

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

DRAFT Meeting Minutes – Wichita, KS
March 6, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Duncan, Chair & Governor's Representative
Kim Kennedy, Dept. for Children & Families (phone)
David Lindeman, Regents Representative
Sarah Walters, Ks Department of Health & Environ.
Gayle Stuber, Ks State Dept. of Ed. (phone)
Matthew Connell, Provider Member
Melisa Schellhamer, Parent (phone)
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Provider
Kayzy Bigler, KDHE

NON-MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Doug Bowman, Council staff
Julie Broski, former Parent member
Tom Laing, InterHab
Ruth Cartegena-Ortiz, Families Tog.
Janet Newton, KSDE
Deb Mai, Rainbows United, Wichita

MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Kansas Insurance Department Rep
Representative Valdenia Winn
Tammy Scheopner, Parent
Senator Elaine Bowers
Pamela Beach, DCF

Call to Order: Mrs. Duncan called the meeting to order with a welcome and asked for introductions.

Meeting Minutes: Matt Connell moved that the February 2015 meeting minutes be approved as written. Sarah Walters seconded the motion. Meeting minutes were approved unanimously.

Meeting Agenda: Matt Connell made a motion to approve the meeting agenda as distributed. Kathy K-O seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Public Forum: Julie Broski spoke to the Council about the vacancies on the ICC. She emphasized the importance of multiple voices representing varied perspectives in our proceedings.

Tom Laing of InterHab spoke to the Council about the general climate in which we operate. He is nervous about the future, and encouraged us to educate decision-makers about the impact of their decision on families. He opined that level funding becomes a cut over time as inflation impacts the budget.

Old Business: There was none at this time.

Early childhood Stakeholders on High Quality Pre-Schools: Dr. Gayle Stuber, KSDE, reported on the results of a stakeholder meeting held last year to discuss the topic of "High Quality Pre-School".

Parents-As-Teachers: Janet Newton reported on the latest developments in an attempt by a House Appropriations Sub-Committee to de-fund PAT. A hearing was held to further consider the recommendation. The current status is that \$7 Million (out of the \$7.2 Million originally recommended by the Governor) has been restored. \$3 Million of that funding will come from TANF funds. A system of sliding scale fees will be explored. The full Appropriations committee will consider this recommendation next week.

Discussion: Matt pointed out that Parents-As-Teachers serves families with young children that have needs, but do not qualify for special education (tiny-k). It was also noted that PAT is a large source of referrals for tiny-k. Mary raised the question of: “What does the State do when tobacco settlement dollars are reduced?” Kayzy mentioned that PAT (and other early education programs) saves society large amounts of resources in deferred costs for special education, subsequent juvenile justice, welfare, etc.

Committee/Work Group Reports:

Executive Committee: Mrs. Duncan reported that this group met on February 24th. The agenda for the Council meeting was set. All of the committees were discussed.

Staff Report & Legislative Preview: Mr. Bowman reported further on the 2015 Legislative session. In answering a question, he noted that a bill had been introduced that implements in Kansas the federal ABLE Act. This would allow for investments in a savings plan for persons with a disability. The bill is still in committee, but it has been re-referred to an exempt committee – keeping it alive, for now.

Website workgroup: Work continues on the web site. Susan Threinen will be utilized to assist in the writing of content. Another newsletter will be produced very soon. A families and LICC tab are in the process of being built.

Communication/Collaboration workgroup: No report at this time.

Research Committee: There was no news at this time, but more to report at the next meeting.

SPP/APR work group: This committee completed its work. Sarah Walters reported that they still work to finalize the State Systematic Improvement Plan (SSIP).

Agency Reports:

KDHE: A series of Town Hall meetings are being conducted by KDHE.

Insurance: No insurance representative present.

KSDE: A written report was given.

Families Together: No written report was given.

DCF: No written report was given.

Families Together: Ruth Cartegena-Ortiz reported that they continue to struggle with funding reductions.

Adjournment: The next Council meeting will be Friday, April 24, 2015 in Topeka, at the Public Library.

Post on Web site the approved minutes	Council Staff	March 14, 2015