

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

Present: Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association

Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
Linda Kenney, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Janet Newton, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
Gayle Stuber, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
Carol Ayres, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
David Lindeman, ECHO Consortium II Project, The University of Kansas, Life Span Institute
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Rebecca Gillam, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA)
Bobbi Mariani, Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services (SRS)
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 Adegbore, KCCTF

Welcome and Introductions

Jim Redmon welcomed everyone and asked for introductions. Carol Ayres is new to the ELCC. Carol is Early Childhood Special Education (Section 619) Coordinator with Kansas State Department of Education.

Early Childhood Block Grants

Jim and Jane reported on status of the Early Childhood Block Grant applications. The Kansas Children's Cabinet approved a slate of 14 applications which were recommended by the state and national review teams. The \$11.1 million ECBG will be funding these grant recipients. All applicants were notified by telephone and then in writing about their application status. Some grantees were asked to submit a revised budget based on reductions made to their original budget. The KU Institute team created a map that shows all counties proposed to be served under the ECBG applications received. The grant period will run January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. The list was distributed to everyone and is posted on the Children's Cabinet website. The Children's Cabinet originally received 36 applications totaling approximately \$35 million in requests.

Children Initiative Funded Recommendations

Jim reported the Cabinet approved CIF program recommendations at a November 18 meeting. Seven programs were recommended for reassigned funding. The reassigned funding was recommended to come from four programs recommended for elimination from receiving CIF funding. Melissa Ness and Jim will present the CIF recommendations to Division of the Budget next week.

Updates on Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan and Kansas Strengthening Families Plan

Jackie Counts reported on the KSFP Stakeholders meeting held November 6 at The University of Kansas. Approximately 45 attendees participated in a day of discussion of parent initiatives, protective factors, and community collaborating. The Kansas Attorney General's office was represented at the meeting with AG staff leading discussions on interfacing child abuse neglect prevention with protective factors work.

Jackie also reported that the KECCS stakeholders meeting was held November 13 again at Courtyard Marriott in Salina. There were 85 attendees at this meeting with updates on school readiness and the Early Childhood Block Grant. The afternoon session included breakout sessions on Nutrition and Fitness for young children, Kansas Preschool program, Fatherhood involvement, Child Care licensing, Protective Factors and Strengthening Families and the Kansas Parent Initiative. Presentations from the meeting will be posted on the KECCS website.

Parent – Agency Survey

Jackie and Rebecca handed out the Parent Initiative survey which will be sent to the KSFP and KECCS agency representatives for input. The purpose of the survey is to better understand parent involvement and leadership in early childhood programs in Kansas. ELCC members were asked to review and comment on the survey before the final version is disseminated. An electronic copy will be sent to ELCC members for comments. Jackie asked for their comments by December 5.

Continued ECCS Funding

At the last ELCC meeting Jackie and Rebecca reported funding has been extended for an additional nine months for the ECCS grant. The KU Team is working on the application with Linda Kenney for renewal for the three-year non-competitive grant. The due date is February 1, 2009. Jackie had requested three pieces of information to complete the draft application by December 1, 2008. That information included: program descriptions, updated program matrix and funding streams. Since then, she has received this information.

Other Items

Jim reported as an information item only about an e-mail message received from Dr. Gerard Lozada, Rosedale Vision Center in Kansas City, Kansas. Jim mentioned he met Dr. Lozada after presenting at the October meeting of the Child Health Advisory Council meeting. In the e-mail, Dr. Lozada asked him to share information about a program he is involved with called SEE TO LEARN which is a pro bono vision evaluation to any 3 year old child provided by participating eye doctors in Kansas. Nancy Keel mentioned a similar program for infants called, InfantSEE (infant eye exam within child's 1st year). Websites for both are as follows See-to-Learn <http://www.seetolearn.com/see-to-learn.html> and InfantSEE <http://www.infantsee.org>.

Mary Baskett reported the Kansas Head Start Association has been involved with work on health literacy for children. The KHSA will begin work statewide with its health literacy grant. She said she would be pleased to send information to the ELCC and anyone the members thought would have interest in health literacy.

Leadell Ediger reported on the KACCRRRA's grant and workshop they will be hosting where discussion about outside physical activity and obesity prevention for children on March 6. Attendees will learn how to teach children to enjoy the natural environment. The workshop is geared to educate architects and early childhood professionals.

Bobbi Mariani and Karen Beckerman announced the Head Start Collaboration Coordinator opening has been filled by Carrie Hastings. Her first day will be December 2. Carrie replaces Carolyn Weinhold who recently retired. Carrie will be invited to the next ELCC meeting.

Adjournment

ELCC scheduled 1:00 p.m., Tuesday, January 13, 2009 as the next meeting date. There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:50 p.m.