

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, September 28, 2005
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Present: Eric Van Allen, SRS;
Carolyn Weinhold, SRS substituting for Alice Womack;
Jim Caccamo, Metropolitan Council on Early Learning/Mid-America Regional Council
Abby Thorman, Greater Kansas City Community Foundation
Margy Hornback, KSDE;
Gayle Stuber, KSDE;
Rita Gedney, Heartland Programs
Leadell Ediger, Kansas Association of Child Care Resource Referral Agencies (KACCRRA);
Cindy D'Ercole, Kansas Action for Children;
Jackie Counts, University of KS, Institute for Educational Research & Public Services;
Linda Kenney, KDHE;
 Melissa Ness, Children's Cabinet-Chair;
 Jim Redmon, Children's Cabinet, Executive Director
 Dyogga Adegbore, Children's Cabinet
 Guest: Wes Jones, Governor's Mental Health Planning Council

Welcome and Introductions:

Melissa Ness, Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund Chair opened the meeting. The group reviewed the August 25 minutes as a matter of record. Melissa introduced Wes Jones with the Governor's Mental Health Planning Council. Dr. Jones will give a presentation later in the meeting.

Doug Bowman, Alice Womack, and Jeff Usher were unable to attend the meeting.

Implementation Grant:

Jackie Counts, Linda Kenney and Jim Redmon were pleased to report on the renewal of the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant. The grant award letter was received. Kansas received \$140,000 for continuation of its grant program. Kansas was listed as a state with a top ECCS grant program. This announcement will be included on the KECCS website.

Jackie, Linda and Jim reported on the State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) conference held in Washington, DC this year. Jackie presented at the conference on the Kansas initiative.

Jackie reported on the KECCS website and tracking mechanism. She also talked about feedback comments she had received. Leadell suggested the Council notify child care providers about the website.

Governor’s Mental Health Planning Council – Dr. Wes Jones:

Wes Jones, Ph.D., co-chair of the Governor’s Mental Health Planning Council attended the meeting and talked about the GMHP Council’s Children’s Subcommittee Report. A copy was distributed to the group and made a part of the minutes. The report outlines the subcommittee’s 2005 report recommendations and action steps and progress made.

Melissa commented that one of the roundtable discussions at the November 2 KECCS meeting will include early childhood mental health.

Pre-K Cost Study Committee:

Abby Thorman discussed the cost of school readiness and asked for volunteers to sit on the Pre-K Cost Study Committee. The following members who will be participating include: Jim Caccamo, Jim Redmon, Mary Baskett, Leadell Ediger, Gayle Stuber, and Jennifer Crow. Several other names outside ELCC were also suggested to participate.

This Committee would make recommendations for what the universal Pre-K policy should look like and provide cost estimates. The group will be scheduling a meeting in October.

Monthly Review of the ECCS Plan:

ELCC talked about progress notes for each of the goals. The group received a copy of the updated KECCS Plan. A copy is also up on the website. The group talked about determining what goals to start working on and possibly shifting to another goal every six months.

Medical Home and Health Consultants:

Linda Kenney talked about the National Child Care workshop and sending members of the ELCC to this workshop. They could return and train others. She said that KACCRRRA will work on the train-the-trainer project.

Evaluation:

Abby Thorman talked about the Ewing Marion Kauffman foundation and evaluations. She talked about asking Ken Roberts with the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) speak to the ELCC on evaluations. Jim Caccamo will invite Mr. Roberts to talk to ELCC just prior to the KECCS meeting on November 2. Mr. Roberts would be asked to talk on the national overview of evaluating and the evaluation processes he has been involved in.

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Adjournment and Next Meeting Date:

Following this meeting, members remained to talk about planning for the November 2 KECCS meeting in Topeka at Capitol Plaza Hotel. Jackie Counts, Jim Redmon along with Rae Anderson who will be the Meeting Facilitator will put together the KECCS meeting agenda. Dyogga will forward a copy to the ELCC. Many of the ELCC members will be roundtable facilitators at the meeting.

There being no further business for discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

(Since the last meeting, ELCC set Wednesday, December 7, 2005, at 1:00 p.m. as its next meeting at the Children's Cabinet.)