

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

Strategic Planning Meeting Minutes – Topeka, KS
September 13, 2013

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Duncan, Chair and Governor's Representative
Pamela Beach, Department for Children and Families
Susan Threinen, Provider Member

Darla Nelson-Metzger, Parent Member
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Provider Member
Dr. David Lindeman, Regents Representative
Melisa Schellhamer, Parent Member
Tammy Scheopner, Parent Member
Sabra Shirrell, Kansas Department of Health & Environment

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Coordinator
Kathy Johnson, TARC
Sarah Walters, Kansas Department of
Health and Environment
Kim Kennedy, Head Start Collaboration

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Matthew Connell, Provider Member
Sharon Hixson, Public Member
Kansas Insurance Department Rep.
Representative Position
Senate Position
Janice Smith, Public Member

Mary Duncan, Chair of the Kansas ICC, called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked for introductions, to include thoughts about the hope the members want to bring to the populations served by the Council.

Mr. Bowman updated the Council on the status of appointments. Matthew Connell, provider member from Garden City, has been recently appointed. Tiffany Smith, representative from the Kansas State Department of Education has submitted her resignation from the Council as she has taken a position outside of the state agency that she represented. Mr. Bowman, at the request of the Council, will contact the Governor's Appointments office to check on the status of the parent position and the Head Start position.

Mrs. Duncan read the Mission Statement of the Council and distributed a paper on the Functions of, and the Procedures for, the State ICC. This was a handout from John Copenhaver in past years.

Mr. Bowman expanded on an idea proposed by Janice Smith, Public Member, at the August 2013 meeting with regard to committee work. Ms. Smith suggested that the Council revisit our committee structure, including participation. Committees would be those mandated by our by-laws (Executive Committee), as well as those considered as long term, with specific work groups under them to focus on certain issues. Work groups would be decided as a Council, with specific tasks to accomplish. Participation is voluntary. When a work group has finished a project and approved it as a group, they would present their product to the Council for approval.

Mrs. Duncan asked the group to work in small groups to review a variety of documents/information/products and then share a document that they felt was hopeful and beneficial for the work of the Council. Each group nominated a spokesperson to share their results. Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer spoke for her group and shared their desire to work on collaboration and communication between all providers – agencies at the state

and local level – community partners, and parents. Dave spoke on behalf of his group. They felt that the product should drive the work group and their hope was to determine how to work collaboratively and braid financial resources while maintaining the integrity of each program/agency as individual entities.

Darla Nelson-Metzger shared the Step Ahead at Age Three document as a great product for parents to help them understand the law with regard to transitioning at age 3.

After some discussion, the Council determined two committees: Executive and Website. They further decided upon two work groups: Communication /Collaboration, and APR/SPP. Those in attendance then divided into either the website committee, or one of the two work groups to work in small groups. They were tasked with determining the structure of the committee/work group, the goals and tasks that would lead to a final product and a potential agenda item/s for their first meeting as a group.

Part C APR/SPP Work Group

Goal: Prior to the deadline for submission to OSEP (Office of Special Education), the Part C APR/SPP work group of the State ICC will have reviewed all pertinent documents. They will then submit a report to the full Council, which may then authorize the ICC Chair to sign approval for submission of the APR/SPP to OSEP.

Tasks:

- 1) Request KDHE to review with the Council requirements for submission
- 2) Assist as requested by KDHE in supporting development of document
- 3) Review draft document
- 4) Request full Council review and approval prior to OSEP submission date.

Website Committee

Priorities: The Web Site Committee will likely utilize smaller, specific work groups designated to develop products that are subsequently identified. This will help to ensure the new website successfully accomplishes the mission of the State ICC.

Agenda items for October 4th 4:00 pm conference call:

- 1) Refine work product from the full list
- 2) Designate phases of development
- 3) Designate plan to recruit workgroup members and ask Executive Committee for time at the October meeting to do so.

Communication and Collaboration Work Group

Goal: To identify the communication and collaboration challenges between community partners

Tasks:

- 1) Survey programs/agencies/LICCs
- 2) Identify, based on survey results, key issues in communication and collaboration between partners that can be addressed by the State ICC
- 3) Prioritize issues
- 4) Action steps

Executive Committee

Elections were held to fill the vacant, open positions within the Executive Committee. The current openings are: Vice Chairperson, and two open positions. Council by-laws state that the Executive Committee must also have a past Chairperson as part of its committee makeup. Discussion was held regarding this section of the by-laws: as the most recent past Chairpersons of the Council are no longer members of the Council. It was

determined to go forward with elections for the open positions, and to leave the Past Chair position vacant. Melisa Shellhamer and Tammy Scheopner, both parent members on the Council, were elected to fill the open positions. The Vice Chair position was chosen by the Chair (as the by-laws direct). Pamela Beach accepted the position of Vice Chairperson. Congratulations to all!

Future Council Meetings

The Council Calendar of meetings for the year was determined: *10/25/13 at the DCF Learning Center, *11/20/13 in combination with SEAC (ICC will meet in the afternoon on its own), 12/20/13 meeting will be held only if a quorum is determined by 12/6/13, *1/31/14, 2/28/14 in conjunction with the KDEC conference in Wichita, 4/25/14, and 6/13/14 for our next Strategic Planning meeting.

* Possible ITV meetings

The Council meeting was adjourned.

Our next Meeting is set for Friday, October 25th.

September 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

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.

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 have been completed and the document sent to graphics to prepare for a posting on the KSDE website. Once the final version has been posted, 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 2nd through 5th. Find out more information about next year's and past years' conferences under the conference tab on the newly redesigned [NAEHCY](http://www.naehcy.org) 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>

Office of the Secretary
915 SW Harrison St., 6th Floor
Topeka, KS 66612-1354



Phone: (785) 296-3271
Fax: (785) 296-4685
www.dcf.ks.gov

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 been 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: KAECSSES, 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 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.