

**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**  
**Wednesday, February 20, 2008**  
**1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

Present: Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association  
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services  
Gayle Stuber, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)  
Jennifer Spencer, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)  
Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA);  
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children;  
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Service  
Rebecca Gillam, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Service  
Susan Corrigan, University of Kansas, School of Social Work  
Bobbi Mariani, Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services (SRS)  
Tiffany Smith-Birk, Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services (SRS)  
Nancy Keel, Kansas Association of Parents as Teachers  
Jennifer Crow, Kansas Coalition for School Readiness  
Jim Redmon, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF)  
Dyogga Adegbore, KCCTF

Jim Redmon opened the meeting and welcomed everyone.

Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Plan Update and Quarterly Report

Jackie Counts and Rebecca Gillam distributed copies of the updated/edited KECCS Plan to the ELCC. Rebecca asked the ELCC to email any additional edits by end of next week. Format and appearance of the document is still being addressed. Leadell Ediger suggested documenting the impact of child care on economic development in the Plan. Gayle Stuber suggested distributing the updated KECCS Plan at the May 2008 KECCS Stakeholders' meeting in Salina.

Jackie and Rebecca also distributed the first quarter, Year 3 of the Evaluation of KECCS Implementation Project. The document included a page on KECCS Collaboration Scales data collected. The scale indicated the partners have increased collaboration and are moving closer to the various Goal level objectives.

National Governor's Association Symposium and Grant Opportunity

Jackie reported on the National Governor's Association (NGA) Symposium grant application was recently submitted. 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 represent a wide range of policy makers. The purpose 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.

Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention-Promoting Safe and Stable Families (CBCAP-PSSF) Conference and the ECCS Partners Meeting

Rebecca reported on the ECCS Partners Meeting which will be held March 13-14, 2008 in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference will host various attendees representing child abuse prevention, early childhood, child care, mental health and Head Start. Several members of ELCC and across the Kansas representing the above groups will attend the conference if travel stipends are secured. The conference focus fits very well with KECCS goals 2 and 5. ELCC members attending the conference will report back at the next meeting. Cindy D'Ercole commented on the positive development of linking the collaboration of the strengthening families/child abuse prevention and early childhood initiatives. The collaboration is especially great from the perspective that it has a policy and political focus and helps everyone talk about these issues.

KECCS Stakeholders' Meeting on May 28, 2008

Jackie confirmed that the next KECCS Stakeholders' meeting is still scheduled May 28<sup>th</sup> in Salina. Jackie is still making contact with various suggested national speakers on early childhood and mental health. She is open to suggestions for speakers.

2008 Kansas Head Start Association Conference

Mary Basket reported this year's KHSA conference is scheduled in mid-November. She suggested national mental health expert, Jane Knitzer or Roxanne Kauffman, to address the group. More information will be available closer to the meeting dates.

Professional Development Survey Update

Rebecca Gillam reported on preliminary results of the professional development survey. There were 62 respondents who participated in the survey. Approximately 42 percent of the respondents provide professional development statewide. Most of the participants completing professional development activities earn clock hours approved by KDHE. Approximately 64 percent of respondents said they advertise the training provided by word of mouth. Rebecca distributed copies of the preliminary survey results to the ELCC.

Update from Kansas Coalition for School Readiness

Jennifer Crow reported on the Coalition's testimony before the House Social Services Budget committee about Early Childhood budget items earlier today. She disseminated a copy of the testimony to ELCC members. The Coalition gave its support for the Governor's early childhood budget recommendations and expressed support for the investments in early childhood in the 2008 and 2009 budgets.

Update from Kansas Coalition for School Readiness(Contin.)

Jennifer also reported on the upcoming Early Learning Day the Coalition will sponsor on February 26 at the Statehouse. Invited speakers include: Dr. Larry Dixon, USD 475 Geary County Schools, Rochelle Chronister, Chair-2010 Commission, and Barry Downing, Co-Chair of Coalition for School Readiness. A breakfast and luncheon is scheduled for the Kansas Delegation, Kansas Legislators, and Kansas City/Wichita Business Leaders is scheduled. An invitation for lunch was extended to the ELCC and other early learning representatives in the state.

Leadell Ediger announced a save the date event for “March Forth for Child Care and Head Start” scheduled March 4, 2008. It is an annual event. On March 4, children’s advocates across the country work together to generate thousands of e-mails to congress in support of increased investments in child care. Leadell will be forwarding more details about participation and call-in information to the ELCC in the next day or two about the event.

Cindy D’Ercole and Leadell Ediger commented that Rochelle Chronister talked about the early childhood governance issues and that the ELCC is responsible for coming up with recommendations and the group should begin those discussions.

Jim Redmon reported that work on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Early Childhood Block Grant is underway. The RFP cannot be announced until the 2008 funding in the amount of \$5 million dollars has been deposited.

SRS Promotions

Bobbi Mariani, Director of Economic & Employment Support at SRS reported on two assistant director positions recently filled. Karen Beckerman, formerly employed with Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority, and Rachel Katuin, who has been with SRS for the past ten years, were promoted to those posts. Bobbi spoke on Karen’s and Rachel’s experience and expertise. Karen will oversee child care subsidy, child care, early head start, and LIEAP programs in SRS. Rachel will oversee management support, performance improvement, evaluation processes, systems support, business and fiscal support.

KASB School Readiness Request

Mary Baskett, Gayle Stuber, Doug Bowman, Leadell Ediger, Nancy Keel, and Jim Redmon participated at the Kansas Association of School Board's (KASB) panel on government relations seminar held February 14 and 15, 2008 at the Capitol Plaza hotel.

Mary reported the KASB requested information about early childhood to help them better understand ECH terms and program relationships. Jackie and Rebecca offered to compile information (information the group sends her and what has already been compiled by the KU Institute Team) and forward a packet to the ELCC members who attended the seminar to share with the KASB membership. Information will include a children's programs environmental scan, program descriptions, Frequently Asked Questions, and a glossary of terms.

Rebecca reported on National Child Care Teacher of the Year Teri Aldrich. A Kansas teacher for Head Start at the Heartland Programs in Salina, received the highest award - the Helene Marks Award as National Child Care Teacher of the Year <http://www.tlccf.org/2008TOY.php> from the Terri Lynne Lokoff Child Care Foundation a national nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to improving early care and education. Ms. Aldrich will travel to King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, to receive her \$2,000 award in a ceremony on April 9, 2008. A portion of the award will benefit Heartland Programs. This is a great honor for Kansas. The announcement will be included in the March edition of the KECCS newsletter.

Adjournment and Next Meeting Date:

*The next scheduled ELCC meeting will be Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup> 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 2:45 p.m.