

MINUTES OF EARLY LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund Conference Room

Landon State Office Building, Room 152

900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas

Wednesday, May 31, 2006

1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Present: Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Margy Hornback, KSDE
Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
Gary Brunk, Kansas Action for Children
Jackie Counts, The University of KS Institute for Educational Research & Public Services
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Eric Van Allen, SRS
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS
Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet Executive Director

Jim Redmon opened the meeting.

Report on Pre-K Pilot Program RFP

Jim Redmon gave an update on the PreK pilot. Seven letters of intent were received. Each county and letter of intent is a collaborative effort. The RFP was sent out on May 24. The due date is June 19th. The committee will meet on June 21st to review the applications. Committee members are to email Dyogga where they would like the applications mailed to. Jim also announced that he will be posting a position for a PreK coordinator.

Carolyn Weinhold suggested that technical assistance be provided to grant recipients to facilitate the collaborative process. ELCC members agreed that this although necessary, these grants are on the fast track. Technical assistance will be considered in the future.

Participating classrooms will be matched with classrooms of similar demographics for the evaluation. NIEER is working with Abby Thorman of the Greater Kansas City Foundation to finalize details of the evaluation. Results of the evaluation will not be completed by the start of the next legislative session.

Jim gave an update on the business meeting held on May 2, 2006 in Wichita, KS at the Barry Downing facility. The meeting went very well and was attended by approximately 55 business leaders. The meeting resulted in additional support for PreK, including monetary support.

ELCC members reported that the May 2, 2006 KECCS meeting went very well. Margy Hornback said that the discussion at the tables was great. The info and background on topics facilitated discussions and resulted in meaningful conversations.

Jim also gave a report on Governor Sebelius' next steps in PreK. He suggested that an ELCC subcommittee be formed to look at early education in rural Kansas. Gayle Stuber mentioned a four-year-old-at-risk model that looks at rural Kansas. Children are prepared to succeed in school

Report on Grants

Jackie Counts informed the committee of the progress on the ECCS Continuing Competition. A draft has been completed and is circulating KDHE for signatures. She also provided the ELCC with a graphic of the KECCS plan. The graphic consists of the goals, objectives, strategies, target population, and outcomes. It was approved by the group, with the suggestion that the child outcome be consistent with the School Readiness brochure: Children are prepared to succeed in school. Jackie will email the revised version to ELCC members and will post on the website.

Linda Kenney reported that there are some funds remaining in the grant period that need to be spent before August 31, 2006. There is no carryover. Some of the funds will be allocated to the NTI training. Gayle suggested that funds be used to print the Early Learning Guidelines. Mary suggested a home visitation training piece. ELCC members are encouraged to submit funding ideas to Jackie by June 6, 2006.

Kansas is applying for the NGA Gubernatorial Support grant as a Governor's Office, Head Start, and KCCTF partnership. The application is due June 16, 2006.

Update on Plan and Archiving "Met" Activities

Jackie also reported on the website usage. Over the past two months, 264 individuals have visited the site. A US map of the visitations was also provided. To increase visits, the website will be linked with other agencies. Outcomes that have been met and activities that have been completed will be archived. Visitors to the website will be able to retrieve all archived data.

Mary Baskett inquired if targets, or quantitative outcomes, have been set for the plan. ELCC members agreed that it was time to set targets and Jim Redmon suggested that targets be the topic of the next ELCC meeting. Gayle Stuber will bring the school readiness data for the meeting. She also briefly discussed the work that the University of Kansas, the Kansas Health Institute, and KSDE are doing in School Readiness.

Jim informed members that Kansas was a recipient of a National Alliance of Children's Trust and Prevention Fund seed grants. The \$50,000 grant is a partnership between the KCCTF and KACCRRRA to implement a train-the-trainer Partnering with Parents—Strengthening Families model. Kansas also applied to and was selected as one of nine teams to the Prevent Institute at UNC-Chapel Hill. The Institute provides an eight month intensive process to prevent child maltreatment. The Kansas team will use the training to facilitate the Kansas Strengthening Families Plan, Strategy 5.2.1

Scheduling Next KECCS Meeting in November 2006

The next KECCS Stakeholder meeting was discussed. Following the six month timeline, the meeting is scheduled to take place on November 17, 2006 in Salina, Kansas. It was agreed that the event be co-hosted by the Kansas Head Start Association on November 16, 2006. Mary will contact the Bicentennial Center in Salina, KS as a potential site. Details of the event, including a parent reception or meal, will be discussed at future meetings.

Adjournment and Set Date for Next ELCC Meeting

The next ELCC meeting was set for July 20, 2006 from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.