

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, September 24, 2008
1:00 p.m. – 2:50 p.m.

Present: Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association (*via telephone*)
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children
Chris Ross-Baze, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Janet Newton, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
Gayle Stuber, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
David Lindeman, ECHO Consortium II Project, The University of Kansas, Life Span Institute
Rita Gedney, USD 305 Heartland Programs (*via telephone*)
Jennifer Crow, Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, (*via telephone*)
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Rebecca Gillam, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Karen Beckerman, Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services (SRS)
Nancy Keel, Kansas Association of Parents as Teachers
Jim Redmon, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF)
Jane Weiler, KCCTF
Dyogga Adegboire, KCCTF

Introductions and Welcome

Jim Redmon asked for introductions, and then introduced new staff member, Jane Weiler. Jane Weiler is the new Early Childhood Director. She brings a wealth of experience in the field of early childhood. The Cabinet is pleased to have Jane on board.

Early Childhood Block Grants

Jim and Jane reported on Early Childhood Block Grant applications. The closing date for applications was September 22. There was a good response to the Request For Proposals (RFP). Staff received 36 applications, totaling \$34.8 million, with proposals to serve 72 of the 105 counties with unduplicated services. A cursory review of applications indicated that many applicants had done a good job of showing collaboration with existing programs serving children ages birth to five.

Jim was complimentary of Jane and Dyogga for their work in fielding numerous questions from interested parties about the RFP. The next phase of the RFP will be to set dates for both national and state review team members to review and discuss the applications. Some of the Cabinet-Board members will be part of the state review team. Final recommendations will be presented at the full Cabinet meeting in October. Successful applicants will be notified in early November.

Pre-Kindergarten

Jim remarked that the transition from the Children's Cabinet to KSDE for the Pre-K program has gone well.

Gayle Stuber reported that the scheduled September 12 Pre-K Summit with the new Pre-K grantees had to be postponed because of rain and dangerous road conditions. The Summit will be rescheduled for April 7th, 2009. She will be meeting with University of Kansas, School of Education research and evaluation staff to discuss the Pre-K evaluation component of the project.

Gayle reported she is forming a Pre-K Steering Committee to discuss a model approach for combining the Pre-K pilots and Four-year at risk programs into the Kansas Preschool Program. Gayle added she wanted to include the Kansas Special Education program into the model. The goal will be to have the model completed within three years. Several members of ELCC will be participating on the steering committee. A report will be presented to the Governor by end of November.

2010 Commission Report

Jim reported the national person he asked to act as the facilitator for the early childhood governance model has declined. He has a list of other individuals he will be contacting. He will be running a few dates by ELCC to meet and come up with various governance models. Information will be presented at the November 13th KECCS Stakeholders meeting. After meeting in October, November and December, a report will be prepared and submitted to the 2010 Commission by January 1, 2009. After the 2010 Commission reviews the report, it will be sent to the Legislative Education Planning Commission (LEPC) and then to the Senate Education Committee for final review and consideration.

Kansas Strengthening Families Plan

Jackie Counts and Rebecca Gillam discussed the KSF Plan and upcoming parent involvement focus groups. Handouts were distributed at the ELCC meeting.

- Leadership Team – Leadership team has met several times about the KSF Plan. They want the plan to focus on parent initiatives. Three phases of focus groups will be conducted to obtain parents' perspective on involvement. The first phase will occur in Salina, Lawrence, Pittsburg, and Topeka.. Agency surveys will be sent to ELCC members asking for input.
- Data Indicators - Information is being collected on Breadth of Implementation; Parent Partnership; Professional Development; ECH/Child Welfare Linkages; Systems Integration and Infrastructures Changes for the Plan.

- National Network – Kansas is part of a national network of Kansas Strengthening Families consortiums.

Jackie reported that Kansas was selected, by The Charles Stewart Mott Foundation, as a pilot state for collaboration of after-school projects and early childhood. However, no funding was provided. There is a committee being formed, which can be expanded if anyone is interested in participating.

Professional Development Systems Planning

Rebecca talked about the Professional Development for Early Child Care and Early Education task force. The TF is facilitated by Rae Anderson, National Child Care Information Center (NCCIC). The task force is a group coordinated through SRS with an action plan for professional development for child care and early education constituents. This component is a strategy called for in the KECCS plan.

KECCS Plan Revisions

Jackie and Rebecca distributed KECCS Plan revisions targeting the goals on Health Insurance/Medical Home, Mental Health and Social-Emotional Development, and Parent Education. They went over the revisions with ELCC members. Rebecca asked for input about the revisions and anything else in the plan from ELCC by October 1. David Lindeman asked for a change to Goal 3.3 (Early Care and Education Services) “Utilize *Kansas Division of Early Childhood recommended Practices to support inclusive programs in natural settings. He asked for the word “Kansas” to be dropped.* Rebecca remarked the final version will be presented at the KECCS Stakeholders meeting on November 13.

Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan Stakeholders Meeting - Salina

The ELCC talked about the draft agenda distributed at the meeting. There was discussion about including an evening event on November 13 for both attendees of the Kansas Head Start Association (KHSA) conference and the KECCS Stakeholders meeting. Jim said he would get back with Mary Baskett on coordinating the event. The KECCS meeting is all day November 13 at Courtyard By Marriott Hotel and the KHSA conference will be held at Holiday Inn in Salina.

Application for Funding Beyond May 2009 (Update of matrix and environmental scan)

Jackie and Rebecca reported the funding has been extended for an additional nine months. The KU Team is working on the application with Linda Kenney for renewal for the three-year grant. Due date is February 1, 2009. The grant will be non-competitive this time. Jackie reported that three pieces of information are needed to complete the draft application by December 1, 2008. The information needed includes: 1) program descriptions, 2) updated program matrix and 3) funding streams.

Other Information

Jennifer Crow reported on legislative events sponsored by Kansas Action for Children. A reception for legislators was held at KAC on September 23 and upcoming statewide tours of Pre-Kindergarten sites has been scheduled.

Chris Ross-Baze reported KDHE just issued a press release on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Child Deaths. It can be viewed on the KDHE website at www.kdheks.gov.

Chris reported that the Joint Committee on Children's Issues will be meeting October 13, 14, November 9 and sometime in December. One issue that will be discussed is Child Care Licensing and Benefits.

Adjournment

ELCC scheduled October 27 and November 24, 2008 as the next two meetings dates. Both meetings will begin at 1:00 p.m. at the Children's Cabinet office.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.