

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, July 27, 2005
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Eric Van Allen, SRS;
Carolyn Weinhold for Alice Womack, SRS;
Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association;
Jim Caccamo, Metropolitan Council on Early Learning/Mid-America Regional Council
Ellen Mellard for Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on ECH Developmental
Services (CCECDs)
Gayle Stuber, KSDE;
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children;
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Services;
Jennifer Crow, Governor's Office;
Linda Kenney, KDHE;
Melissa Ness, Children's Cabinet-Chair;
Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet, Executive Director
Dyogga Adegbore, Children's Cabinet

Welcome and Introductions:

Melissa Ness, Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund Chair opened the meeting and everyone introduced himself or herself. It was noted that Children's Cabinet Executive Committee members are scheduled to meet with Governor Sebelius on August 16 to discuss early learning governance and Children's Cabinet issues.

ELCC scheduled Thursday, August 25, 1:00 p.m. for its next meeting at the Children's Cabinet office.

Follow up from the June 8 ELCC meeting:

Website-

Jackie Counts displayed pages on the new ELCC website. The pages contain the goals and objectives discussed at the April 7-8, 2005 early learning stakeholders' meeting held at KU. The website will be up and running in approximately a month. Participants of the April 2005 early learning stakeholders meeting held at KU will be notified about the website prior to it going live.

Feedback Form –

The group took a look at the feed back pages on the goals, objectives, and strategies on the website. Jim Redmon will be collecting comments from the ELCC and will report back to the ELCC at the August meeting.

Strategies - Tracking Review -

Along with the strategies, objectives and goals of the ELCC, the website will reflect the purpose and mission of the ELCC added with some success stories, featuring different activities each month, training opportunities, and tracking relative to early learning community activities. Cabinet staff will be evaluating the number of “hits” the site takes and the activities going on. At the next ECCS planning meeting, attendees would be asked to evaluate the effectiveness of the website.

PRE-K Discussion:

The group reviewed a copy of the Pre-K Discussion piece provided at the June 8 meeting by Abby Thorman. Gayle Stuber provided the write-up in a different format with bullets as an option.

Jennifer Crow and Jim Redmon discussed the Pre-K Discussion statement. The group talked at length about the Pre-K Discussion statement. Several changes were made. A revised copy will be provided at the next meeting.

Early Childhood Mental Health Discussion:

Eric Van Allen talked about early childhood mental health as a component to the ECCS Plan and about other states that have ECH Mental Health plans in place; i.e., Florida and Minnesota. The group talked about collaborating with other mental health professionals and inviting them to be a part of the ECCS plan.

Jennifer Crow mentioned that she would be meeting with the Governor’s Mental Health Advisory Council later in the month and could take concerns identified and recommendations from the ELCC to that meeting. Eric Van Allen offered to craft a letter to be sent to the Governor’s Mental Health Advisory Council on behalf of the ELCC and forward it to Jim Redmon.

Jackie Counts commented that this discussion could be built into the ECCS Plan and further discussion to take place at the next ECCS Stakeholders’ meeting.

Next Steps:

In the ELCC members agreed to review the plan at future meetings, discuss the implementation plan next meeting, direct the drafting of a letter to the Governor’s Mental Health Advisory Council, which outlines concerns and recommendations.

Adjournment and Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting of ELCC will be Thursday, August 25, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. in the Children's Cabinet Conference Room.

Note: Since the last meeting, November 2, 2005 was selected as the date of the next Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Stakeholders' planning meeting. This will be a follow-up to the early learning stakeholders' meeting held last April at KU.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.