

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES  
May 3, 2002  
Meeting Minutes

Members Attending:

Sharon Hixson, Chair, Russell Child Development Center  
Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber)  
Doctor Chet Johnson  
Ellen Mellard, Northeast Kansas  
Education Service Center  
Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky)  
Cheryl Coleman, Bright Circle Preschool  
Coordinator  
Karla Kenton, Parent Member  
Maria Martinez, Parent Member  
Doctor Dave Lindeman, University of Kansas Center on  
Developmental Disabilities  
Mimi Nagle, Parent Member  
Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins)

Others Attending:

Kathryn Boyd, Osage County  
Mary K. Rupe, Sunflower  
Diversified  
Peggy Miksch, Kansas  
Department of Health and  
Environment  
Kathy Johnson, Shawnee  
County  
Doug Bowman,  
Patty Miller, Staff

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Sharon Hixson and Mary K. Rupe, Sunflower Diversified, joined the meeting via conference phone. Introductions were made. Doctor Dave Lindeman moved to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from April 5, 2002 as amended with correction on page 7, "in regard to the Commissioner's denial of the proposed merger", rather than Secretary's denial of the proposed merger. Seconded by Cheryl Coleman; passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC FORUM**

Ellen Mellard reported that she spoke with Representative Wilk regarding an amendment to a statute so that schools could charge for regular preschool programs (not special education). Currently, the statute allows a charge for childcare services, but not preschool. At this time there is little to report, but will look into this further for next year. Doctor Dave Lindeman stated he would like the Interagency Coordinating Council to put together a working committee. Volunteers for this committee are Doctor Dave Lindeman, Alice Womack and Marnie Campbell.

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATE** - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported the state budget is currently \$300 million short. There are other funding and transportation issues to be resolved in an Omnibus bill. The legislature is looking at ways to raise tax revenues, particularly tobacco tax. Carolyn Nelson mentioned Representative Neufeld put \$500,000 into the Infant-Toddler program. The House approved this and the Senate did not.

The current budget has the Department of Education at level funding \$3,870 base state aid per pupil. Special Education is at 85%. Some of the money will be from the tobacco fund. Healthy Start is level funded. Health Departments do not show an increase. Foster Care is level funded

with some extra money for family preservation. Parents as Teachers is level funded, but may drop off significantly due to lack of local match. Social and Rehabilitation Services has restored significant cuts that were going to the Mental Health Centers and Community Developmental Disability Organizations. There are cuts in the Child Care Developmental Grant. The childcare rate increase that was implemented in February is secure. Smart Start received level funding. Higher Education will have cut in programs due to annualized salaries and health insurance costs not being funded.

Ellen Mellard asked how the Representatives and Senators are voting. Marnie Campbell mentioned the Children's Campaign web site should have this information.

Doug Bowman passed out copies of Tiny-K memos dated April 26 and May 1, 2002.

### **CATEGORICAL AID**

Peggy Miksch mentioned two networks have reported problems with the local school district due to budget constraints and are considering pulling positions.

Kathy Johnson reports one local agency will have to reduce staff by half within their network. Another agency has been reduced by two-thirds.

Marnie Campbell mentioned (on the preschool side) that due to cutting state regulation regarding class size and case loads, districts may combine classes or pull students from community programs into the school's segregated preschool programs or in reverse mainstreaming. In addition to the cut in state special education funding, Part B, Kansas will also experience a \$500,000 cut to the federal Part B allocation. Several years ago at the federal level a change was instituted in how funds are allocated to states, that is, 85% on the basis of the poverty index and 15% on the basis of census data of total school age population. When the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act is reauthorized, there may not be preschool grants.

Marnie suggested we explore the possibility of an interfund transfer of the current amount we are putting into categorical aid for Infant-Toddler, which is over five million dollars a year. This would go to the lead agency and then be distributed to locals along with the federal grant money. This would allow for equitable access. Marnie suggested that the Interagency Coordinating Council continue discussion with Kansas Department of Education. Kathy Johnson explained we cannot look at the local networks to continually offset the reduction and excess cost of providing Part C services.

### **OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM MONITORING PROCESS** - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson handed out a draft time line for Kansas' self-assessment that is being completed for the Office of Special Education Programs. This self-assessment is part of Office of Special Education Program's monitoring of states' infant-toddler and education programs. Children's Developmental Services and Kansas State Department of Education are in the process of developing a contract with the University of Kansas Beach Center for the planning and implementation of state-wide public forums, analysis of information collected at these forums

and a report based on their analysis. This information will be included in the self-assessment report to Office of Special Education Programs. Though there will be an open invitation for these forums, specific people targeted to attend are parents of children with disabilities, service providers, and program administrators. Locations for these forums are Wichita, Salina, Kansas City, Kansas, Garden City, Topeka and Pittsburg. Submission of the self-assessment report to the Office of Special Education Programs is scheduled for October 18, 2002.

