

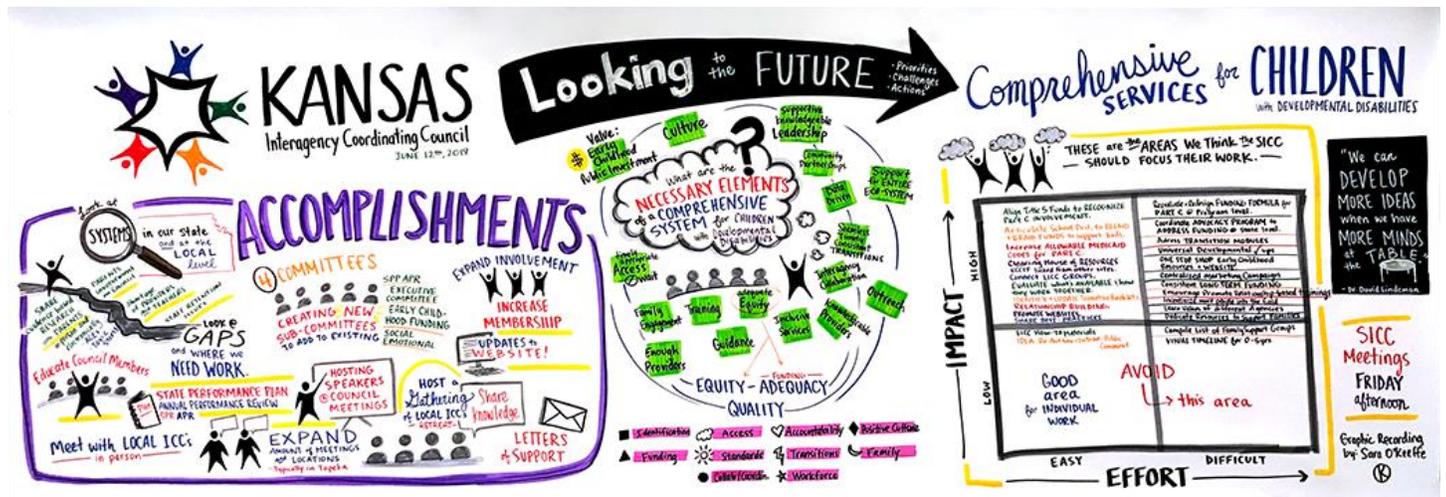


## Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services *ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020*

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 (SICC) is based in both federal law and state statute. The Council serves as an advisory body to state agencies and others with the majority of our members appointed by the Governor and the remainder by administrators of state agencies, the Kansas Board of Regents, Kansas House and Senate leaders, and the Kansas Insurance Commissioner. Our area of focus are concerns children with (or at risk of) disabilities or developmental delays aged birth through five years and their families. Council activities are guided by statute and the mission statement and are largely driven by the Annual Strategic Planning meeting and our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA-Attachment #1) with state agency partners.



➤ A graphic recording of the SICC's Annual Planning meeting in June 2019 by Sara O'Keefe.



## ***ANNUAL PRIORITIES AND GOALS***

During Fiscal Year 2020 the council focused on Article 2 of the SICC Bylaws (Attachment #3), which pertains to identifying families as an important focus in early intervention. Discussion points included:

- Empowering families to advocate on behalf of their child and family
- Improving community involvement
- Equipping families to advocate and be involved in their child’s early intervention or education plan and services
- Educating families and providers about services for children with social-emotional needs
- Supporting transitions from Part C/Infant Toddler Services to Part B/Early Childhood Special Education Services

