

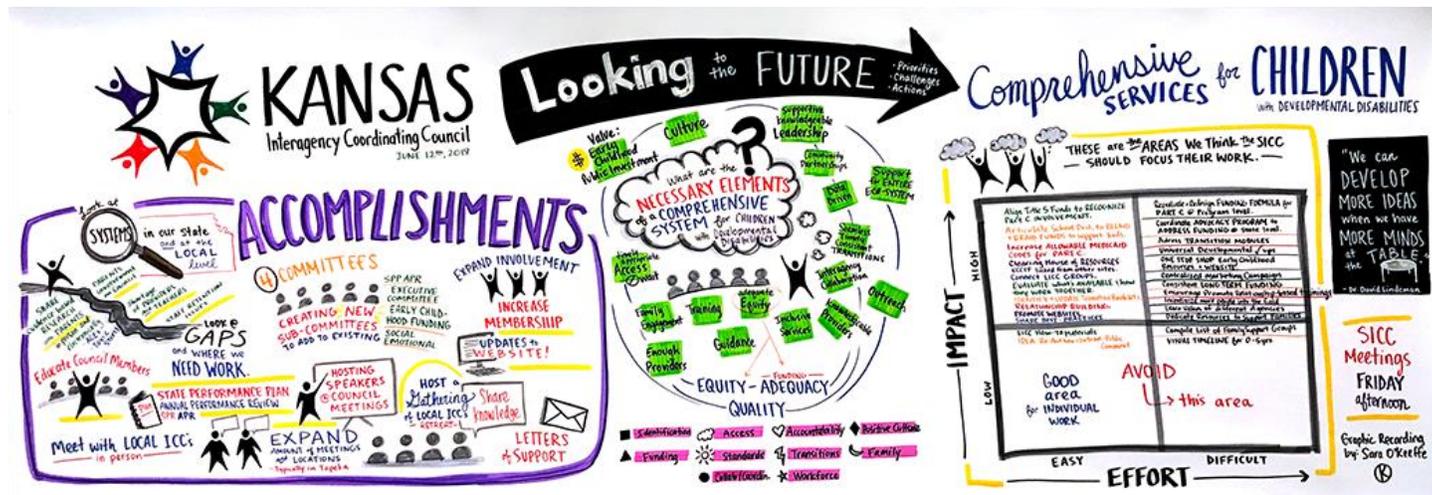


Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services *ANNUAL REPORT: July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021*

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 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 2021 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 2020-21

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position on Council</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Term Expires</i>
David Lindeman (Chair)	Kansas Board of Regents Representative	lindeman@ku.edu	N/A
Lisa Collette (Vice Chair)	Commissioner of Insurance Office Representative	Lisa.Collette@ks.gov	N/A
Susan Bowles	Provider Member	gslbowles@gmail.com	7/31/23
Nichelle Adams	Kansas Department for Children and Families Representative	Nichelle.Adams@ks.gov	N/A
Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena	Parent Member	lizb@ksu.edu	7/31/21
Kate Walter	Parent Member	walter@nckcn.com	7/31/21
Laci Reamer	Parent Member	Laci@famieliestogetherinc.org	7/31/21
Laurie Schmitt	Parent Member	Laurie4523@gmail.com	7/31/24



KANSAS

Interagency Coordinating Council

Alix Kumer	Provider Member	Alix.kumer@gmail.com	7/31/21
Karen Pahls	Provider Member/ Part B Preschool	karenpahls3@gmail.com	7/31/21
Ann Elliott	Provider Member/ Child Care	ann@frcpittsburg.org	7/31/22
Heather Staab	Part C Coordinator & Kansas Department of Health and Environment Representative	heather.staab@ks.gov	N/A
Kim Kennedy	Kansas Department for Children and Families (Head Start/ad hoc member)	Kimberly.kennedy@ks.gov	N/A
Julie Rand	Part B/619 Coordinator & Kansas State Dept. of Education Representative	jrand@ksde.org	N/A
Shannon McMahan	Head Start/Early Head Start	smcmahan@wefightpoverty.org	7/31/23
Lesli Girard	Ex-Officio Member	Lesli@famielsttogetherinc.org	N/A
Debbie Deere	Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund	ddeere@ksde.org	N/A
Laura Leistra	Medicaid Office	Laura.D.Leistra@ks.gov	N/A
Gary Henault	Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services	Gary.henault@ks.gov	N/A
Laura Smith-Everett	Parent Member	Laura4kansas@gmail.com	7/31/23
Jennifer Oborny	Provider Member	jenniferoborny@hacc.info	7/31/23
Vacant	Legislators x2		
Jordan Christian	Staff to the SICC	jchristian@ksde.org	N/A



