

MINUTES OF EARLY LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Conference Room

Landon State Office, Room 152

900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas

Friday, June 29, 2007

Present: Mary Baskett, Kansas Head Start Association
Doug Bowman, Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Svcs
Linda Kenney, KDHE
Jackie Counts, KU Institute for Educational Research & Public Service
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS
Tiffany Smith-Birk, SRS
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children
Dennis Cooley, MD, American Association of Pediatrics
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Leadell Ediger, KACCRRRA
Rita Gedney, Heartland Programs
Nancy Keel, Kansas Parents As Teachers Association
Jim Redmon, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund
Dyogga Adegbore, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund

Jim Redmon opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked for introductions. Cindy D'Ercole and Leadell Ediger participated via telephone.

Coalition for School Readiness Report

Mary Baskett who is also a member of the Board of Directors for Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, reported on the Coalition. The Coalition is an advocacy group that brings together the early childhood and business communities. The group is looking at expanding its membership base, although the group is already receiving national attention. This is an 18-month initiative.

Other members include: Barry Downing, Corporate Lodging Consultants; Shannon Cotsoradis, Kansas Action for Children; Mike Chesser, KC Power and Light; Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (KACCRRRA); Bill Nelson, George K. Gaum Asset Management. Staff include Jennifer Crow, Executive Director, and Anne Maack, Associate Director.

The Coalition is co-sponsoring with Pre [K] Now an breakfast reception on July 11 during the National Conference of the Military Child Education Coalition in Kansas City, Missouri taking place July 10-11, 2007. Invitations to the breakfast reception will be sent to the ELCC, Children's Cabinet Board and others next week.

Jennifer Crow is working with several legislators to coordinate a tour of The Opportunity Project (TOP) Learning Centers in Wichita, headed by Barry Downing, along with visiting other early childhood programs throughout the state. The Coalition is also working with the Kansas Health Foundation Leadership to schedule the 2nd annual early childhood conference on “Investing in your kids” to be held in Wichita. The message is “Investing in Your Kids and How Do We Tell Other People.” Several ELCC members suggested inviting speakers like Dr. Jack Shonkoff to this event.

The Coalitions website is www.KansasSchoolReadiness.org.

NGA Early Childhood Summit Grant

Jackie Counts announced an exciting opportunity for Kansas. Kansas is a recipient of the \$10,000 NGA ECH Summit grant award. Discussions are underway to schedule an early childhood summit meeting in September 2007. As many as 150 people will be invited. More details are forthcoming.

ECCS Continuing Competition Grant

Jackie Counts announced that the KU Team and Linda Kenney are completing final paperwork for submission of the ECCS Continuing Competition grant for a fifth year. The application is for Year Three of the implementation grant and the report is due July 11. A Memorandum of Understanding had been circulated among the ELCC membership to show support of the grant renewal and the objectives and goals of the implementation grant.

KECCS Website Launch

Jackie Counts also announced the launch of the updated KECCS website. The website should prove more user-friendly. The new website incorporates suggestions and recommendations of the ELCC membership and other early childhood stakeholders across the state.

The implementation tracking system will be up and running on the site next week. There are three communities that use the community framework based on the five goals of the KECCS Plan. Visitors to the site are encouraged to check out the community tool kit located at the KECCS Plan Your Community panel.

The KECCS website is www.keccs.org

KECCS Meeting in Salina, August 9, 2007

Jackie distributed a draft agenda for the August 9th KECCS meeting and requested feedback from the ELCC. Based on the discussion, there will be three break-out sessions for the stakeholders at the meeting.

Update on the Legislative Post Audit

Jim Redmon reported the Division of the Legislative Post Audit is wrapping up the audit of children's programs serving children ages birth to five. A public meeting announcing the release of the audit is scheduled July 11 at 10 a.m. at the Statehouse. The 2010 Commission will be meeting on both July 30 and July 31. The 2010 Commission is a subcommittee of the Legislative Educational Planning Commission.

Update on PreKindergarten Pilots

Jim Redmon reported negotiations are taking place with the PreK grantees and PreK applicants at this time. The grant requests came-in at \$6.4 million with only \$5 million available for funding grants. There will be 11 more counties served with the grant money. Discussions are on-going on whether to include match classrooms this year.

Other Discussion Items

Nancy Keel reported on the Education Begins at Home Act and meeting on home visiting sponsored by Parents As Teachers earlier in June. This effort is supported by U.S. Representative Dennis Moore and U.S. Senator Pat Roberts.

Gina McDonald with Kansas Children's Service League is setting up another meeting to discuss a needs assessments and what other states have done

Jackie Counts distributed handouts on a draft professional development crosswalk and a draft of the professional development that was reported in the original environmental scan. A list was compiled of other agencies and activities that will need to be added. More details will be reported at the next ELCC meeting. Mary Baskett suggested a strategy plan is developed which mirrors that of the mental health plan. The ELCC agreed.

Recommended Reading

Jackie Counts recommended the book "Social and Emotional Health in Early Childhood" written by Deborah F.Perr, Roxanne K. Kaufman, and Jane Knitzer, and foreward by Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff.

Adjournment

The ELCC will not meet in July as everyone will be gearing up for the August 9th KECCS meeting in Salina.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.