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION** - Marnie Campbell

Marnie Campbell distributed several handouts. The first one is regarding Potential Students for Early Childhood Programs at Community Colleges and Institutions of Higher Education in Kansas. See attached sheet. The second handout is from HeadStart showing a data analysis of four state region, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska. Percentages of teachers with and without education and certification are shown for Early HeadStart as well as HeadStart. Marnie passed out the third handout, an Early Childhood License Question/Answer based on information from Martha Gage. The fourth handout is the flyer for the Kansas Inservice Training System Summer Institute on Supporting Children with Disabilities and their Families for School Readiness June 18-21, 2002, at the University of Kansas in Lawrence. Marnie also handed out a brochure regarding School Readiness. Last, she handed out a flyer on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Midwest Faculty Institute October 3-4, 2002 in Kansas City, Missouri. The theme is Teaching Tools for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

**KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT** - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson reported Peggy Miksch has put together the annual report that is due to go in to the Office of Special Education Programs. Peggy Miksch handed out a draft copy of the 2000-2001 Annual Report and will send a copy to those persons not at the Interagency Coordinating Council meeting. Send response to Carolyn Nelson, Peggy Miksch or Doug Bowman by May 22, 2002.

Carolyn Nelson stated the University of Kansas has been awarded a Federal Office of Special Education Programs grant to prepare future personnel for Infant-Toddler programs. There is a twelve-month scholarship. Awardees will participate in graduate level course work to increase their core knowledge and a practicum placement in a Part C infant-toddler program allowing practical application of skills during the 12-month scholarship year. Full-time and part-time (course work only) scholarships are available. Those individuals who are seeking a Master's degree in Early Childhood Special Education who are especially interested in working in the infant/toddler field are encouraged to apply. (See attachment).

**SOCIAL AND REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT** - Alice Womack

Alice Womack reported the Early Childhood Apprenticeship program was to end September 2002, but Kansas has been able to extend to June 2003.

Alice reported Social and Rehabilitative Services had a child care grant returned due to the closure of the facility. This has given Social and Rehabilitative Services \$20,000. Social and Rehabilitative Services will expand a contract with the Kansas Children's Service League.

The Head Start Collaboration office has funded a higher education project, which is surveying the higher education institutions across the state including community colleges in order to establish an accurate list of all infant toddler and early childhood courses and distance education opportunities available in early childhood higher education and articulation agreements between Kansas higher education institutions. This project will be evaluating course work at a minimum of 20 early childhood higher education programs in Kansas relative to the Kansas/Missouri core competencies and hosting audio/video conferences with faculty from institutions of higher education and others in the early childhood field across the state to enhance regular and continuous sharing of early childhood higher education issues and trends. The goal is to build a strong network of higher education institutions and stakeholders in the early childhood profession so all providers in Kansas have access to higher education opportunities that model the current research trends in the field.

The Kansas Early HeadStart Outcome Measurements have been finalized and will be used in July contracting with the University of Kansas to work on a tool to measure age appropriate development.

Social and Rehabilitative Services is in the infant stages of developing a second language project that will work with the HeadStart adult education and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families agency collaboration.

The Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies had a wage hike to bring public awareness to low wage child care providers.

#### **INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT** - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported for Julie Stell. Doug Bowman, Julie Stell, Linda DeCoursey and Tracy Wohl met two weeks ago. They discussed the possibility to have a campaign to go to insurance carriers in the state of Kansas and explain the issues of service denials for Part C. They will explore the possibility of voluntary private contributions.

Doug stated the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can look at ways to provide assistance to the local partners attempting to access private insurance.

#### **COORDINATOR REPORT** - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported the Funding Committee has not met, but will meet soon. Issues of discussion will be Categorical Aid, Tiny-K Campaign and reauthorization of Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

Doug will start more frequent visits to local partners once the Legislature adjourns. Plans include: Leavenworth, Johnson, Franklin and Sedgwick.

#### **ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting adjourned at 4:00.

The next meeting will be on June 7, 2002, located in Topeka at the White Lakes Location at 3600 Topeka Boulevard. Conference room A.

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