

COORDINATING COUNCIL ON EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES

November 1, 2002

Meeting Minutes

<u>Members Attending:</u>	<u>Others Attending:</u>
Sharon Hixson , Chair, Russell Child Development Center Carolyn Nelson (representing Secretary Graeber) Marnie Campbell (representing Commissioner Tompkins) Alice Womack (representing Secretary Schalansky) Deb Voth , Rainbows United, Wichita DoctorDave Lindeman , University of Kansas Center on Developmental Disabilities Ellen Mellard , Northeast Kansas Education Service Center Maria Martinez , Parent Member Karla Kenton , Parent Member Mark Tremaine , Parent Member	Debbie Mai , Rainbows United Stephanie Diehl , Geary County Terrell Mann , Wyandotte County Dawn O'Brien , Leavenworth Carrie Pierce , Salina Infant and Toddler Services Monika Greene , Riley County Linda Kenney , Kansas Department of Health and Environment – Bureau of Children Youth and Families Lona Foust , Riley County Sue Waltney , Riley County Amy Lombardi , Riley County Doug Bowman , Coordinator Patty Miller , Staff

The meeting was called to order by Sharon Hixson, Chair. Introductions were made. Deb Voth moved to approve the draft Interagency Coordinating Council meeting minutes from October 4, 2002. Seconded by Ellen Mellard; passed unanimously.

PUBLIC FORUM & Story from Geary County Local Infant-Toddler Coordinating Council

No one brought concerns to the Council during Public Forum.

Stephanie Diehl gave an overview of history of Geary County Interagency Coordinating Council. The Geary County Interagency Coordinating Council was formed in 1990 with the purpose of increasing awareness of resources and services and the establishment of infant-toddler services. The Geary County Interagency Coordinating Council was changed to the Geary County Early Childhood Family Network which serves as the Interagency Coordinating Council for infant-toddler services and parents as teachers. This process has pulled people together with joint activities, that is, parent support program, newsletters, play groups, in-service and staff development training and strategic planning sessions.

Sue Waltney discussed the very successful week of the young child activities event was held in April. Fort Riley provided money for art activities, sensory tables, food and rides.

Sharon Hixson asked about the numbers on planning teams. Stephanie answered Community Connections has between 50-60 people. Some of the smaller taskforces have between 8 to 10

people. There are some areas that are missing representation. When the committees were reformed into taskforce, then work started getting done. There is more parent participation.

Doug Bowman asked what it is like to deliver services on a day-to-day basis with the military in their community. Stephanie Diehl answered the military have a coordinator that is very family focused and involved in community organizations. The local network has received assistance through family advocacy monies for respite dollars.

OFFICE OF SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS Monitoring Process

Doug Bowman passed out a draft summary handout on “Self-Assessment for Kansas A Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Process to Benefit Services for Children with Disabilities (Birth to 21) and Their Families, Executive Summary October 2002.” (See attachment A). In 2002, Kansas was notified we were to begin the Continuous Improvement and Monitoring Process for the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs. The draft handout addresses where Kansas stands in compliance with the federal law.

Carolyn Nelson explained the steering committee from across the state looked at the final report and graded it. The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on January 10, 2003, to begin development of Kansas’ Self-Improvement Plan. The Improvement Plan is due July 1, 2003 to the federal government.

Marnie Campbell explained the Part B monitoring process is different from Part C as it addresses age three through twenty-one. The percentage of children that are served in typical childhood settings compared to the national average qualifies as “needs improvement”. With the federal focus, we hope there is action to correct this concern.

The one area identified for needed improvement in the Part C self-assessment is the early childhood transition cluster. Concern is focused on the percentage of children leaving Part C services to Part B services that are placed in inclusive preschool or other settings. Areas identified for needed improvement in the Part B self-assessment are providing appropriate transition services for secondary students and free appropriate public education in the Least Restrictive Environment. Areas of concern are services to children between the ages of three to five. Another area of concern is the transitioning from Part C to Part B. (See attachment A).