COMMITTEES AND ANNUAL GOALS

Following discussion by council members and guests, the committees/work groups were identified for FY21, 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 2020).

Committee Leadership for 2020-21:

- *Executive Committee:* Chair- David Lindeman
- *State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Committee:* Chair- Heather Staab
- *Early Childhood Workforce and Funding Committee:* Chair- Lisa Collette
- *Social-Emotional Committee:* Chair- Karen Pahls
- *Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (ECLRE) Committee:* Chair- David Lindeman
- *LICC Annual Retreat Planning Committee:* Chair- Alix Kumer

Executive Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

- Release policy statements to the public
- Set agendas for full council meetings
- Ensure that the work of the Council, including committees, aligns and complements the “All in for Kansas” Strategic Plan
- 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
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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

ECLRE Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

-The EC LRE Committee was formed following presentations to the Council by Julie Rand, KSDE, regarding the data for Kansas focusing on the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) for preschool age children. With Kansas facing challenges regarding meeting the targets on the State Performance Plan, this committee is designed to examine possible factors and assist KSDE in assessing the LRE data and potential solutions.

-Committee activities for the year included:

- Julie Rand provided an overview of KSDE work focused on EC LRE: a) reviewed current Kansas data, b) KSDE interviewing programs with strong EC LRE data, and c) KSDE interviewing programs with challenges addressing EC LRE.
- Proposed Goal and Objective of the committee:
 - Goal: Increase the percentage of Kansas preschoolers (ages 3-5), with developmental delays or disabilities, that receive their education in Least Restrictive Environments
 - Objective: Through identified activities the SICC EC LRE Committee will support and be a collaborative partner in the collection and analysis of data to support development of recommendations, guidance, and practices that will result in improved EC LRE data



- Committee discussed and made the decision to survey/interview community programs that currently or could partner with LEAs to address EC LRE. The decision was to start by conducting a survey and focus groups in five communities that KSDE identified as having strong LRE data.
- Developed and refined survey/interview questions for community programs.
- Sought and received approval from the Council for funds to provide incentives for survey respondents and focus group participants. Council approved up to \$3,000.
- Initiated and received approval from the human subjects review application submitted to the University of Kansas Human Research Protection Program.
- Made final modifications to online survey and identified programs in communities to approach for participation.

Social-Emotional Committee Activities/Responsibilities:

- Correspondence 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>
- Identify the impacts of COVID-19 on social-emotional initiatives currently occurring in Kansas, gather additional input from KSDE, KDHE, KDADS, DCF
- Develop/identify informational materials to increase the capacity of physicians/pediatricians to understand/identify children who might have a developmental delay

Local ICC Annual Retreat Committee

- This committee oversaw the first ever annual LICC Retreat in Kansas. This event brought together LICC members, community partners, parents, early intervention providers, school districts, and more in order to collaborate.
- 123 were registered to attend the event, 89 were in attendance the day of.
- Breakout sessions were provided for all guests, as well as SICC updates, and an update from the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

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. All meetings were held virtually due to COVID-19.



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 21, 2020 (Zoom) - The Council's Annual Report and agenda were approved. Ron Mohl with Lakeshore learning presented an overview of the company and their state partnerships. 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 18, 2020 (Zoom) – Tammy Dreiling with the tiny-k program Kid-Link DSNWK provided an overview of the program. Vicky Roper presented on the Kansas Children's Service League and the resources it provides. Committee and agency reports were also provided.

