

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, February 12, 2007

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

Present: Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Services
Abby Thorman, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Jim Caccamo, Mid-America Regional Center Early Learning Council
Alice Womack, SRS
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS
Eric Van Allen, SRS
Tiffany Smith-Birk, SRS
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children
Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies
Susan Corrigan-University of Kansas School of Social Work
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Margy Hornback, KSDE
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet Executive Director
Dyogga Adegboire, Children's Cabinet

Welcome and Introductions

Jim Redmon opened the meeting and asked for introductions. Eric Van Allen introduced Tiffany Smith-Birk. Tiffany is Eric's replacement on the SRS Division of Health Care Policy/Mental Health Team. She will also replace Eric on the ELCC. Eric is working in a new section of SRS Division of Health Care Policy, and will no longer be participating as a member of ELCC. The ELCC members conveyed their appreciation to Eric for his participation and contributions and wished him well in his new job responsibilities. ELCC members welcomed new members Tiffany Smith-Birth, Susan Corrigan, and Jennifer Spencer. Dennis Cooley, M.D., is another new member but another engagement precluded him from attending today's meeting.

Update from the January Collaboration Meeting

Jackie Counts talked about the Building State Systems to Promote Early Childhood Development meeting held Washington, DC in January 2007. The meeting was intended for Head Start State Collaboration Directors, State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Coordinators, and State Child Care Administrators. Facilitated discussions were held around the following topics—finance, governance, and provider support. KU is working with Alice Womack, Mary Baskett, and Leadell Ediger to begin mapping professional development.

Jackie also distributed a Kansas Collaboration survey to the members and asked for them to complete and return the survey to her office to share with the KECCS evaluators.

Discussion on Senate Task Force Early Childhood Programs Plan

Abby Thorman reported about on-going discussions by the Senate Task Force which has been charged with the duty of coming up with a proposal for combining the various early childhood programs under an umbrella organization. The proposed new state agency will have the duty of overseeing and coordinating all early childhood programs. There was a lengthy discussion about the various proposals on the table by the Senate Task Force.

Report on the Coalition for School Readiness

Abby Thorman talked about a new website coming soon geared to promoting the Kansas Early Education Partners (K.E.E.P.) Phase Two agenda. Mary Baskett and Leadell Ediger are members of this coalition and will be pursuing several opportunities to better serve families and their children ages birth to five.

Update on Post Audit

Jim Redmon updated the group about the audit requested of programs serving children ages birth to five to determine whether there are duplication of services occurring in the state. The auditors have been asked to help determine how the programs are organized, how to better coordinate those program services, and which agency would be the best fit to oversee the coordination of the programs. The Legislative Post Auditors have been meeting with Jim Redmon and various other early childhood stakeholders on the ELCC and across the state to obtain opinions on how to better coordinate those programs and ask whether they viewed there were duplication of services in the system. Jim added that how the coordination and oversight pieces finally are determined should be handled thoughtfully. Margy Hornback asked what states have been successful in coordinating their early childhood programs. Abby responded the "jury is still out," although, states who have claimed success include Minnesota, Georgia, Massachusetts and Washington.

Update on PreK Pilot Sites Plan for 2008

Mary Baskett asked Jim Redmon when the PreK Pilots Letter of Intent would be announced. Jim responded some time in late March or early April, although the list of counties is still being determined. The process for applying will be similar to that of last year. Carolyn Weinhold asked if the Head Start Collaboration office could sponsor PreKs. Jim replied yes.

Other Business

Gayle Stuber reported that Kansas Health Institute and Kansas State Department of Education are working on guidelines for school readiness. She distributed a handout with proposals to the group as an information item only.

Adjournment

The ELCC members did not set the next meeting date.

There being no further business for discussion the meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m.