## ***KANSAS ICC ROSTER 2019-20***

<b><i>Name</i></b>	<b><i>Position on Council</i></b>	<b><i>Email</i></b>	<b><i>Term Expires</i></b>
David Lindeman (Chair)	Kansas Board of Regents Representative	<a href="mailto:lindeman@ku.edu">lindeman@ku.edu</a>	N/A
Lisa Collette (Vice Chair)	Commissioner of Insurance Office Representative	<a href="mailto:LCollette@ksinsurance.org">LCollette@ksinsurance.org</a>	N/A
Susan Bowles	Provider Member	<a href="mailto:gslbowles@gmail.com">gslbowles@gmail.com</a>	7/31/23
Nichelle Adams	Kansas Department for Children and Families Representative	<a href="mailto:Nichelle.Adams@ks.gov">Nichelle.Adams@ks.gov</a>	N/A
Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena	Parent Member	<a href="mailto:lizb@ksu.edu">lizb@ksu.edu</a>	7/31/21
Kate Walter	Parent Member	<a href="mailto:walter@nckcn.com">walter@nckcn.com</a>	7/31/21
Laci Reamer	Parent Member	<a href="mailto:Laci@famieliestogetherinc.org">Laci@famieliestogetherinc.org</a>	7/31/20
Stacy Harvey	Parent Member	<a href="mailto:Stacy.a.harveymssa@gmail.com">Stacy.a.harveymssa@gmail.com</a>	7/31/21



# KANSAS

Interagency Coordinating Council

Alix Kumer	Provider Member	<a href="mailto:Alix.kumer@gmail.com">Alix.kumer@gmail.com</a>	7/31/21
Karen Pahls	Provider Member/ Part B Preschool	<a href="mailto:karenpahls3@gmail.com">karenpahls3@gmail.com</a>	7/31/21
Ann Elliott	Provider Member/ Child Care	<a href="mailto:ann@frcpittsburg.org">ann@frcpittsburg.org</a>	7/31/20
Heather Staab	Part C Coordinator & Kansas Department of Health and Environment Representative	<a href="mailto:heather.staab@ks.gov">heather.staab@ks.gov</a>	N/A
Kim Kennedy	Kansas Department for Children and Families (Head Start/ad hoc member)	<a href="mailto:Kimberly.kennedy@ks.gov">Kimberly.kennedy@ks.gov</a>	N/A
Julie Rand	Part B/619 Coordinator & Kansas State Dept. of Education Representative	<a href="mailto:jrand@ksde.org">jrand@ksde.org</a>	N/A
Lesli Girard	Ex-Officio Member	<a href="mailto:Lesli@famielsttogetherinc.org">Lesli@famielsttogetherinc.org</a>	7/31/21
Amy Meek	Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund	<a href="mailto:ameek@ksde.org">ameek@ksde.org</a>	N/A
Elizabeth Long	Medicaid Office	<a href="mailto:Elizabeth.long@ks.gov">Elizabeth.long@ks.gov</a>	N/A
Gary Henault	Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services	<a href="mailto:Gary.henault@ks.gov">Gary.henault@ks.gov</a>	N/A
Laura Smith-Everett	Parent Member	<a href="mailto:Laura4kansas@gmail.com">Laura4kansas@gmail.com</a>	7/31/23
Vacant	Legislator (R)		
Vacant	Legislator (D)		
Jordan Christian	Staff to the SICC	<a href="mailto:jchristian@ksde.org">jchristian@ksde.org</a>	N/A



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## ***COMMITTEES AND ANNUAL GOALS***

Following discussion by council members and guests, the committees/work groups were identified for FY20, and members for each committee were identified (listed below). The Chair of the SICC encouraged Council members to pick a committee they have not served on in the past. Committee Chairs were selected during the Annual Planning Session (June 2019).

