the primary focus of PPS activities. The processes are Assessment and Protection, Support Services and Foster Care Contract Administration. All structures and responsibilities are standardized among the regions which will enhance the agency's ability to provide the same services and meet expected levels of services provided throughout the state. The new structure also provides the staffing necessary to meet the increased monitoring of child welfare providers as required under the new contracts.

**National Governor's Conference Award.** The proposal submitted by PPS for the Three Branch Institute on Child Social and Emotional Well-Being was one of eight states selected to participate to develop and implement a single, coordinate plan of action to increase the level of social, emotional and physical well-being for children in the State's child welfare system who have experienced maltreatment, trauma or

exposure to violence. Representatives from DCF and the Kansas Executive and Legislative branches will participate in this effort.

**Adoption Recruitment Campaign.** PPS contracted with Sunflower Broadcasting to develop strategies and produce radio and television campaigns to reach out to prospective adoptive parents. The ads that have been produced have been exceptional in quality. Ads are broadcast statewide through a variety of media methods, including radio, television and web-based message boards.

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

**Kansas Child Support Savings Initiative - 529 Program.** CSS, along with the Kansas State Treasurer's Office, implemented the Kansas Child Support Savings Initiative. This is a 529 savings account (also referred to as a child college savings account). It can also be used for technical school and other higher education. CSS non-custodial parents (NCP) will be able to contribute to their child's account and receive a reduction in State arrears of \$2 for every \$1 deposited into the account. The only qualifier is that the NCP must pay current support plus \$1 towards arrears during the month of the deposit. If the case has arrears, the NCP must make a \$1 payment towards those arrears during the month of deposit.

All 529 savings accounts will have Kansas Department for Children and Families as the account owner. We will facilitate opening of the accounts, updating information, submitting investment change requests and withdrawals. The child can withdraw the funds for payment of any qualified higher education expenses. If the child never attends any higher education opportunities then the funds can be withdrawn by the child for any reason at age 25. Any penalties associated with that withdrawal would be borne by the child.

**Privatization.** CSS released and will award full service privatization contracts across the state this fiscal year and implement next fiscal year. Privatization will increase Kansas' federal performance measures, specifically helping families by increasing collections by more than \$50 million within four years.

**Building Healthy Families.** CSS along with the Kansas State Department of Education, Family and Consumer Sciences area have worked together to develop a course for high school students called Building Healthy Families. This curriculum will provide information on child support and other related matters to help teens understand the impact of the choices they make. This curriculum will be offered to all Family and Consumer Sciences teachers throughout the state during the summer of 2013. The course will begin in the fall of 2013.

### **Family Services—Economic and Employment Services**

**Economic and Employment Services Restructuring.** Economic and Employment Services (EES), part of the Family Services Division, is responsible for the development and execution of program policies in support of the agency's mission

and federal requirements for a wide array of assistance programs including cash assistance, employment services, energy assistance, food assistance, child care, federal food distribution and Kansas Early Head Start. EES also utilizes several grants and contracts in the provision of services including employment, child care quality initiatives, domestic violence services and nutrition education. The Economic and Employment Services Division has been reorganized to better align with the agency's objectives to strengthen families, safely reduce the number of children in care, promote employment, exercise responsible stewardship of public resources and build public/private partnerships.

A new **Employment Services Section** has been added to focus not only on promoting employment, but increasing personal responsibility. Additionally, EES will be restructured to include a **Strengthening Family Services Section**. The goal of the new Strengthening Family Services Section is to enhance current family engagement activities, to help provide the resources and skills parents need to nurture their families and promote the well-being of children by strengthening families. The **Benefits Section** develops eligibility and benefit policies for the following programs: Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), energy assistance and refugee and federal food distribution programs. The policies issued by central management are executed by staff located in the Department's four regions and community organizations in the case of the federal food commodity programs. This section also manages the nutrition education contract. The **Program Integrity Section** oversees the measurement, reporting and review of eligibility determinations and benefits payment errors (both over- and under-payments) and application processing timeliness. It also conducts special quality control reviews for the SNAP, TANF and Child Care programs. Performance management, data reporting, quality assurance and system management needs of EES are met by staff of the **EES Systems Automation Team**. The Systems Automation section manages three major statewide automated systems: KAECSES, KSCARES and the energy assistance system. The systems automate the case work performed by field staff and provide information for reporting requirements. The section also includes DCF management of the EBT contractor, system contact with the State Medicaid agency as well as data and ad-hoc reporting.

