

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES
 March 1, 2002
 Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
<p><i>TOPEKA SITE:</i> Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Brenda Kuder, (representing Secretary Schalansky)</p> <p><i>HAYS SITE:</i> Karla Kenton, Parent Member</p> <p><i>WICHITA SITE:</i> Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center Deb Voth, Rainbows United Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities Cheryl Coleman, Bright Circle Preschool Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber)</p> <p><i>OVERLAND PARK (REGENTS CENTER):</i> Mimi Nagle, Parent Member</p> <p><i>GARDEN CITY SITE:</i> None</p> <p><i>PARSONS SITE:</i> None</p>	<p>Patty Miller, Staff</p> <p>Leila Montoia, Hays Interagency Coordinating Council</p> <p>Doug Bowman, Coordinator</p>

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made.

Carolyn Nelson moved to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from January 11, 2002 and February 8, 2002. Seconded by Cheryl Coleman; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM

Sharon Hixson mentioned there was a good presentation by the Kansas Children's Campaign last month. Sharon Hixson stated Ellen Mellard discussed the "tax me more for kids" card with a dollar attached to give to legislators, with children as the focus.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Doug Bowman reported on Senate and House Bills:

Senate Bill 399	In certain Children In Need of Care cases, calls for additional Guardian ad litem to be appointed.
Senate Bill 421	Allows Social and Rehabilitative Services to collect fees for services to children and families, such as family preservation and Medicaid waiver services. Deb Voth asked about how fee will be collected? Doug will follow-up with Brenda Kuder.
Senate Bill 450	Increases cigarette taxes by .65 per pack. There has been discussion of including other tobacco products.
Senate Bill 466	Increases alcohol taxes
Senate Bill 483	Special Education funds distributed evenly to Unified School Districts. If you are in a cooperative, only the sponsoring districts are benefiting by running the money through the general education budget. Coops have to disburse benefits throughout the districts.
Senate Bill 516	Special Education consent assumed after 60 days
Senate Bill 526	Base State Aid Per Pupil increased \$20 over current law
Senate Bill 572	Special Education dollars distributed by weighted formula: 3.7/.9 Infant-Toddler
House Bill 2862	Establish lottery education fund and grants
House Bill 2908	Foster Parent Bill of Rights
House Bill 2944	Diverts some of Tobacco dollars to seniors
House Bill 2968	Adds \$1 fee to birth certificates for Court Appointed Special Advocates/Citizen Review Board
House Bill 2972	Allow increased influence of school-based site councils
House Bill 2981	Age for driving increased from 16 to 17
House Bill 2985	Same as Senate Bill 572
House Bill 2997	Same as Senate Bill 421

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Budget has completed the House Appropriations Committee process and will begin in the Senate Ways and Means Subcommittee on February 27th.

Social and Rehabilitative Services Budget has completed the Senate Ways and Means

Committee process and will begin in the House Appropriations Subcommittee on February 25th. Kansas State Department of Education Budget has completed the Senate Ways and Means Committee process and will begin deliberations in the House Subcommittee on February 26th.

Ellen Mellard reported that she spoke with the legislative aid to Representative Wilk regarding an amendment to a statute so that schools could charge for peer models in preschools and public schools could charge for preschools. Ellen is waiting to hear back from Representative Wilk's office. Doug Bowman explained this allows schools to charge for preschool services. Currently, the statute allows a charge for child care services, but not preschool.

TEACHER LICENSING - Doctor Dave Lindeman

There have been reports that the State Board of Education may revisit the early childhood component to the new licensure. It has been suggested that some Kansas State Board of Education members felt the decision made may not have been in the best interest of Kansas. There is concern from the certification component of the State Department of Education there may not be enough colleges and/or universities stepping forward to offer course work to educate teachers.

Doctor Dave Lindeman reported he attended a early childhood stakeholders meeting with membership including HeadStart, Child Care, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Department of Health and Environment and other independent committees, organizations and agencies. The consensus of the group was they support licensure remaining birth through 3rd grade. Carol Rupe, State Board Member, stated she would take this message of support for the license to the Board.

Doctor Dave Lindeman has also organized a meeting of faculty of the Institutes of Higher Education early childhood programs to discuss issues of licensure and how each of the universities are going to move forward to address the license. Consensus of the group was to draft a statement from faculty expressing their support for the State Board to stay the course of the birth through grade three unified license. The early childhood standards committee has developed standards and they should be out soon.

Once the new licensure goes into effect it brings requirements to other programs to hire certified teachers, which will create a demand. Specifically programs under the direction of school districts such as the at risk four year old programs, Parents as Teachers, Even Start, Chapter One will have to employ appropriately certified teachers. Deb Voth asked if there has been discussion among Parents as Teachers regarding licensure. Mimi Nagle stated there has not been a lot of controversy as employment requirements vary between districts regarding the requirements. Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned we need to support appropriately trained people along with higher standards.