Committee Membership for 2019-20:

- *Executive Committee:* Chair- David Lindeman  
Other Members- Heather Staab, Liz Brunscheen-Cartagena, Lisa Collette, Ann Elliott
- *State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Committee:* Chair- Heather Staab  
Other Members- Kate Walter, Kim Kennedy, Julie Rand, Natalie McClane, Ann Elliott
- *Early Childhood Workforce and Funding Committee:* Chair- Kim Kennedy  
Other Members- Susan Bowles, Lisa Collette, Ann Elliot, Nichelle Adams, Heather Staab, Natalie McClane, Alix Kumer, David Lindeman
- *Social-Emotional Committee:* Chair- Karen Pahls  
Other Members- Liz Brunscheen-Cartagena, Laci Reamer, Lesli Girard, Stacy Harvey
- *LICC Annual Retreat Planning Committee:* Chair- Alix Kumer  
Other Members- Lesli Girard, Susan Bowles, Lisa Collette, Assorted LICC members

### Executive Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

- Release policy statements to the public
- Set agendas for full council meetings
- Approve/add updates to the SICC website
- Advise and assist lead agencies (MOA Pg. 4, C)

### SPP/APR Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

- Review and approve Part C annual report in February and then recommend to the council approval of the report so it can be sent to the Office of Special Education Programs, US Department of Education.



- Convey data and information regarding the report to the full council

Early Childhood Workforce and Funding Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

-Formed as a committee of the SICC as a result of the 2018 SICC strategic planning meeting.  
-The SICC members recognized the growing concern of teacher shortages and limited funding sources for serving children with disabilities and their families.  
-The group continues to gather data to inform and help to identify how to address the teacher shortage and Part C funding concerns.

-The Following Action Steps were identified:

- Examine sources of funding across Kansas and how they support inclusive practices
- Utilize the updated Early Childhood Funding Chart and the Part C Needs Assessment results when they become available
- Update the 2009 Early Childhood Funding Chart & identified potential gaps in funding sources
- Examine all the funding sources local Part C programs receive in addition to state and federal funding
- Utilize the updated 2019 Early Childhood Funding Chart to help determine all potential funding sources

Social-Emotional Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

-Correspondance with KSDE regarding social-emotional work regarding birth-5. The committee received a letter from KSDE regarding their interest in this topic. (Attachment 9- Appendix)  
-Invite several speakers to come to the SICC meetings and discuss social emotional development, programming and state initiatives.  
-Work on Family Engagement including sharing the following resources

- <https://challengingbehavior.cbcs.usf.edu/docs/Communicating-with-Families.pdf>
- Learn the Signs, Act Early <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/actearly/index.html>

## ***KANSAS ICC MEETINGS AND ACTIONS***

All SICC meetings follow an agenda sent to members in advance. Standing agenda items include introductions, approval of previous minutes, approval of agenda, public forum, old business, committee reports, agency reports, staff report, and report from chair. Orientation for new members is provided. Meeting agendas, minutes, reports and handouts are posted on the website at: <https://www.kansasicc.org/meeting-dateslocations.html>



Beginning in August of 2018 the SICC set in place the standard practice of hearing reports from a local service program and a state level program or project (Attachment #4). The intent of this practice was to engage both local and state partners as well as educate the SICC members regarding supports, services, and programs in the state. By providing this information the work of the SICC will be facilitated and members of the council will have additional information regarding services that can be referenced to the mission of ensuring a comprehensive system of integrated services.

**August 16, 2019 (Topeka, KS)** - The Council's Annual Report and agenda were approved. Michelle Kelly with Blue Valley Parents as Teachers provided an overview of their program and data. Nis Wilbur with KSDE also presented on Kansas Parents as Teachers from a statewide perspective. Members of the SICC decided which committees they would work with for the duration of the current fiscal year. Committee and agency reports were provided.

**September 20, 2019 (Topeka, KS)** – Heather Smith from KDHE provided the council with an overview of the findings from the statewide Part C Needs Assessment. Amanda Petersen with KSDE also presented on the Preschool Development Grant Needs Assessment results. Committee and agency reports were provided.

**October 18, 2019 (Topeka, KS)** – Presentation from Nichole Fairley and the Topeka Public Schools Parents as Teachers program. Heather Smith also followed up with the council and presented on the Part C Strategic Plan following the Part C Needs Assessment. Committee and agency reports were provided.

