

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

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

Policy Committee - (Co-Chairs: Tom Laing and Julie Broski)

- 1) Monitor federal stimulus funds, Medicaid, and special education for impact upon children with or at risk of developmental delays from birth through age five and their families.
- 2) Explore issues affecting IDEA services for young children in foster care
- 3) Explore issues affecting IDEA services for young children in homeless conditions
- 4) Review and assess the current status of efforts to increase and enhance Mental Health services.

Public Awareness Committee- (Co-Chairs: Sharon Hixson & Nancy Krase)

- 1) Disseminate information concerning the value and importance of early intervention and early childhood special education services to targeted audiences; for example:
 - a) Legislators, Policy-Makers, and Candidates
 - b) Other collaborative partners
 - c) Local communities and collaborations
 - d) Other audiences, as identified
- 2) Plan and implement the tiny-k Day.
- 3) Assist in planning the Collaborative Parent Leadership Training.

Improving Services Committee - (Chair: Dr. Tish Taylor)

- 1) Advise and assist state agencies that are providing services to our targeted population
- 2) Supporting ongoing monitoring of initiatives which directly impact and/or have the potential to impact children with or at risk of developmental delays from birth through age five and their families including:
 - a) Medicaid waiver for young children with autism spectrum disorder,
 - b) Kansas Pre-School,

- c) Early Childhood Block grants,
- d) ARRA funding and our Maintenance of Effort responsibility
- e) & others, as they occur
- 3) Advise and assist with the gathering of data on services to specified underserved populations; for example - foster care, homelessness families, families who reside in tribal jurisdictions, and those needing mental health services
- 4) Explore the feasibility of and possible avenues for the collection of data tracking children who “graduate” from Part C (either at age 3 or before), and how they succeed in later life.

ACTIVITIES

As detailed in the Memorandum of Agreement (MoA), the CCECDS had several tasks to accomplish this year:

- Ensure a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services
- Advise and assist lead agencies as related to state or federal performance requirements
- Prepare for CCECDS meetings: agendas, minutes, facilities, and publicity.
- Facilitate communication with Local ICCs
- CCECDS Annual Report
- Announce vacancies, post selection process on-line, and orient new members
- Post CCECDS membership directory
- Solicit information and opinions on proposed policies and recommendations
- Other duties as arise

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 (MoA#8), clarifying uncertainties by requesting information from agencies (MoA#8), responding to and providing assistance to local communities (MoA#4), and advising/assisting the Governor and state agencies as they implement public policy (MoA#1 and #2). We also provide information to enhance ongoing collaboration among state agencies and our local partners (MoA#4). We monitor activity in the Statehouse (MoA#8) and share that information with stakeholders across the state (MoA#4). 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 (MoA#1).

The Kansas ICC, as a whole, conducts its business in monthly meetings (MoA#3). 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 (MoA#3). Additional work is accomplished by the standing committees. During this year, the Kansas ICC had three standing committees: Public Awareness, Policy, and Improving Services. A brief report from each committee follows.

Public Awareness Committee Report

This committee had a very full plate this year. It collaborated on another successful Parent Leadership Conference. This event was held on October 2-3 2009, with 180 parents participating. A break-out session was conducted on the topic of “Children with Special Needs” (MoA#1). The committee also took the lead in organizing *tiny-k* Day (March 10, 2010), although the *tiny-k* Foundation was instrumental in this productive day. Our letter of concerns around the impact of proposed budget cuts was delivered to all forty Senators and the Governor. A Policy statement on the need to raise revenues in addressing our budget crises was also sent to all 165 members of the legislature. (MoA#8) (See Appendix)

Policy Committee Report

In monitoring Kansas’s use of federal stimulus funding, the Council received reports from all of its member agencies on their usage of ARRA funds. Particular attention was given to the concept of Maintenance of Efforts, as required in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). (MoA#2 and #8)

Improving Services Committee Report

Much effort was invested in exploring the provision of IDEA services to sub-populations which may be underserved. Particular focus was given to children who are homeless, in foster care, who reside in tribal jurisdictions, or are in need of mental health services (MoA#1).

During this past year, 7,200 children aged birth to three years and their families received services by *tiny-k* (Part C) networks. Meanwhile, 10,354 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 2010 would include:

As a result of the advocacy efforts of the State ICC and many other partners, the 2010 Kansas Legislature maintained level state appropriation/funding for Part C and other early childhood programs for FY 2011, in spite of the drastic economy (MoA#8).

Another highly successful parent leadership training was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners on October 2-3, 2009 with 200 parents benefiting from the basic tutorial in policy-making, and how best to influence it (MoA#1).

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. Four ICC meetings (September, November, April and June) were designated as being focused upon these issues (MoA#2).

Another highly successful *tiny-k* Day “Under the Dome” advocacy event was conducted on March 10, 2010. 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 (MoA#8).

