

January 5, 2010

Governor Mark Parkinson
Kansas Statehouse
Topeka, KS

The Honorable Mark Parkinson:

It is with pleasure that the Kansas State ICC (Interagency Coordinating Council) also known as the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services (CCECDS) distributes these two annual reports: covering the time from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008 and from July 1, 2008 until June 30, 2009.

Although I am relatively new to the Chair position (October, 2009), my volunteer service as a public member of the Kansas ICC includes the two years included in these annual reports.

As a council, we continue to work collaboratively with state agency personnel to meaningfully implement the task of providing “advice and assistance” as stated in federal law (34CFR Part 303.651), and state statute (KSA 74-7802 Sub h). The Council takes very seriously its statutory charge to “recommend policies, procedures, and legislation for effectively providing health, education, and social services” (KSA 74-7802 Sub f). Furthermore, the council's time and efforts remained dedicated to our mission of ensuring that a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services is available in Kansas to all children with or at risk of developmental delays from birth through age five and their families.

In these times of tight budgets, the Kansas ICC has eliminated its only administrative staff support position. Our Coordinator now takes care of all our logistical needs while continuing the day-to-day tasks of providing advise and assistance between and among the members of the ICC, agency administrators and most importantly the direct service providers and the families of the children working throughout the state of Kansas to enhance the lives of Kansas's young children. We are also making good use of technology to conduct many of our meetings electronically, and re-visiting the frequency of our full Council meetings.

If we can be of any further assistance to you or your staff, please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you for all that you do on behalf of our Kansas children and families.

Respectfully submitted,

Eva Horn, PhD
ICC Chair

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009

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.

ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS

STRATEGIC PLAN

GOAL ONE – FUNDING

Work with State Agencies to Maximize All Funding & Other Systemic Resources for the Birth Through Age 5 System

- a. Develop a system to analyze existing/proposed funding systems in relation to the SICC mission and values
 - i. Develop a “scorecard” for analysis
 - ii. Implement usage of same
- b. Gain Information from State Agencies regarding their roles/responsibilities to the SICC and to Direct Services to Families
 - i. Analyze Financial Supports of direct services
 - ii. Examine support of SICC activities
- c. Determine How SICC impacts state budgeting/appropriations at both agency & legislative level

GOAL TWO – ADVOCACY

Enhance SICC Role in Advocacy for Young Children & Families: Local, State, and National Levels

- a. Clarify Role of SICC in Early Learning Coordinating Council
- b. Coordinate and Participate with the tiny-k Foundation, Big Tent Coalition, Children’s Cabinet, & others to better serve young children and their families

- c. Advocate for Young Children with Special Needs and their Families in Upcoming Discussions on Early Childhood Governance Issues
- d. Enhance SICC-LICC communications and advocacy, including a user-friendly process for those seeking to provide input to the State ICC on Policy Barriers
- e. Prepare and Distribute in a Timely Fashion Early Childhood Materials for Candidates in 2008 Elections
- f. Legislative Advocacy
 - i. Set date, plan, and implement the tiny-k Day
 - ii. Coordinate Unified “Message” among various advocates for tiny-k
 - iii. Plan and Assist in Conducting Parent Advocacy Training with various Collaborative Partners
 - iv. Develop strategy for 3-5 services advocacy
- g. Monitor and seek assurances that State programs and policies are accessible to children aged birth through five years with disabilities; and advocate for revisions to programs and policies which are inaccessible

GOAL THREE – IMPROVING SERVICES

Assist State Agencies in Promoting and Supporting Improvement of Services to Young Children & Families

- a. Assist in Identifying Gaps in Services
 - i. By Geographic Areas
 - ii. Regarding Summer Services
 - iii. For Children Aged 3 to 4 Years
 - iv. To Assure Equal Access to Medicaid
- b. Monitor Developments of “Diagnosis Driven” Initiatives
 - i. Monitor Autism Waiver Implementation
 - ii. Monitor Sound Start Proposal
 - iii. Others, when they occur
- c. Monitor BEST Team Process Reviewing Child Care Licensing Regulations

GOAL FOUR – POLICY

Advise and Assist All Regulatory and Policy-Making Entities to Advance the Interests of Children with Disabilities or at risk of Developmental Delays aged Birth Through Five Years and Their Families

- a. The “Values of the Council” as currently published will be reviewed. Any amendments which may be needed will be proposed the State ICC for consideration, amendment, and approval. The “values” as approved by the State ICC will be the core principals by which policy considerations of the Council will be evaluated.

