

MINUTES OF EARLY LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Conference Room

Landon State Office, Room 152

900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas

Wednesday, May 2, 2007

Present: Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Svcs
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Jackie Counts, KU Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Alice Womack, SRS
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS
Tiffany Smith-Birk, SRS
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children
Dennis Cooley, MD, American Association of Pediatrics
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Leadell Ediger, KACCRRRA
Rita Gedney, Heartland Programs
Jim Redmon, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund
Dyogga Adegbore, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund

Jim Redmon opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked for introductions.

Legislative Action

Cindy D'Ercole reported on approved funding amounts for various early childhood programs in the state. Cindy commented that all in all it was a good year, and there was enormous support for early childhood programs this session.

\$1.6 million for Early Head Start

\$6.9 million – Child Care Assistance

\$250,000 – Parents As Teachers

\$3 million – enhancement PreKindergarten in addition to the \$2 million

for a total \$5 million for PreK in 2008

\$3.6 million Child Care Subsidy

\$500,000 – Infant/Toddler Quality Child Care Initiative

Jim Redmon talked about SB 384 and a proposal for establishing an Office of Early Childhood by January 1, 2009.

PREK Update

Jim Redmon reported that two Request for Proposals for PreK grants will be sent out in two weeks. One RFP will be sent to the current PreK grantees giving opportunity to renew. The second RFP will be open to all other interested school districts within the 16 counties offered this opportunity for 2008. Carolyn Weinhold reported that she will be conducting an Early Childhood Collaboration meeting for the PreK grantees and other interested parties from the counties included in the 2008 PreK RFP in June.

Legislative Post Audit

Jim Redmon reported that the LPA continues to work on the audit of early childhood programs serving children ages birth to five, although they will be wrapping up this audit the end of June.

ECCS Continuing Competition Grant

Jackie Counts reported the grant document is in draft format soon to be finalized for submission in early July. She asked for the ELCC support of this grant. This is Year Three of implementation.

KECCS Website

Jackie Counts announced the KECCS website will be updated and gave a demonstration of the site. The new site mirrors the new KECCS folders that have been distributed to the stakeholders. The objective in updating the site was to make it more user-friendly. An email will be sent to the ELCC requesting input on the site and responses requested by May 21st. The new site will be launched June 1st.

Infant Toddler Mental Health

Tiffany Smith-Birk presented information about the Infant-Toddler Mental Health initiative and purchasing a license. She distributed handouts at the meeting. A meeting is scheduled May 24 at 1:00 p.m. at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library. Its purpose will be for stakeholders to discuss the development of a statewide early childhood mental health plan.

School Readiness Linkages

Jackie Counts distributed a handout on school readiness linkages.

NGA Early Childhood Grant Application

Jackie Counts reported that she is helping work on an application for grant funding from the National Governor's Association Early Childhood Summit. The grant award is \$10,000 and can be used for funding governance structure.

Other Business

Linda Kenney announced a name change for her division at Kansas Department of Health and Environment. The name has been changed from Bureau of Children, Youth, and Families to the Bureau of Family Health. This was the original name of the division up until 1993.

Mary Baskett announced that she will report on the Coalition for School Readiness at the next meeting as she will have more information for everyone. A report from the Coalition for School Readiness will be listed as a standing item on the agenda each month.

The next scheduled ELCC meeting will be Friday, June 29, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund office.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.