

ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007

**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.

The State 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 emphasis concerns children aged birth through five years.

Our activities include, for the most part (but are not limited to): influencing budgets and the creation of policy by testifying in the state legislature, clarifying uncertainties by requesting information from agencies, 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 widely. 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 advocacy efforts.

The Council, 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 prepare for each meeting of the full Council. Additional work is accomplished in standing committees (Funding, Advocacy, & Partnerships).

During this past year, 6,567 children aged birth to three years and their families received services by *tiny-k* (Part C) and 9,524 children aged three through five were served by Part B of IDEA.

A list of specific accomplishments for Fiscal Year 2007 would include:

- After the previous fiscal year, in which the Kansas Legislature gave Part C of IDEA a \$1.9 Million increase in state funding, the FY 2007 appropriation in state funds to be provided to local partners remained level. However, as a result of our advocacy efforts, a slight increase of \$250,000 was appropriated for training, technical assistance, and other supports for the state-wide *tiny-k* system.

- Another highly successful parent advocacy training was conducted in conjunction with several collaborative partners this fall, with over 100 parents benefiting from the basic tutorial in policy-making, and how best to influence it.
- At the request of Governor Sebelius, the ICC conducted a series of public hearings on the topic of a possible change in lead agency designation for Part C of IDEA. A thorough inquiry was undertaken of two proposals: one from SRS and one from KSDE. After several hearings in diverse locations, careful consideration of testimony from hundreds of interested persons, and months of intense discussion, the Council created a side-by-side comparison document. The final ICC recommendation was finalized in April. The ICC voted (13-8) to recommend to the Governor that SRS be named the lead agency for Kansas.
- The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its federal site visit and State Performance Plan for Part C of IDEA last autumn. We served a similar role in assisting KSDE for Section 619 of Part B.
- The ICC worked collaboratively with SRS and other stakeholders in designing the new Medicaid waiver for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.
- Another highly successful *tiny-k* Day “Under the Dome” advocacy event was conducted. 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 ICC created a series of recommendations for the Part C state lead agency to use when the need to select a local lead agency arose.
- A comprehensive overhaul of the ICC by-laws was completed. The Executive Committee was re-vitalized and began to meet monthly.

APPENDIX

Regarding Part C Lead Agency Designation:

Letter to Governor with Recommendation
 Six-page document of side-by-side comparisons
 KSDE initial proposal & answers to ICC questions
 SRS initial proposal and answers to ICC questions

Copies of letters to policymakers

ICC Strategic Plan document

Minutes from the monthly meetings of the Council are available at our web site
Kansasicc.org