KANSAS DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION - Marnie Campbell

Marnie Campbell passed out the written report for Kansas State Department of Education. (See attachment B). The American Legislative Exchange Council Report Card on American Education, Kansas received a national ranking of sixth of fifty states based on academic achievement of students, 1976-2001.

There are not equivalent numbers of students enrolling in teacher prep programs to take the place of persons retiring. There is concern of maintaining school performance, if this trend continues.

Marnie passed out a handout the new standards of Early Childhood Unified Birth through Third Grade. The website is www.ksde.ort/cert/cert_pubs.html . (See attachment C).

Marnie discussed the scenarios of auditors that go out and review special education funding look at Head Start and other partners in early childhood.

Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Carolyn Nelson

Carolyn Nelson passed out the Children's Developmental Services Report. (See attachment D). The Kansas State Department of Education and Infant-Toddler Services received notice of a grant award to assist with data collection and analysis to track children after they leave Infants and Toddler Services. The intent of the tracking is to help determine whether or not those who transition to a 3 to 5 special education program have benefited from early intervention via the need for fewer services, and/or shorter time in special education.

Carolyn reported the Division of Health was asked to complete a projected budget for State Fiscal Year 2003, based on State General Fund reductions of \$1 million and \$2 million dollars. All bureaus and sections within Health are included in the projected cuts.

SOCIAL REHABILITATION SERVICES REPORT - Alice Womack

Alice Womack passed out the Social and Rehabilitation Services Report. (See attachment E). Alice explained Social and Rehabilitation Services continues to look at ways to reduce spending as further state budget cuts are proposed. There are programs being looked at for cuts that do not have State General Funds.

Alice attended the Annual APHSA Child Care Affiliate's meeting. Some new requirements are to raise the reimbursement projects to enhance payments to providers meeting established levels of certification or education and child care reauthorization. Kansas is working on a tiered reimbursement initiative and plans to have one prepared to implement when funds become available.

There was a partners meeting held in Kansas City with the federal government to promote the Good Start Grow Smart initiative that is the "Leave No Child Behind" direction for children from birth to five years of age. This will assist states in developing the school readiness indicators, implementation and professional development.

The third national meeting for the school readiness initiative is being held in Rhode Island on November 13, 14, 2003. The Kauffman foundation is supporting this initiative.

Plans for the upcoming Fatherhood Coalition Summit to be held in April, 2003, located in Manhattan, Kansas.

Healthy Smiles II, the second annual infants and toddlers oral health conference will be held on February 22, 2003 in Topeka.

INSURANCE COMMISSION REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported for Julie Stell. Doug passed out the Kansas Insurance Department Report (see attachment F). Commissioner Sebelius has offered the assistance of her office to 12,000 Medicare beneficiaries who will be losing their Medicare HMO plan on January 1, 2003.

The 2001 Complaint Ratio Report is now available from the Insurance Department free of charge.

COMMITTEE REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman explained there were committees and taskforces formed after discussion from the strategic planning session in September, 2002. Doug passed around a sheet for those to sign up for committees. Doug passed out a draft strategic plan for calendar year 2003. (See attachment G).

The Advocacy committee has been created separate from the funding committee. Debbie Mai reported the Mission of the Early Intervention Advocacy Group: will advocate for all children birth to five and their families with an emphasis on those with special needs. Their role is to support committee work from the Interagency Coordinating Council. They will take recommendations and put into a strategy that will impact change at state, federal or local level.

Issues have been identified as: funding, awareness of name recognition for Infant-Toddler Services, accountability, cleaner funding, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act reauthorization, and natural environment. The Advocacy group will work with the funding committee on funding issues.

Debbie Mai mentioned their next meeting will be held November 13th from 3:30 to 6:00.

Deb Voth stated due to the lack of funds there is a dilemma. Deb will meet with Doug Bowman after next week. Deb stressed there needs to be a strong emphasis at the federal level.

Doctor Dave Lindeman agreed to be on the Services Committee. Doctor Lindeman spoke about the issue of school districts being able to charge for preschool services. The Kansas State Department of Education attorney advises we meet with the Commissioner and Assistant Commissioner on this issue. At this time, the Kansas State Department of Education attorney interprets the state statute as not allowing school districts to charge for preschool services. Statute 72-8236 discusses school districts authority to assess fees for services in child care facilities. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment Division of Health interprets child care facilities to be inclusive of preschool services.