- b. The Council will actively engage in discussions and make recommendations on Early Childhood Governance Issues
- c. Monitor, report on and make recommendations to the Council on any policy and system implications that may arise from changes in Medicaid, Special Education, and Health Insurance plans.
- d. Enhance Relationships and Improve Communications with the Governor and Executive Branch staff and the staff of non-executive branch appointing authorities to enhance the State ICC as a credible source of information/input.

ACTIVITIES

Our activities include, for the most part (but are not limited to): providing information regarding budget impact 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, 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 the standing committees. During this year, the Kansas ICC had four standing committees: Funding, Advocacy, Policy, and Improving Services. A brief report from each committee follows.

Advocacy Committee Report

This committee had a very full plate this year. It collaborated in another successful Parent Leadership Conference. This event was held on October 24-25, with 133 parents participating. The committee also took the lead in organizing *tiny-k* Day, although the *tiny-k* Foundation was instrumental in this productive day. We conducted a survey of local partners to determine the ways that we could enhance their participation in our Kansas ICC meetings. (See Appendix). Our letter of congratulations, which contained basic information regarding services available to young persons with a disability, was sent to all 165 of the newly elected legislators in the fall election. (See Appendix)

Funding Committee Report

A matrix of resources provided by state agencies in support of services to young children with a disability was created. (See Appendix). This matrix included programs that

provide direct funds for services supporting children with disabilities, as well as those programs that provide opportunities for inclusion activities to occur. Additionally, developments regarding the new federal stimulus funds (ARRA) and changes in special education funding were monitored. The Kansas ICC had heard concerns from local partners regarding categorical aid. This Committee then relayed a series of questions to the Kansas State Department of Education. The result was a joint training conducted by KSDE and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment staff and broadcast statewide over the Interactive Television system on January 21, 2009

Policy Committee Report

The “Values” section of the State ICC by-laws was reviewed and amended. This was viewed as a starting point for this new committee.

Improving Services Committee Report

Much effort was invested in exploring the implementation of the Medicaid waiver for young persons with autism spectrum disorders. Particular focus was the qualifications and training for persons who provide these services.

During this past year, 7,053 children aged birth to three years and their families received services by *tiny-k* (Part C) networks. Meanwhile, 9,896 children aged three through five were served by Part B of IDEA in school district programs, cooperatives, and interlocals.

HIGHLIGHTS

A list of specific Council accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2009 would include:

- As a result of the advocacy efforts of the State ICC and many other partners, the 2009 Kansas Legislature maintained level state appropriation/funding for Part C and other early childhood programs for FY 2010, in spite of the drastic economy. Special education funding did not fare so well and was seriously cut.
- Another highly successful parent advocacy training was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners on October 24-25, 2008 with 133 parents benefiting from the basic tutorial in policy-making, and how best to influence it.
- The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan for Part C of IDEA. Particular emphasis was given regarding the data surrounding transition at age three.
- The 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 March 12, 2008. Over half of the Kansas legislators received a personal visit from a constituent who informed him/her of the importance of Part C services and the need for more state funding.
- The State ICC heard concerns from local partners regarding categorical aid. The Funding Committee then relayed a series of questions to KSDE. The result was a joint training conducted by KSDE and KDHE staff and broadcast statewide over the Interactive Television system on January 21, 2009.
- Technical assistance and support was given to several Local ICCs, including: Dickinson county, Leavenworth county, Southwest Kansas (Russell Child Development Center), and Wyandotte county.
- A letter of congratulations, with additional information about services for young children with disabilities/delays went to all 165 legislators following the election.

