

**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, June 8, 2005
10:00 a.m. – Noon**

Present: Alice Womack, SRS;
Eric Van Allen, SRS;
Carol Dermeyer, KSDE;
Gayle Stuber, KSDE;
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children;
Leadell Ediger, KACCRRRA;
Rita Gedney, USD 305 Salina, Heartland Head Start;
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Services;
Jennifer Crow, Governor's Office;
Linda Kenney, KDHE;
Abby Thorman, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation;
Jeff Usher, Kansas Health Foundation;
Melissa Ness, Children's Cabinet-Chair;
Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet, Executive Director
Dyogga Adegbore, Children's Cabinet

Melissa Ness, Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund Chair facilitated the meeting. She opened the meeting with a welcome and asked for introductions. Melissa gave an overview of today's meeting and went over the group's charge:

Role and Responsibilities of ELCC

The ELCC will be the forum for which interested parties can discuss issues relating to the Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Grant and State Plan. They will be responsible for managing implementation of the state plan that was created as framework for early learning and early childhood activity in the state.

Process for Operations

The authority for decision-making in the group comes from: the consensus work that was developed from the April stakeholders group; the institutional authority each participant brings to the group and the support from the Governor's office and her endorsement of the plan. The Governor will be looking to ELCC for support and information concerning early learning matters. The ECCS State Plan will be the talking point at each ELCC meeting and will be reviewed regularly at these meetings.

Plan – Summary-MCH Grant – Linda Kenney, Jackie Counts and Jim Redmon

The attendees each received a copy of the Plan Summary. Jackie Counts and Alice Womack reported on the public hearings conducted recently across the state. Comments were primarily positive and constructive. The Plan was submitted to the feds May 26, 2005. The Plan will be put on the Children’s Cabinet website and linked to the SRS website. Interested parties will be able to send comments and reactions to the Plan via the website.

Melissa asked whether comments and recommendations should be viewed first by this group or the Children’s Cabinet prior to being included in the Plan. Also, who will be the recipients of the minutes and information coming from the ELCC meetings? The group suggested setting up a list serve of April 7-8 ECCS meeting invitees to receive the minutes and updates. The information will be posted on the Children’s Cabinet website as well. The ELCC will review comments/recommendations prior to anything being added to the website.

Pre-K Discussion

Abby Thorman distributed a copy of a draft statement for Pre-K for discussion. The group agreed that the first sentence of the last paragraph should be moved to the beginning of the first paragraph, which reads, “The Kansas Pre-K Program will provide high quality early education programming that will promote the health, social-emotional, and cognitive development of Kansas children.” The wording, “The state of Kansas recognizes the wisdom” in the beginning paragraph was stricken and in its place, inserted, “This is a firm foundation of investing ... to succeed.”

Jennifer Crow discussed all-day kindergarten with the group relative to the upcoming special legislative session and school finance.

SUMMARY

The following tasks teams were established and will report progress at the next meeting.

Governance Task Team: develop policy and procedures by which the group will operate, e.g., leadership, communication, membership, decision-making, etc.

Melissa Ness, Jim Redmon, and Rita Gedney.

PreK Task Team: will review the proposed language and consider the group feedback. The purpose will be to develop a clear message statement about this topic.

Cindy D'Ercole, Abby Thorman, Jeff Usher, Gayle Stuber, Leadell Ediger, and Jim Redmon

Cost Analysis Task Team: Responsible for working with the individuals conducting a cost analysis project and make recommendations about how and when to use the information.

Abby Thorman, Leadell Ediger, Gayle Stuber, and Alice Womack

Communications will be coordinated through Jackie Counts-KU, and Jim and Dyogga who will setup a distribution list via the ECCS List Service, Children's Cabinet website, other people/organizations and the Children's Cabinet. When information goes out to encourage wider distribution to own network.

Next Meeting

The ELCC will meet Wednesday, July 27 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. at Children's Cabinet. ELCC will regularly review the Plan and discuss Pre-K. At the next meeting task teams will bring back feedback, establish who are the partners and get specifics about making the Plan work. Discussion items can be submitted to Dyogga for inclusion on the July 27 agenda.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at noon.