**Employment Services.** As one step towards the mission of encouraging personal responsibility, Economic and Employment Services added resources to increase both the number of consumers meeting Federal work participation requirements and the number of employment resources available. A statewide Employer Development Manager was hired to coordinate services with the Kansas Department of Commerce staff and regional DCF staff as well as to conduct outreach to employers. This unclassified position is joined by four other unclassified positions, one within each of the four regions of the Kansas Department for Children and Families. These positions will enhance existing work programs and employment services, while working closely with community providers and employers to develop new partnerships. The positions are located in Hutchinson, Overland Park, Topeka and Wichita. The unit also includes the Work Programs Manager who is responsible for employment-related policies and procedures.

### **Strengthening Family Services. Kansas Early Head Start Program**

**Management** includes new initiatives to enhance current family engagement activities, provide funding for new opportunities to help provide the resources and skills parents need to nurture their families, promote the well-being of children by strengthening KEHS families. Activities included are financial literacy, adult literacy, health literacy, fatherhood, and healthy relationships. **Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) management and initiatives** assist low-income parents and families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work or support their participation in approved educational or training programs by helping with the cost of child care. In addition, a portion of CCDF funds must be used to enhance child care quality and availability. A partnership with KDHE Child Care Licensing and contracts established with early child care and education partners ensure these requirements are met. **Temporary Aid to Needy Families (TANF) management and initiatives** assist families in achieving self-sufficiency. States receive block grants to design and operate programs that meet one or more of the four TANF purpose areas: provide assistance to needy families so that children can be cared for in their own homes; reduce the dependency of needy parents by promoting job preparation, work and marriage; prevent and reduce unplanned pregnancies among single young adults; and encourage the formation and maintenance of two-parent families. TANF initiatives include Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Services (such as the Safe at Home Program), Solutions Recovery Care Coordination, and JAG-Kansas (Jobs for America's Graduates).

Within the reorganization, the EES Division also transferred supervision of the following EES programs from the field to Central Office: refugee, quality assurance and child care provider enrollment staff. Centralization of supervision has resulted in a more uniform and cohesive service-delivery model for these programs. Position descriptions, job duties and expectations are more uniform and policy is applied more consistently.

**Business Process Redesign (BPR).** BPR involves a re-engineering of the EES workflow. All service centers' business processes were broken down into specific activities and then redesigned into a process-management rather than the traditional caseload-management style. This allowed the division to streamline processes as well as measure and manage the processes more efficiently.

**Modernize Eligibility System.** The Kansas Eligibility Enforcement System (KEES) project began to replace a 25 year old eligibility system. This is a joint partnership between the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) and the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

**Diversion Payment.** A Diversion Payment was made available to first-time adult TANF applicants. It is designed to help TANF-eligible adults with dependent children when there is a crisis or emergency hardship that would endanger their ability to remain employed or to accept an offer of employment.

**Policy Changes in Support of Families.** Changes were made in the treatment of income so married couples now receive similar benefits as unmarried couples.

Children receiving cash assistance are required to be enrolled in school. Tiered penalties were implemented to encourage cooperation with child support service enforcement and work program activities for cash recipients.

**JAG-Kansas.** Communities in Schools (CIS) has received a grant to provide the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG-Kansas) program-model to students in schools across Kansas who are a year or more behind their peers and are at-risk of dropping out of school. The grant will provide services designed to keep students in school through graduation and assist in the transition into the work force to quality jobs.