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), Bobbi Mariani (Social and Rehabilitation Services), Cayla Wright (Kansas Health Policy Authority – Medicaid), Kate Wolffe (Governor’s Office), John Meetz (Kansas Insurance Department)

KANSAS ICC MEETINGS, LOCATIONS, AND ACTIONS

July 11, 2008 Topeka

Volunteers were assigned to serve as liaison to the Early Learning Advocacy Coalition. Further work on the annual strategic plan was completed.

September 5, 2008 Topeka

Testimony was requested for the Special Education Task Force and the Home and Community Based Services interim committee meetings later in the month. (See Appendix)

October 3, 2008 Topeka

The Children's Cabinet staff gave a presentation on Early Learning Block grants, Smart Start, child abuse prevention, and other topics. Social and Rehabilitation Services staff reported on the implementation of the new Medicaid waiver for young persons with autism spectrum disorders. Executive Committee elections were held. Dr. David Lindeman was re-elected for another two-year term. A letter was requested on the topic of criteria for qualifying as a provider of services under the new autism waiver. Although requested by the Kansas ICC, this letter was never sent. The issues were resolved through informal discussions with agency staff and other stakeholders. Local Part C providers shared concerns with categorical aid funding. Information was shared about the *tiny-k* Foundation and its activities.

November 7, 2008 Newton

Families Together staff gave a presentation on their organization. A local report provided a glimpse into services in Harvey County. The Kansas ICC chose to support the upcoming Early Childhood Advocacy Day. A letter of congratulations, with information about the Kansas ICC and early intervention services was requested to be sent to all 165 legislators who won seats in the fall election.

December 5, 2008 Topeka, Interactive TV sites in Wichita, Lenexa, Parsons, & Hays
The Chair of the Autism Task Force, Dr. William Craig, gave a presentation on the Task Force recommendations to the Legislature. A letter was requested thanking the Children's Cabinet for its recent recommendation of increased funding for Part C of IDEA. (See Appendix)

January 23, 2009 Topeka, Interactive TV sites in Wichita, Overland Park, Hays,
Hugoton and Salina

An overview of the Governor's budget, with reductions, was given. The proposed economic stimulus package was discussed. A letter was requested to be sent to the Autism Task Force, explaining the Kansas ICC action to not support their proposed insurance bill. (See Appendix) The Funding Committee presented its draft of a funding matrix which illustrates the agency resources available for services to young families which include a child with a disability or developmental delay.

February 27, 2009 Wichita, in conjunction with KDEC Conference

Further discussions around the state budget and cuts in services occurred. The Kansas ICC opted to provide testimony in support of HB #2094. (See Appendix) The Kansas ICC by-laws were revised. Changes to Article II were made. A report was given on the *tiny-k* Day activities.

March 27, 2009 Topeka

The Kansas Health Policy staff presented on expansion of the State Health Insurance Program and other topics. The Kansas ICC discussed the possible creation of a State Advisory Council for Early Childhood issues. Kansas State Department of Education provided data and information on the outcomes measures they are monitoring that apply to young children.

April 24, 2009 Topeka

Bobby Silverstein gave the Kansas ICC an historical perspective on the creation of IDEA and how it relates to our duties. Information was given about the federal stimulus funding and how it was being utilized.

May 22, 2009 Topeka, Interactive TV sites in Wichita, Hays, Overland Park, Salina, and Independence

The Kansas Health Policy Authority staff replied to concerns about Medicaid that were raised last month. Extensive discussions occurred around the federal stimulus funds and how they would be used. Information was provided about the extent of agency funding cuts under the proposed budget.

June 26, 2009 Topeka – Annual Strategic Planning Session

Work was done on the next version of the Kansas ICC strategic plan. The committee structure was re-visited, and the beginnings of our next year's goals were discussed.

APPENDIX

Copies of letters to policymakers and testimony to the Legislature

- Letter sent to all newly elected or re-elected Members of the Legislature
- Testimony to the Special Education Task Force
- Testimony to the Home and Community Based Services Interim Committee
- Letter to the Autism Task Force
- Copy of Testimony regarding HB #2094
- Testimony to Legislative Committees on the budget
- Other letters and testimony containing recommendations on policy

Minutes from the monthly meetings of the Council (These also available at our web site)
Kansasicc.org