

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
Friday, February 10, 2006
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Present: Margy Hornback, KSDE
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services, *via telephone*
Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association
Rita Gedney, Heartland Programs, USD 305
Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA)
Gary Brunk, Kansas Action for Children
Jackie Counts, The University of KS Institute for Educational Research & Public Services
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Eric Van Allen, SRS
Alice Womack, SRS
Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet, Executive Director
Dyogga Adegboro, Children's Cabinet
Guest: Bruce Frey, Ph.D., SPEaR, The University of Kansas

Members Melissa Ness, Jim Caccamo, Jennifer Crow, Cindy D'Ercole, Abby Thorman, Jeff Usher, were unable to attend.

Jim Redmon opened the meeting and introduced Dr. Bruce Frey who would be later making a presentation to the group. ELCC members were asked to introduce themselves.

Evaluation Update

Bruce Frey, Ph.D., an evaluator and researcher for School Program Evaluation and Research Group (SPEaR), which is part of The University of Kansas' School of Education, attended the ELCC meeting. Dr. Frey disseminated a handout entitled, Evaluation of the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Implementation Project for the 1st quarter of Year 1.

The document summary showed the KECCS website had been accessed hundreds of times by grant participants in a typical month. There are presently 43 strategies, 148 activities, and 61 tasks representing a wide-range of programming focused on the five project goals. The current level of collaboration among grant partners is 2.77, which is close to the coordination stage. A survey of current collaboration and the survey from the November 2005 KECCS meeting surveying collaboration goals were distributed to the members. Dr. Frey asked the group to complete both surveys and return them to Jackie Counts for compilation. The surveys will help show the various levels of collaboration, communication among the partners and how decisions get made.

ELCC Meeting of February 10, 2006

Page 2

Jackie Counts distributed a handout on the KECCS website statistics. The stats provided data such as: use of site by hour, average number of pages individual's visit with the site, total # of hits and clicks within the site, successful Google searches for the site, average number of unique visitor per day and total individual clients visiting site.

Rescheduling the KECCS meeting from April to May

The group looked at calendars and selected *Tuesday, May 2 for the next KECCS meeting in Salina*. The meeting had been tentatively scheduled April 6 but with numerous activities surrounding the Pre-K Pilots proposal, it was determined that it would be better to move up the date for the KECCS meeting.

Health Consultation

Linda Kenney and Leadell Ediger reported that several Kansas Department of Health & Environment staff were recently sent to intensive health consulting training. Although sponsors geared the training to those who are health professions, many early childhood professions are both interested and would find it beneficial. Jackie Counts added that Healthy Child Care America sponsors the training. It was her understanding that the Maternal and Child Bureau wants states to have a health consultation system. She suggested an open discussion on this topic at the next KECCS meeting.

Pre-K/Child Care Subsidy/Early Head Start/Tiny K Legislative Update

Gary Brunk reported on the Kansas Early Education Partners (K.E.E.P) meeting agenda held earlier in the day. Seventy-five members were present and gathered at the Statehouse to meet with legislators throughout the morning to discuss various early education initiatives. ELCC members who were a part of the gathering commented on how well it went.

Prior to this meeting, Doug Bowman prepared a sheet on Aid to Local Tiny-K Networks as part of the handouts for this meeting.

Jim Redmon and Jennifer Crow also had appointments with various legislators on the K.E.E.P agenda issues. It has been a good use of time.

Jim reported the Children's Cabinet will be announcing its Notice of Request for Pre-K Pilots Letter of Intent in the next few days. The opportunity will be open to only seven counties and those being: Finney, Geary, Johnson, Reno, Sedgwick, Shawnee, and Wyandotte. The Children's Cabinet will be administering the grants and hiring a staff person to run the program. Monies will come from the C.I.F., businesses and foundations.

ELCC Meeting of February 10, 2006

Page 3

Jennifer Crow reported that Governor Sebelius will be sending a letter to the early childhood community voicing her support of establishing Pre-K Pilot sites in several communities in Kansas.

Infant/Toddler Mental Health Committee

Eric Van Allen reported on activities involving the infant/toddler mental health committee. Eric distributed handouts on “Best Practices” in ECH Mental Health Programs for Preschool –Age Children and another document on Primary Prevention of Mental Illness. Eric will be crafting a letter on behalf of ELCC addressed to interested KECCS stakeholders asked what needs to be done to establish an early childhood mental health system in Kansas. Margy Hornback reported that the Kansas State Department of Education is assisting with six training sessions on the screening process, assessment and on how Part B and C services work. She added there is a helpful, handy checklist on the screening process available. Eric added that Ruth Santner, SRS Foster Care Program Manager and Carolyn Weinhold, Head Start-State Collaboration Office, are planning six regional training sessions on a Social-Emotional Screening Tool (SEST) to be used for young children under five entering the foster care system. Community Teams will be trained on what to do if a child, birth to five, needs early intervention.

Child Abuse Prevention Plan Update

Jim Redmon reported that a small group will be meeting, in the next few months, to discuss reframing the Child Abuse Prevention Plan in Kansas. Jackie Counts, Lana Messner of KACCRRRA and representatives of Kansas Children’s Service League will be participating. Jackie added that one objective will be to link the Child Abuse Prevention Plan together with school readiness initiatives.

Members asked for a copy of Leadell’s KQRS presentation handout from the January meeting. Jackie remarked the presentation is now available on the KECCS website. A copy is attached with these minutes.

The ELCC set Monday, March 13 at 1:00 p.m. as the date and time of the next ELCC meeting.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.