**Client and Provider Portal (CAPP) Project.** The CAPP Project is a collaborative effort between the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE). The Client Portal is a web portal in which clients are able to enter information to do a high level screening and/or apply for Cash Benefits, Food Assistance, Refugee Assistance or Child Care. The Provider Portal offers information on child care and allows for an online application process for child care providers to apply for a license with KDHE and/or to enroll as a provider with DCF. Other functionality includes reporting, the ability to check the status of an application and providing alerts to agency staff when provider information is updated. The portal can also be used by Kansas Families to access and research child care provider compliance information allowing families the ability to make more informed child care decisions.

### **Family Services—Vocational Rehabilitation Services**

**3,011 Kansans with Disabilities became Employed.** As a result of vocational rehabilitation (VR) services in SFY 2012 through SFY 2013 year-to-date, a total of 3,011 Kansans with disabilities have become employed. When people with disabilities go to work, everyone wins.

- People with disabilities who become employed spend their earnings in local communities on housing, groceries and transportation. They contribute as tax payers. Reliance on public assistance is reduced.
- Employment of people with disabilities is good for Kansas businesses and industries. They have access to qualified employees to meet their workforce needs in a competitive marketplace.
- It's good for the economy. For each dollar earned as a result of a VR placement, there is about \$1.66 in total earnings generated through the economy, according to a study done by Wichita State University. Further, for each person employed through VR, there are about 1.85 total jobs created in the overall economy.

**Disability Determination Services (DDS) Earns National Recognition.** In 2012, the Social Security Administration awarded the Kansas DDS its prestigious national *Commissioner's Citation for Outstanding Performance*. DDS was recognized for exceptional performance in quality, timeliness, staff efficiency and fraud prevention/investigation. This was the seventh year in a row that DDS received this



award. No other state in the country has matched this exceptional level of performance for seven consecutive years.

**Increased Capacity and Improved Services for Older Citizens who are Blind.** RS has redesigned the service delivery system for the Independent Living Program for Older Individuals who are Blind (OIB). This program assists clients to continue living in their own homes and communities, rather than moving to more costly institutional settings. Now, rather than maintaining a centralized program operating out of Topeka, services are provided through grants to community-based organizations with expertise in serving this population. As a result, services are readily available in all 105 counties of the state. The capacity to provide specialized orientation and mobility services has increased significantly with the certification of three additional specialists employed by the grantees. The number of clients being served has increased by 36% compared to 2010.

**Great Expectations Initiative.** The purpose of this initiative is to increase the competitive, integrated employment of individuals with significant intellectual disabilities. Employment is an alternative to the waiting list for HCBS waiver services, non-work day activities or sheltered employment. Implementation of this systems-change effort was targeted to the Wichita and Salina areas. In the first two years of implementation, extensive training was provided on the evidence-based practice called discovery/supported employment, which is designed to achieve a better, long-lasting job match for the client's skills and interests. At the end of the two years, a total of 192 individuals applied to participate in the program demonstrating their desire for real community jobs. 182 individuals were referred to local placement providers trained in the discovery model. 47 individuals were placed in competitive, integrated employment; 75 clients are participating in ongoing job placement activities; and 18 clients achieved stability on the job. A replication guide has been developed and RS is exploring options to expand the project.

**FY13 initiatives of FBCI include:**

**Kansas Strong Dads.** The *Kansas Strong Dads* program was designed and implemented to engage fathers frequently in playing, reading, talking and caring for their children in order to assist in their child's early head start and future success in school. The program encourages and equips men to engage as fathers in the lives of their children from birth to age three in support of the mission of the agency.

