

## ***ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2007 – June 30, 2008***

### **Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services**

The mission of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services is to ensure that a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services is available in Kansas to all children with or at risk for developmental delays from birth through age 5 and their families.

### ***INTRODUCTION***

The Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council is based in both federal law and state statute. We serve as an advisory body with most of our members appointed by the Governor. Our area of focus concerns children with disabilities (or developmental delays) aged birth through five years and their families.

### ***CCECDS STRATEGIC PLAN - 2007***

Goal #1 - Maximize all funding for the Birth through Age Five System

Examine any changes in Medicaid from settlement	October 1, 2007	Funding Committee
Explore impact of Health Care Reforms	December 1, 2007	Funding Committee
Detail unmet infrastructure needs of State ICC and various state agencies	January 1, 2008	Funding Committee
Anticipate possible changes in funding system	April 1, 2008	Funding Committee

Goal #2 - Enhance ICC Role in Advocacy for Young Children and Families

Clarify Role of ICC staff	On-going	Advocacy Committee
Delineate ICC position on Sound Start proposal	August 1, 2007	<b><i>DONE</i></b>
Establish relationship with Coalition for School Readiness	October 15, 2007	<b><i>DONE</i></b>
Enhance relationships with all advocacy efforts on behalf of Kansas children and families	April 1, 2008	Partnerships Committee
Enhance relationship between State ICC and LICCs in local communities	March 1, 2008	Partnerships Committee

Goal #3 - Improve Services to Young Children and Families

Monitor Autism Waiver Proposal & Implementation	April 1, 2008	Advocacy Committee
Advise State Agencies on State Improvement Plans	November 15, 2007	Advocacy Committee
Review data on shortages of qualified personnel	March 1, 2008	Advocacy Committee
Support Early Childhood Mental Health system	May 1, 2008	Advocacy Committee

Goal #4 – Monitor Legislative/State Agency Policies

Monitor any Change in Part C Lead Agency Status	February 15, 2008	Executive Committee
Monitor proposed State Office of Early Childhood & any subsequent changes	December 1, 2007	Executive Committee
Advise/Assist in Implementing State Regulations for IDEA	March 1, 2008	Partnerships Committee

***ACTIVITIES***

Our activities include, for the most part (but are not limited to): providing information regarding budgets and the creation of policy by testifying in the state legislature, clarifying uncertainties by requesting information from agencies, responding to and providing assistance to local communities when requested, and advising/assisting the Governor and state agencies as they implement public policy. We also provide information to enhance ongoing collaboration among state agencies and our local partners. We monitor activity in the Statehouse and share that information with stakeholders across the state. Participation with other formal and informal groups helps to assure that all children, including those with delays and disabilities, are a part of all ongoing service program development activities and advocacy efforts.

The Kansas ICC, as a whole, conducts its business in monthly meetings. The Executive Committee meets monthly to assure all matters are taken care of in a timely manner, as well as to prepare for each meeting of the full Council. Additional work is accomplished by standing committees. During this year the Kansas ICC had three standing committees: Funding, Advocacy, and Partnerships.

During this past year, 7,009 children aged birth to three years and their families received services by *tiny-k* (Part C) networks and 9,608 children aged three through five were served by Part B of IDEA school districts, cooperatives, and interlocals.

## ***HIGHLIGHTS***

A list of specific accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2008 would include:

- A letter was sent to the entire Kansas Congressional delegation expressing concern around proposed changes in the administration of the Medicaid program. The proposed changes would have adversely affected school districts and other providers of services under the Medicaid program. Subsequent to that written communication and other advocacy efforts, these changes were rescinded by the Obama administration.
- As a result of the efforts of the Kansas ICC and many other partners, the 2008 Kansas Legislature increased the state appropriation/funding for Part C by one million dollars for FY 2009
- Another highly successful parent advocacy training was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners on October 19-20, 2007, with 130 parents benefiting from the basic tutorial in policy-making, and how best to influence it.
- The Kansas ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan for Part C of IDEA. Particular attention was given to the data surrounding outcomes.
- The Kansas ICC worked collaboratively with SRS and other stakeholders in monitoring the implementation of the new Medicaid waiver for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Another highly successful *tiny-k* Day “Under the Dome” advocacy event was conducted on 3/12/2008. Over two-thirds of the Kansas legislators received a personal visit from one of over three dozen constituents who informed him/her of the importance of Part C services and the need for more state funding.
- A Kansas ICC informative brochure was created.

## ***KANSAS ICC ROSTER***

### **PARENT MEMBERS:**

Richard Martinez (Topeka), Jennifer Rojas (Great Bend), Maria Martinez (Hays), Tiffanie Krentz (Topeka), Julie Broski (Overland Park)

### ***PROVIDER MEMBERS***

Susan Carriger (Overland Park), Nancy Krase (Wichita), DebVoth (Wichita), Tom Kohmetscher (Wellington), Dr. Letitia Taylor (Overland Park)

## ***PUBLIC MEMBERS***

Sharon Hixson (Hutchison), Tom Laing (Topeka), Dr. Eva Horn (Lawrence), Dr. Linda Mitchell (Wichita)

## ***LEGISLATORS***

Senator Julia Lynn ( Olathe), Representative Melody McCray-Miller (Wichita)