If we look at changing the statute, the Department of Health prefers the wording to use "child care facilities including preschools". Another avenue to go is that we could ask the Attorney General for clarification of the term child care facilities. The third avenue would be to draft a cover letter to republicize the 1996 clarification document for school districts on when they should become licensed and did not need to be a licensed child care facility. This document would go on for approval of the Commissioner of the Kansas State Department of Education. After discussion it was decided to meet with the Commissioner of the Kansas State Department of Education and seek his opinion.

Doctor Dave Lindeman mentioned the web site for the Council is available. The address is kansasicc.org. Dave would like your review and feedback.

Deb Voth had concern of some networks not having dial-up capabilities with internet. Carolyn Nelson stated Jim North is working with the networks connection issues.

Doug Bowman mentioned the Operations Committee. This committee discusses issues, such as, what are the steps to suggest to the Governor new members, should the Interagency Coordinating Council meeting continue to meet monthly, continue using Interactive Television or move meetings out of town. This committee meets sporadically to address these issues.

Doug Bowman discussed the taskforce meetings. A newborn developmental delay screening taskforce. Doug Bowman and Doctor Chet Johnson will meet on November 25 with the Assistant Secretary of Kansas Department of Health and Environment to discuss vital statistics data. The issue is that, is it possible to work through the confidentiality/privacy issues in order to take the database that already exists from the electronic birth certificate system and screen for factors and routinely flag the births that are identified.

The other taskforce is Parent Involvement. How can we keep parent involvement participation at the local Interagency Coordinating Councils and at the State Interagency Coordinating Council more meaningful.

Doctor Lindeman discussed the supplemental application to the state improvement grant. This Early Childhood Higher Education Options group is supportive of the unified birth to grade three license. The faculty from colleges and universities continue to meet about the unified license. As a result of the meeting(s), the State of Kansas had an opportunity to write a supplement to their state improvement grant. The Kansas State Department of Education decided the supplement would focus on early childhood and the unified license. This grant was received with monies available.

COORDINATOR REPORT - Doug Bowman

Doug Bowman reported the next 30 days the state will be in transition. The new governor will have a transition team to look at control of state government. In order to be prepared, we need to develop information as to who we are and what we have been doing and where we plan to go. Doug asked for assistance in putting together this material.

Doug Bowman passed out a handout on Kansas Early Education Partners, (see attachment H). This is an advocacy group that cares about children issues. The mission is to coordinate advocacy with the goal of ensuring that all children in Kansas have access to quality early learning opportunities that are affordable and reliable.

Doug Bowman is on the strategy team for Kansas Early Education Partners. In order to receive updates on issues for Kansas Early Education Partners, you can fill out the last page and fax it back to (785) 232-0699.

Deb Voth asked as a Council, if members of the Council we are in agreement on advocating for the foundation of a formulae for Infant-Toddler funding request to be based on the same amount schools are receiving for the three to five year old population with Individual Education Plans. After much discussion, Doug Bowman said the funding committee will meet in December to

discuss this issue. Deb Voth had expressed concern with so many coalitions throughout the state that take up much time and effort of duplication. Concerns were expressed about the Council maintaining its focus, especially in the provision budgeting of staff time. This topic will be further discussed in December.

Doug Bowman reported that no written response has been received from Pam Alger of Social and Rehabilitative Services. She was given written follow-up questions about therapeutic preschools following her presentation to the Council in October. Pam Alger told Doug Bowman she will meet with Senator Karin Brownlee about the questions on this issue.

Doug Bowman passed out the draft strategic plan, (see attachment G). The strategic plan has been modified since the September retreat. Please review and return any questions and/or comments back to Doug Bowman.

Doug Bowman and Maria Martinez will attend the National Early Childhood Technical Assistance Conference in Washington, District of Columbia next week.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting adjourned at 5:00.

The next meeting will be December 6, 2002, located in Topeka at the Topeka Public Library, 1515 Southwest 10th, Topeka, Room 101C.