- Over 1,000 parents participated in the Strong Dads program in over 27 events across the state

- Over 1,000 hours of father engagement training was provided to 161 Kansas Early Head Start staff
- The Kansas Strong Dads curricula was created as a resource for future use which includes a Facilitator's guide for large group usage, a Home Visitor's guide for family usage, a Handbook for the fathers and the Strong Dads Kit
- Data was collected from participating families that will be used to assess the program and the need for future fatherhood and family strengthening programming
- On-going public awareness was developed for the Kansas Strong Dads efforts through our website at [KansasStrongDads.com](http://KansasStrongDads.com) and 12 distinct fatherhood PSAs

**Victims of Domestic Minor Sex Trafficking.** In response to the passing of Senate Substitute for House Bill No. 2034, DCF is creating a Rapid Response Team as well as a Staff Secure Facility for child victims of human trafficking. A basic human trafficking training was provided in four locations across the state for social workers and highway patrol. Training for Prevention and Protection leadership staff has been provided as we prepare for the Rapid Response Team and the Staff Secure Facility. Training for community leaders was launched in Olathe, KS and will continue as part of the foundation for a continuum of care for victims of domestic minor sex trafficking.

Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

August 16, 2013

**KDHE - Part C *tiny K* Program – Sarah Walters**

- Kansas Infant Toddler-Services received their Determinations from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and we met requirements.
- All follow up from the August 2011 verification visit with OSEP has been completed.
- The Attorney General's office recently approved the Part C State Regulations! A public hearing will be scheduled in the near future.
- A committee of local programs across the state are working with state staff and the software contractor to "work out the bugs" on the Statewide Individualized Family Service Plan document, so that it will automatically fill with previously loaded data about the child and family. Local tiny-k programs are volunteering to provide the state with feedback about its "user friendliness" and accuracy throughout the fall with implementation starting as soon as practicable in 2014.

- Strategic Planning for the Part C Infant Toddler state level program has continued with January Scott, at the Topeka Public Library. There was a meeting held on August 7, 2013, and another is scheduled for October 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Two staff attended the Federal Office of Special Education Conference in Washington D.C. the first week in August. There was much talk about finances, a “system of payments” and “results-driven accountability”.
- On August 9<sup>th</sup>, the KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research conducted an annual survey and review of the Part C *tiny k* Infant Toddler Program, on behalf of the Children’s Initiative Fund. CIF gives Part C a large part of their annual funding. The interview went quite well and we expect to hear feedback within the month.
- Upcoming meetings- 9-5-New Coordinator Meeting, 9-11-Procedure Manual Webinar, 9-20-Coordinator’s meeting, 9-17 and 18- Mediation Training in Salina at the Kansas Highway Patrol.

### **MCH Unit**

- The Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems: Building Health Through Integration grant has been approved by MCHB in Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)! This will be a collaborative grant, in which all Early Childhood programs will work together to build a state wide developmental screening system.
- A new FOA application for FFY’13 Maternal, Infant and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program Formula Grant funding was sent in August 9. This is a non-competitive continuation application and was composed of a progress report, budget and timeline for the coming year.
- A Non-Competing Continuation Progress Report for the MIECHV Development Grant funding was completed August 5. This is required to receive the FFY’13 funds (year 2 of 2 year award).
- On behalf of the Children’s Cabinet, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research conducted an annual survey and review of the programs that receive Children’s Initiative Fund (CIF) dollars. This includes the Healthy Start Home Visitor program and Kansas Infant Death and SIDS (KIDS) Network contract. Surveys were completed in July and in-person interview meetings were held August 13.

**August 2013**

**KSDE Early Childhood**

The KSDE Early Childhood webpage <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=2284> has information, reports and documents about Early Childhood programs, including Parents as Teachers, ECSE Part B, Kansas the State Pre-Kindergarten, the Kansas Preschool Program and our Birth to Five State Early Childhood Documents from our regional summits.