## ***AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES***

Dr. David Lindeman (Board of Regents), Linda Kenney (Kansas Department of Health and Environment), Colleen Riley (Kansas State Department of Education), Alice Womack (Social and Rehabilitation Services), Scott Bruner Kansas Health Policy Authority – Medicaid), Kate Wolff (Governor’s Office), John Meetz (Kansas Insurance Department)

## ***KANSAS ICC MEETINGS, LOCATIONS, AND ACTIONS***

July 13, 2007 Topeka

Heard presentation from the Coalition for School Readiness concerning its advocacy efforts. Heard a report on pending changes in Medicaid. Advised Kansas Department of Health and Environment to provide the Part C networks more training on Medicaid issues. Subsequently, key Kansas Health Policy Authority staff made presentations at regional Part C meetings. Kansas ICC staff reported on observing the State Department of Education audit staff training for categorical aid funding. Testimony regarding the SRS budgeting process was requested (see Appendix).

August 3, 2007 Topeka

Heard a presentation from the University of Kansas Beach Center on Disabilities regarding their project to gather feedback on proposed Part C federal regulations. Further discussed Coalition for School Readiness and how its activities relate to the Kansas ICC. Requested testimony for the 2010 Commission (See Appendix). Summarized our survey of local Part C providers regarding Sound Start. Provided testimony on same for the Legislative Educational Planning Committee. (See Appendix). Staff and Chair were asked to meet with Secretary Bremby to discuss budget concerns. This meeting was held On August 23,2007.

September 7, 2007 Hays

Approved a policy on joining other organizations. (See Appendix) The Autism Task Force was discussed. Revised the Kansas ICC by-laws. The Annual Strategic Plan was adopted.

October 5, 2007 Topeka

A further edit of the Kansas ICC by-laws was approved. Article V was edited. A letter to the Kansas Congressional delegation advising them about our concerns surrounding proposed changes to Medicaid was requested. (See Appendix) A brochure for the Kansas ICC brochure was requested to be developed. Executive Committee elections were conducted. Dr. Eva Horn was selected to fill a two year term.

November 2, 2007 Parsons

A letter to the Coalition for School Readiness detailing our policy position on joining other organizations was developed and sent. Created an ad hoc task force to suggest revisions to child care regulations. A letter to the State Department of Education concerning auditing was developed and sent. (See Appendix).

December 7, 2007 Topeka, and Interactive TV sites in Parsons, Hays, & Clearwater  
A local Part C provider spoke to the Kansas ICC relaying concerns around categorical aid funding. A report from those who traveled to Washington for the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center Annual Conference was shared. Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff presented information on Part C data collection and how this produced determinations in their accountability system. The Kansas ICC encouraged agency staff to post this information on the web site.

January 11, 2008 Topeka

Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff presented information on the Part C State Performance Plan and Annual Report. A detailed discussion ensued around parents' rights and other issues. The Kansas ICC agreed with this data and signed the form necessary for the federal grant application. The recommendations regarding child care regulations were presented by the ad hoc task force. They were then approved and forwarded on to agency staff. (See Appendix)

February 1, 2008 Topeka, with Interactive TV in Parsons, Hays, Clearwater, Lenexa, and Dodge City.

Social and Rehabilitation Services staff presented on Infant Mental Health Issues. An ad hoc committee was created to consider these issues. The Chair of the Autism Task Force, Dr. William Craig, shared information from their report to the Legislature and answered questions.

March 7, 2008 Wichita, in conjunction with KDEC Conference

The Disability Rights Center staff gave a presentation on their organization. There was some discussion around the proposed creation of a state advisory council on early childhood issues. The Kansas ICC supported the proposed creation of early childhood block grants. Key Kansas Health Policy Authority staff were requested to provide more information on possible changes to Medicaid reimbursement for case management.

April 4, 2008 Topeka

The previous year's annual report was approved. The Kansas ICC voted to support Infant Mental Health funding in the Omnibus budget bill. (See Appendix). A letter to the

Governor regarding membership of the P-20 Council was requested. (See Appendix)  
The Kansas ICC brochure content was approved. (See Appendix)

May 2, 2008                      Topeka  
The University of Kansas Beach Center for Disability on Disabilities presented information about their web site.

June 6, 2008                      Topeka – Annual Strategic Planning Session  
Work was begun on the next Annual Strategic Plan. Highlights would include the creation of a Policy Committee and moving meeting days to the fourth Friday of each month.

## ***APPENDIX***

Copies of letters to policymakers and testimony to the Legislature

- Letter to Social and Rehabilitation Services regarding Budgeting
- Testimony for 2010 Commission
- Testimony for the Legislative Educational Planning Committee
- Letter to the Kansas Congressional delegation regarding Medicaid funding
- Letter to the Kansas State Department of Education regarding audits
- Recommendations sent to the Kansas Department of Health and Education regarding Child Care Regulations
- Letter to the Governor regarding the creation of a P-20 Council
- Other letters and testimony with various policy recommendations

The Kansas ICC Brochure

Policy Statement on Kansas ICC Membership in other Organizations

Minutes from the monthly meetings of the Kansas ICC (Available at our web site)  
[Kansasicc.org](http://Kansasicc.org)