Doug Bowman spoke with Commissioner Andy Tompkins regarding communicating with the State Board of Education. Commissioner Tompkins asked Doug to be a part of their public

forum to discuss our concerns on teacher licensure. Doctor Dave Lindeman moved the Interagency Coordinating Council again needs to communicate with the State Board of Education our support of the unified birth through grade three teacher licensing. Seconded by Deb Voth; passed unanimously.

KANSAS STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Carolyn Nelson reported she visited with Marnie Campbell and her only issue is the teacher licensing concern.

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson reported the new Part C Coordinator will begin March 4, 2002. Her name is Peggy Miksch.

The Infant-Toddler Spring Conference will be held on April 18th in Salina. A flyer has been approved and will be mailed out soon.

Carolyn Nelson reported she has not heard from the federal government again regarding the Federal Part C Grant Applications arrival date. They had indicated in a phone call last month that the applications would be out in a week or two.

Bruce Passman, Deanna McClenahan, Kim Sykes and Carolyn Nelson met a couple of weeks ago. They have started preliminary plans for developing new contracts to provide hearing and vision screening training for appropriate Infant-Toddler and Special Education staff throughout Kansas. The current Social and Rehabilitative Services five day screening training is being condensed to 1 - 1 _ days for Kan Be Healthy providers. State guidelines require more intensive training for the 0-21 special education staff who does this screening, thus the need for new contracts.

SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Brenda Kuder

Brenda Kuder discussed the Kan Be Healthy process. The five days blocked access to services due to nurses not having the Kan Be Healthy certification. The intent is for an initial screen with later refers of Kan Be Healthy individuals for follow-up.

Tracy Wohl and Brenda Kuder have been working on a letter regarding issues of therapy codes billed by Early Childhood Intervention providers, that is, one unit would equal one visit. About five Early Childhood Intervention networks have undergone utilization management review and during this process overpayments have been identified.

Brenda Kuder reported in the month of February \$148,000 was paid out to early childhood intervention compared to \$83,000 same month last year. Fiscal Year to date \$770,000 compared to \$672,000 last year at this time. For Local Education Agencies, \$2.6 million in February. Fiscal year to date \$16.5 million compared to \$13 million last year.

Doug Bowman spoke with Alice Womack and she informed him Social and Rehabilitative Services is still working on budget issues.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Julie Stell

Doug Bowman reported the Kansas Insurance Department would meet with us regarding insurance initiatives. Currently, the Insurance Department is working on completing the Anthem issue as there may be court action.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Funding Committee:

Deb Voth reported in the past we have used a phone tree, which will be updated to identify about nine people who are with Infant-Toddler Networks across Kansas to call about five networks under them to inform the networks about the latest issues as opposed to sending a fax.

Deb Voth reported staff from Rainbows United have produced tiny-k stationary which features a logo and lists the updated website at the bottom. The website is www.tiny-k.org. This stationary is optional for networks to use on an at cost basis. Deb Voth mentioned the goal is to get the attention of the different policy-makers by using the same letterhead and envelopes. Ellen Mellard thanked Deb Voth and others involved for the stationary. The stationary will have more power and impact. Ellen Mellard mentioned she received a response back from the “tax me more for kids” dollar stating they understand we are willing to pay more taxes for this cause.

COORDINATORS REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported in February there was a Child Advocacy Day. There was a tremendous turnout.

The Kansas Division for Exceptional Children Conference went well. There will be an event at the capitol on March 4th with a message to encourage legislators of child care issues.

Doug Bowman reported the Sunflower Foundation Request for Proposal is due out in March.

Doug Bowman attended a Children’s Cabinet meeting that included Speaker Glasscock, Minority Leader Garner, Majority Leader Weber and Senator Adkins. They stated the need to strengthen the cabinet’s capacity and role in evaluating children’s programs. Doug stated we will work collaboratively with them.

Carolyn Nelson reported that an Infant-Toddler Network Coordinator approached her regarding the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund funding recommendations report to the Governor and Legislature. The coordinator indicated that the way the paragraph about Infant-Toddler was written, it makes it appear that Infant-Toddler Networks are noncompliant with regulations.

Carolyn explained to the Coordinator that the report wording means that Infant-Toddler does not collect the type of data the Children's Cabinet wants in order to justify the money they designate for Infant-Toddler Services. Carolyn noted that some of the data provided to the Children's Cabinet, based on their evaluation questionnaire, did in fact answer some of their questions. However, it would be beneficial to Infant-Toddler if they had staff to do research, to establish baselines, and to collect more definitive data related to the effects of early intervention. This is the type of data, including the Children's Cabinet that more and more entities are requesting in order to justify access to funds.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on April 5th, 2002, located in Topeka, Garden City, Hays, Parsons, Wichita, Overland Park, Kansas, by Interactive Television at the Landon State Office Building, 900 Southwest Jackson, 8th Floor, Room 855-S.