**Early Childhood Special Education (619 Part B)** (submitted by Tiffany Smith)

The KSDE EC webpage also includes Part B ECSE Contacts across the state as well as the KDHE Part C tiny-k contacts. <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4745>. If you would like to add or update Part B ECSE contact information, please contact Beccy Strohm at [bstrohm@ksde.org](mailto:bstrohm@ksde.org)

**Transition from Part C to Part B (ECSE) Part B Indicator 12**

Transition resources are posted  
<http://kskits.org/ta/transitionPartCtoPartB/index.shtml>

**Early Childhood Outcomes- Outcomes Web System (OWS)- Part B Indicator 7**

Upcoming Webinar: Where Do We Go From Here? Integrating Early Childhood Outcomes (ECO): Improving Practices In tiny k and Part B/Preschool Programs, Please register at <http://www.kskits.org/~kskits/cgi-bin/CollCal/EventDetails.php?EventID=893>

Understanding your ECO Data Webinar is posted to assist local programs with improving their outcome data. This information is posted at <http://www.kskits.org/ta/ECOOutcomes/Index.shtml>

**Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) Part B Indicator 6**

Early Childhood LRE page  
[http://kskits.org/ta/preschool\\_LRE\\_Resources/index.shtml](http://kskits.org/ta/preschool_LRE_Resources/index.shtml)

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

All PAT programs were funded for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

Congratulations to programs that received funding through one of the new Early Childhood Block Grants. There are a number of programs that are using those funds to expand services to 3 to 5 year olds. The KSDE Foundations for School Success Team plans to add data collection for PAT 3 to 5 year olds in 2013-14 and will be used by Kansas Preschool Programs in 2014-15.

The next PAT Foundational Curriculum/Model Implementation Training in Kansas will be August 19-23, 2013 in Kansas City Kansas. Other options for training outside of Kansas are listed in the PAT National training calendar at

[www.parentsasteachers.org](http://www.parentsasteachers.org)

**School Readiness Project** (Submitted by Gayle Stuber)

The School Readiness Framework and the Priority Policy Questions developed over the past three years provide a foundation for future work in early childhood data systems. Lori McReynolds will be a lead in this work.

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

The State Pre-Kindergarten Program was formerly named the Four Year Old At-Risk Program. The name was changed to better reflect the inclusive nature of the program. The funding for current State Pre-Kindergarten Programs was maintained. However, there is no funding for new children or new programs so the number of children being served has not been increased for several years. Teachers in the program will be collecting data on a randomly selected sample of 10 children in each of their classrooms using the finalized KELI-4 instrument. Information on classroom practices and family practices will also be collected and entered into the Early Childhood Success in School web application. This is the third year of using the Early Childhood Success in School web application and the instruments have been finalized so reports will be available by the end of this year of data collection.

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

The Kansas Preschool Program—KPP-- is starting a three year grant cycle with new components that build upon the work of the last 8 years plus the work of a

Practitioner Group that developed a list of quality program components based upon research and evidence. The 12 sites that have been involved in the KPP will continue on in the grant, adding in the new components over the next three years. The Community-based sites (Head Start, Community Child Care) will participate in the data collection through the Foundations for School Success application, completing the same instruments as the State –Pre-Kindergarten programs.

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

The final editing of the Kansas Early Learning Standards will be completed by August 16<sup>th</sup> and the document sent to graphics to prepare for a posting on the KSDE website. Information will be sent out to all early childhood groups so they can link to the document. Other components of the document will be revised over the coming months. Training on the Standards and future components of the document is in the process of being developed. Specifics will be shared as the work is completed.

**Homeless** (Submitted by Tate Toedman)

We are planning on having our final data for the 012-2013 school year finalized by the middle to end of September.

This year's NAEHCY national conference will be in Atlanta, Georgia November 2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup>. Find out more information about next year's and past years' conferences under the conference tab on the newly redesigned [NAEHCY](#) website. The 2104 conference will be at Crown Center, Kansas city, Missouri.

We are currently working on setting the times and dates for our statewide conference which we plan on having in Salina, KS this Spring.

The KSDE homeless website is available at <http://www.ksde.org/Default.aspx?tabid=372>