October 16, 2020 (Zoom) – Trisha Moritz from the Goddard School District presented on Sedgwick County Early Childhood Services-Least Restrictive Environment. Julie Rand also shared provided an overview on Early Childhood Least Restrictive Environment (EC-LRE) Data. Meeting was interrupted due to technical issues with Zoom.

November 10, 2020 (Zoom) – Annual joint meeting with the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC). Topics and discussion included Least Restrictive Environment (LRE), council reports, the 1-800-CHILDREN Helpline, and the Status of IHE Early Childhood Teacher Training Programs (Early Childhood Unified License).

December 18, 2020 (Zoom) – Erica Figueroa and Danielle Brower from the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (KU CPPR) provided an update on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) Screening tool being implement with Part C programs statewide.





Julie Rand from KSDE also presented to the Council regarding recent ECLRE work being conducted by the agency. Committee and agency reports were provided.

January 15, 2021 (Zoom) – Dr. Pam Shaw from the KU Medical Center spoke to the Council on ASQ initiatives in the medical community, and the importance of early screening. Heather Staab from KDHE also gave an update on the SPP/APR document. Committee and agency reports were provided.

February 19, 2021 (Zoom) – 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 19, 2021 (Zoom) – Sara Gardner, Mary Baskett and Janine Hron held a feedback session with the SICC regarding the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF). Committee and agency reports were also provided.

April 16, 2021 (Zoom) – *No meeting this month.*

May 21, 2021 (Zoom) – Angie Walker from the Kansas School for the Deaf spoke to the Council regarding outreach programs that are available from KSD. Julie Rand also provided an overview of the Early Childhood Part B SPP/APR, and how the state sets targets for the indicators that track state data. Committee and agency reports were also provided.

June 18, 2021 (Zoom) - The council held its annual strategic planning session virtually via Zoom. The agenda for the day was reviewed and approved. The SICC took a new approach to the strategic planning session by having the Learning Tree Institute from Greenbush facilitate a “speed planning” session. The group was challenged with identifying potential areas of focus that the SICC could concentrate on during the upcoming year through anonymous real-time surveys. The SICC will approve the strategic plan at their first meeting of FY22 in August, 2021.

STAFF REPORT

Staff person to the SICC provided training and completed virtual 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. Worked with three local programs, and their LICCs, where local lead agency changes were initiated

SICC Staff completed 31 total technical assistance and support visits to Local ICCs around the state by attending virtually, including:

- REACH ICC, Geary County ICC, Pony Express LICC, SE KS Regional LICC, Shawnee County Early Childhood Coalition, Riley County LICC, Franklin County LICC, North Country Connection LICC, RCDC ICC (CFN), Three Lakes ICC, Leavenworth County LICC, Central Kansas ICC, Wyandotte County LICC, Chautauqua-Elk Counties LICC, Hays Area LICC, McPherson County LICC, Sumner County LICC, Pottawatomie-Wabaunsee LICC, Pratt Area LICC, Marion County ICC, 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.

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, 2021 (MOA Pg. 4, F, Attachment #1).

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 21 includes:

- Joint SICC-SEAC (Special Education Advisory Council) meeting on November 10, 2020. This provided insight to both council's current work, 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)
- Local ICC Annual Retreat
 - First ever event of its kind held in Kansas. 89 in attendance, 123 registered.



- KDHE Part C State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR) Approval and Review.
- The SICC provided important feedback regarding the CCDF initiatives.
- Efforts to educate and broaden the knowledge base of Council Members was initiated throughout the 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).
- 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:
 - Laurie Schmitt, Parent Member
 - Jennifer Oborny, Provider Member
 - Laura Leistra, Medicaid Office
- The ICC worked to advise and assist KDHE with its State Performance Plan (SPP) for Part C of IDEA. 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).
- The SICC staff completed work on the SICC website (kansasicc.org).
- Provided a support letter to Families Together to serve as the Parent Training and Information Center for Kansas families
- Shared guidance document for LICCs, and posted publicly- "LICC Handbook"
- 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