

KECCS

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Subject: KECCS Update



KECCS Update

June 2007

Check out the new KECCS website!



Based on **your** feedback, the new KECCS website – www.keccs.org - offers partners more access to information and more usable formats.

Here are a few of the highlights:

- Regular news and information through the *KECCS Update* - available online and delivered to your inbox.
- Resources, like the [Community Toolkit](#), are available to give you more opportunities to incorporate the Plan in your agency or community.
- Links to resources about early childhood and school readiness give you access to great information to use in grant applications and program development .
- Continued access to technical assistance by e-mail or telephone to help you better utilize the KECCS plan in your agency and community .
- **Coming soon....A new Implementation Tracking Tool that lets you access and print customized reports based on your agency's work.**

KECCS – The Plan in Action

An ad-hoc group in the Wichita area has used the KECCS plan to look at programs and services in Sedgwick County. The initial interest was in looking at how State grant dollars were being used in this community and if there were noticeable gaps in services that could be identified when dollars were available. The group, convened by Vickie Burgess McArthur from the Kansas Children's Service League, created a "fishbone" for their local area, showing the convergence of initiatives in support of early childhood. Modeled after the KECCS Converging Initiatives diagram, the local effort provided a structured approach to looking at early childhood in the Wichita area by identifying strengths and areas for growth in the current landscape of early childhood programs. The group modified the material to meet the needs of their community by creating two graphics to outline 1) funding

streams and 2) programs. Copies of the [KECCS Converging Initiatives diagram](#)  and the Sedgwick County [funding](#)  and [program](#)  fishbones are available on the KECCS website.

We want to hear from you

Use the [Implementation Tracking Tool](#) to keep us informed about what your agency is doing to contribute to the KECCS plan. Only through your work in the community can we really make a difference for children in Kansas. Tell us what you're doing! For technical assistance with the Implementation Tracking Tool, contact Rebecca Gillam, KECCS Program Assistant, at keccs@ku.edu or (785) 864-7123.

How has the Plan influenced work in your agency or community? What has your agency done to contribute to the plan? How have you coordinated resources or reports with other agencies? Share your stories – there is no contribution too big or too small! Send your Plan in Action stories to keccs@ku.edu, or by phone contact KECCS Program Assistant at (785) 864-7123.

In the News


Governor's Summit on Early Childhood

Kansas was awarded one of 10 grants from the National Governor's Association (NGA) to support a Governor's Summit on Early Childhood. The Summit will provide Kansas with an opportunity to bring together the priorities of the Governor's office, the Legislature, and the early childhood community to create a coordinated early childhood system. For more information about the award, read the [NGA Center News Release](#).

Pre-K

Pre-kindergarten programs are on the rise nationwide as states spend more money to help prepare their students for school success. An effort to close the gap between low-income children and their higher-income classmates, the availability and effectiveness of pre-K programs is an important consideration for states looking at early care and education. Kansas is leading efforts to look at the impact of pre-kindergarten through the Pre-K Pilot project. The Pre-K Pilot project is evaluating the effectiveness of intervention on child outcomes and classroom outcomes and activities. In the Kansas PreK Pilot project, research-based curriculum is used in evaluated classrooms to provide children with a basis for positive educational outcomes, particularly in areas of language development. [Read more](#) from AP Education Writer, Nancy Zuckerbrod, about the national movement toward pre-K programs.

Legislative Update

The Legislature passed [a bill](#)  that charges the legislative educational planning committee and 2010 commission with exploring the status of the early childhood education system in the state. As part of an effort to develop a comprehensive, coordinated system of early childhood education services, the planning committee and 2010 commission will identify priorities and barriers, and make recommendations to improve the quality and accessibility of early childhood education services to children and families in Kansas. By December 31, 2007, the legislative educational planning committee will submit a report with recommendations regarding the establishment of an office of early childhood education..

Tips & Tools

A Logic Model is a visual description of how your program works by showing the connection between resources, activities, outputs and outcomes. Many funding sources within the State and nationwide now require Logic Models as part of the grant application process, so now is the time to learn how to use this tool for your agency.

Logic Models typically include five elements that explain your planned work and your intended results: 1) resources/inputs, 2) activities, 3) outputs, 4) outcomes, and 5) impact.

Not sure where to start? Use the [Logic Model Builder](#) provided by the FRIENDS National Resource Center.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities

Save the date! The next KECCS stakeholder meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 9, 2007** in Salina, KS . More details will follow.

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KECCS partners? Let us know, and we will advertise it on the KECCS website and in the *Update*.