

MINUTES OF EARLY LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Conference Room

Landon State Office Building, Room 152

900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas

Tuesday, January 22, 2008

1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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
Rebecca Gillam, KU Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS
Tiffany Smith-Birk, SRS
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Leadell Ediger, KACCRRRA
Rita Gedney, USD 305, Heartland Programs
Lisa Klein, Kansas Health Institute
Nancy Keel, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Jennifer Crow, Kansas Coalition for School Readiness
Anne Maack, Kansas Coalition for School Readiness
Jim Redmon, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund
Dyogga Adegbore, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund

Jim Redmon opened the meeting.

KECCS Plan Revisions

Jackie Counts and Rebecca Gillam distributed copies of the updated KECCS Plan to the ELCC. This version included edits collected from among the ELCC membership.

NEXT KECCS STAKEHOLDERS' MEETING

Jackie Counts commented that the next KECCS Stakeholders' meeting is tentatively scheduled May 28th in Salina. Another possible date is May 22nd. Jackie is checking with national speakers to present at the meeting. Jane Knitzer and Roxanne Kauffman were two names suggested. Jackie will update ELCC at the next meeting.

PRESENTATION ON EARLY CHILDHOOD MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATION

Mary Baskett and Tiffany Smith-Birk presented on the EC Mental Health Advisory Council and the ECH Mental Health Consultation and how it fits into Goal 2 of the KECCS Plan. The ELCC received a copy of the Kansas Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan Summary.

KINDERGARTEN READINESS ASSESSMENT-TIMELINE AND EXPECTED RESULTS

Lisa Klein discussed the kindergarten readiness assessment. Approximately 2,800 kids were tested. Lisa reported the data will be announced around March 1st. The data will give a breakdown of the kids tested by academic, social-emotion and cognitive levels. Data was collected through a battery of early childhood assessment instruments and the Kansas State Department of Education's Kindergarten Early Learning Inventory (KELI). Lisa added that Kansas stands out as an incredible model.

EARLY CHILDHOOD BUDGET

Jim Redmon reported on the Governor's staff briefing with Cabinet and other Early Childhood parties about the Early Childhood Block Grants. The Governor has proposed funding through Children's Initiative Fund (CIF) \$23 million for the Early Childhood Block Grants. There may be \$5 million appropriated this fiscal year and \$18 million in FY 2009. The grants will be administered by the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Grant approval will be based on research and accountability. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund will be responsible for writing the RFP. Jim may be hiring one to two additional staff if the proposal passes. Also, the Governor recommended moving the existing Pre-Kindergarten pilot sites to the Kansas Department of Education to administer.

UPDATE ON STRENGTHENING FAMILIES

Jackie Counts and Rebecca Gillam reported on the Strengthening Families Plan. The Plan format mirrors that of the KECCS Plan, and the SF website will be up and running in the next six weeks. The ELCC were impressed after seeing a sample of the new Strengthening Families Plan folder.

REPORT ON THE INTEGRATED/COLLABORATION PLANNING GROUP

Carolyn Weinhold reported from the Integrated Planning Meeting held in December. A copy of the meeting minutes were handed out to the ELCC membership. Membership of the Integrated Planning meeting included Kansas Association of School Boards, KACCRRRA, SRS, KSDE, Kansas Head Start Association, United Way of Greater Topeka/Shawnee County Pre-Kindergarten Program, and Kansas In-service Training System (KITS). The group's purpose is to examine the efficacy of an integrated technical assistance team to support communities as they plan, implement and sustain integrated early childhood care and

education systems at the local level, for children ages 3-5 years old. The group came up with two possible solutions:

Plan A: A person is hired to oversee/coordinate the collaboration/integration of early childhood. Position should be jointly funded by KSDE, SRS, and KDHE, housed at the Children’s Cabinet and should be created immediately in order to help with transition or possible reorganization of early childhood programs.

Plan B: A standing committee on “Integrated Systems Coordination in Early Childhood” is established as part of the KECCS Plan.

Carolyn reported that the group selected Plan A as the best choice. It was discussed that Plan A mirrors recommendations both from the 2010 Commission and the Governor’s proposal.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Rebecca Gillam and Jackie Counts distributed a copy of the online professional development survey to the ELCC. A few changes will be added before it is sent to the ELCC for feedback. Jackie and Rebecca requested the group’s comments by February 8. Gayle Stuber, KSDE, and Sally Paige Kahle, SRS will be attending the National Professional Development Association conference and will be bringing back information upon returning.

UPDATE FROM KANSAS COALITION FOR SCHOOL READINESS

Jennifer Crow reported on Kansas Coalition for School Readiness activities.

The Coalition met with Early Learning Advocacy Council and talked about the Governor’s Early Childhood Block Grant proposal adding \$23 million to the Children’s Initiative Fund expanding services to children’s programs.

The Coalition is working with Fight Crime. Fight Crime will be releasing its report on early childhood and crime prevention, showing the importance of investing in kids early and how violence has impacted kids.

The Coalition will be co-sponsoring Early Learning Day at the Statehouse on February 26. Fellow Coalition member, Barry Downing will be at the Statehouse meeting with the four legislative leadership members and maybe the Governor along with Senators David Wysong and Laura Kelly.

NATIONAL GOVERNOR’S ASSOCIATION (NGA) CONFERENCE AND GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Jackie Counts reported that the NGA will be sponsoring a grant opportunity to attend a national symposium in June at Harvard University. Teams are to be bi-partisan and reflect a wide range of policy makers. The goal of the symposium is to expand the base of policy makers who understand and use a science-based framework for early childhood policy and funding decisions. Kansas has a team working on submitting a grant proposal.

COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION/PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES (CBCAP/PSSF) EARLY CHILDHOOD INITIATIVE CONFERENCES

Jackie Counts reported the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention/Promoting Safe and Stable Families (CBCAP/PSSF) Early Childhood Initiative joint conferences will be held in Baltimore, Maryland in mid-March. Jackie will share information about the conferences at the next ELCC meeting. Jackie announced that Kansas is being proposed for a list of states that combine strengthening families and early childhood initiatives.

ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting of the ELCC is scheduled Wednesday, February 20, 2008 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 3:00 p.m.