**November 5, 2019 (Topeka, KS)** – Annual joint meeting with the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). Topics and discussion included Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), Early Childhood and Special Education position vacancies in Kansas, Disability Labels, Legislative Updates from Representative Monica Murnan, and updates on the Preschool Development Grant work. The SICC also met as a council prior to the joint meeting with SEAC, and received reports from state agency members.



**December 13, 2019 (Topeka, KS)** – Lesli Girard and Laci Reamer provided an overview of Families Together and shared resources with the council. Barbara Gannaway from the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) also provided an overview of KPIRC and its initiatives to help families in Kansas. Committee and agency reports were provided.



**January 17, 2020 (Topeka, KS) – Cancelled due to weather.**

**February 21, 2020 (Topeka, KS)** – Shannon McMahon from Community Action Head Start and Kim Kennedy presented on Head Start and Early Head Start in Kansas. They provided a statewide overview of the number of children in Kansas with disabilities that receive Early Head Start and Head Start disability services. Heather Staab updated the council on the progress made regarding the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report due to the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Amanda Petersen provided the council an update on the strategic plan process regarding the Preschool Development Grant. Committee and agency reports were provided.

**March 20, 2020 (Topeka, KS) – Cancelled due to COVID-19.**

**April 17, 2020 (Topeka, KS)** - Previous meeting minutes and agenda were approved. The Council received updated from KSDE regarding “blending and braiding” funding streams to promote more inclusive environments in early childhood settings. The local program presentation was provided by the Maureen Hernandez with Leavenworth County Infant-Toddler Services. Committee and agency reports were also provided.

**May 22, 2019 (Topeka, KS)** – The tiny-k Alliance provided an annual review of their activities to the SICCC, which included information regarding their additional funding of roughly \$2 million. The first draft of the new “LICC Handbook” was provided to council members for review. The council also discussed final plans for the Annual Strategic Planning meeting in June. This included attendees, meeting location, materials, an outside facilitator, and other logistics. Committee and agency reports were also provided.

**June 22, 2018 (Topeka, KS)** - The council held its annual strategic planning session virtually via Zoom. The agenda for the day was reviewed and approved. The SICCC took a new approach to the strategic planning session by breaking into 5 smaller groups of 5-10 people, each assigned with a different area of discussion. The group was challenged with identifying potential areas of focus that the SICCC could concentrate on during the upcoming year. The SICCC will approve the strategic plan at their first meeting of FY21 in August, 2020.

## ***STAFF REPORT***

Staff person to the SICCC provided training and completed support visits to 19 different Local ICCs (Attachment #5) across the state, with some of them being visited multiple times (MOA Pg. 4, E, Attachment 1). The staff also presented updates, provided technical support, and gave updates on the state agencies’ work to LICCs. Presentations were given on a variety of topics that focused on the needs of each LICC and their community outreach initiatives.



An orientation PowerPoint (Attachment #6) was used for new SICC/LICC members. Meeting minutes, agendas, logistics, and locations were also arranged by the staff (MOA Pg. 4, D, Attachment 1). The annual report was also prepared by the staff person, and reviewed by the full council before being submitted prior to August 30, 2019 (MOA Pg. 4, F, Attachment #1).

The staff and the chair of the SICC developed and made a presentation regarding the SICC and its activities at the 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference in Wichita on Feb 28, 2020. An annual overview of the SICC was also provided virtually at the Annual tiny-k Coordinators Meeting in January 2020. Lastly, an LICC Handbook adapted from partners in North Carolina, was created by the staff person with additions/edits from the Council to share with LICCs across the state.

## ***HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES***

Council activities are primarily directed by the Annual Strategic Plan and our Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the state agencies. A portion of our activity takes place at the committee level.