Technical assistance and support was given to several Local ICCs. Staff attended ten local meetings benefitting 14 different Local ICCs, including Arrowhead West, Wyandotte, Shawnee, Franklin, Pottawatomie, Sedgwick, Douglas, Jefferson, Jewel, Lincoln, Mitchell, Pawnee, Barton, Rice, and Stafford Counties (MoA#4).

A letter containing an ICC Policy Statement on the need for additional revenues went to all 165 legislators and the Governor (MoA#8).

KANSAS ICC ROSTER

PARENT MEMBERS:

Richard Martinez (Topeka), Tiffanie Krentz (Topeka), Julie Broski (Overland Park), Jill Bamber (Leawood), Misty Van Nostrand (Lawrence)

PROVIDER MEMBERS

Susan Carriger (Overland Park), Nancy Kruse (Wichita), DebVoth (Wichita), Tom Kohmetscher (Wellington), Dr. Letitia Taylor (Overland Park), Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostemeyer (Oakley)

PUBLIC MEMBERS

Sharon Hixson (Hutchison), Tom Laing (Topeka), Dr. Eva Horn (Lawrence), Dr. Pamela Shaw (Shawnee), Dr. Dale Walker (Kansas City)

LEGISLATORS

Senator Laura Kelly (Topeka), Representative Barbara Craft (Junction City)

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES

Dr. David Lindeman (Board of Regents), Linda Kenney (Kansas Department of Health and Environment), Carol Ayres (Kansas State Department of Education), Bobbi Mariani/Michelle Ponce (Social and Rehabilitation Services), Cayla Wright/Scott Bears (Kansas Health Policy Authority – Medicaid), Jennifer Knorr (Governor’s Office), John Meetz (Kansas Insurance Department)

KANSAS ICC MEETINGS, LOCATIONS, AND ACTIONS

July 30, 2009 in Wichita – After a morning training session provided by John Copenhaver, we convened at the Child Start offices. Our two newest legislative members were welcomed. Work continued on our Strategic Plan, with an emphasis on committees.

August 28, 2009 in Topeka – The council received a presentation by KSDE staff on homelessness issues. Executive committee members were selected.

September 25, 2009 in Topeka – Video conferencing was available in several remote locations. A task force was created to consider suggestions made by Mr. Copenhaver in our July 30 training. A report was given by KSDE and KDHE staff on outcomes and how they impacted the Kansas State Performance Plan (SPP).

October 23, 2009 in Topeka – The full Council considered the work done by the task force responding to suggestions made by Mr. Copenhaver. Among the changes adopted was the change in name to the current Public Awareness Committee. A presentation was made by KU staff on the Early Childhood Comprehensive Plan. The Annual Reports for previous years were adopted and sent on to the Governor and others.

November 18, 2009 – This was a historic first, joint meeting of the Council and the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). Financial issues were covered by Dale Dennis. A review of the mission and activities of each Council took place. The P-20 Council was discussed. Available resources for early childhood were highlighted. Agency staff gave an overview of SPP and APR outcomes.

December 18, 2009 in Paola – An overview of services at LakeMary was provided. The full Council gave approval of the document prepared by the task force responding to Mr. Copenhaver's suggestions. The Strategic Plan will be approved pending a telephone vote of Council members.

February 26, 2010 in Wichita - A review of services from Rainbows United was provided. A preview of the upcoming DEC conference in Kansas City and a report on Early Learning Block Grant activities was given by KITS staff. A formal policy statement on revenue enhancements versus budget cuts was agreed upon. The Executive committee will finalize the wording and distribute to the full Council (see Appendix).

March 26, 2010 in Topeka - An overview of services in Shawnee County was provided. KDHE staff gave a review of pending legislation that will improve child care licensing. Discussions began on the next Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the state agencies making possible Council activities.

April 23, 2010 in Topeka – A letter was sent to SRS Secretary Jordan to follow-up on screenings for young children with social-emotional concerns. One of the contracting agencies for foster care gave a report on services.

June 25, 2010 in Topeka – Kansas Health Policy Authority staff gave a review of several issues. A recent change in policy dictated by federal Medicaid will remove Medicaid funding of attendant care. This will impact a number of preschool children. The list of applications for HealthWave continues to climb. Federal warnings about non-compliance are forthcoming. The 10% reduction in all Medicaid payments will be restored, effective July 1, 2010. KSDE and KDHE staff gave a report on the SPP/APR. Council comments were solicited.

APPENDIX

Copies of letters to policymakers and testimony to the Legislature

Letter to 40 Senators and the Governor discussing impact of proposed budget cut

Letter to Secretary Bremby concerning Maintenance of Effort

Letter to Children’s Cabinet regarding proposed budget cut

Letter all 165 Legislators and the Governor regarding need for Revenue

Testimony to Legislative Committees on the budget

Letter to Secretary Jordan regarding screening of children

Other letters and testimony containing recommendations on policy

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

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