A list of Council accomplishments for FY 20 includes:

- Joint SICC-SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council) meeting on November 5, 2020. This provided insight to both council's current projects, and helped align some of their objectives and goals. The goal of this meeting is to coordinate advisory functions, especially in regard to children aged 3-5 years. (MOA Pg.4, B Attachment 1)
- KDHE Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Approval and Review.
- Efforts to educate and broaden the knowledge base of Council Members was initiated this year through a new meeting format that included a presentation by a local program focusing on their work and a presentation by a program, specialized project, or services serving the state (Attachment #4).
- Expanded transparency and involvement from the field by having a virtual option to join every meeting via Zoom.
- Met with the Governor's Appointments Office focusing on meeting the requirements of IDEA regarding SICC membership.
- Additions/changes to the council membership were discussed. Appointments included:
  - Laura Smith-Everett, Parent Member
  - Susan Bowles, Provider Member
  - Shannon McMahon, Head Start Representative
  - Gary Henault, Mental Health Representative
  - Amy Meek, Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund



- SICC Staff completed 30 technical assistance and support visits to Local ICCs around the state, including:
  - Pony Express LICC, SE KS Regional LICC, Shawnee County Early Childhood Coalition, Riley County LICC, Franklin County LICC, North Country Connection LICC, Leavenworth County LICC, Johnson County LICC, Wyandotte County LICC, Douglas County LICC, Cloud-Republic LICC, Chautauqua-Elk Counties LICC, Hays Area LICC, McPherson County LICC, Sumner County LICC, Neosho County Agency Resource Council, Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee LICC, Pratt Area LICC, and the Jewell/Lincoln/Mitchell LICC.
  - Staff spoke on a variety of subjects that focused on the unique needs of each local ICC. Examples included:
    - the role of the Local ICC in relation to the local lead agency for Part C, the steps to take in selecting a new local lead agency, and updates from Topeka/the Legislature.
- The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan (SPP) for Part C of IDEA. Particular emphasis was given regarding the data surrounding transition at age three. Several ICC meetings included information focused upon these issues. The ICC signed and approved the Part C SPP, as part of the February 1 submission to the US Department of Education. (MOU- Attachment #3).
- ICC worked collaboratively with KDHE following the Part C Needs Assessment in the development of a Part C Strategic Plan. ICC Members participated on the work group committees: Grant Process Committee, Data Committee, Fiscal Committee, Workforce Committee, Practice Committee, Family Engagement Committee. SICC staff facilitated the Interagency Collaborations Committee.
- The SICC staff completed work on the SICC website ([kansasicc.org](http://kansasicc.org)).
- Developed an initial draft of a guidance document for LICCs- “LICC Handbook”
- Worked extensively with two local programs/LICCs where local lead agency changes were initiated
- Wrote and Approved a support letter for Families Together to remain the official Parent Training and Information center for Kansas.
- Received important data from the LICC Survey, which will give guidance and new approaches that the SICC can use in order to better assist the local councils. Here are a few of the important statistics achieved from this survey: 94% of LICCs have parent members attend meetings, 81% have a health or medical agency representative in attendance, 63% have MOUs with community partners and agencies, 90% have a social services agency representative attend meeting - 54% meet monthly, 17% meet every other month, and 29% meet quarterly (required to meet at least 4 times a year).
- Provided feedback to the Kansas Preschool Development Grant Leadership team regarding issues of young children with disabilities and their access to services as well as professional development (both preservice and in-service), professional standards, workforce recruitment and retention, inclusive services and the role of local ICCs (Attachment 8- Appendix).



## ***APPENDIX***

- Attachment 1- SICC MOA/Contract between KDHE, KSDE, and DCF.
- Attachment 2- Support Letter to Families Together
- Attachment 3- SICC By-Laws
- Attachment 4- Presentations by Local and State Programs at SICC meetings 2019-20
- Attachment 5- List of LICCs visited
- Attachment 6- LICC PowerPoint
- Attachment 7- KDEC Presentation PowerPoint
- Attachment 8- SICC Feedback for the Preschool Development Grant work
- Attachment 9- KSDE Response to the SICC Social-Emotional Committee