

MINUTES OF EARLY LEARNING COORDINATING COUNCIL

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Conference Room

Landon State Office Building, Room 152

900 SW Jackson, Topeka, Kansas

Tuesday, September 11, 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
Jennifer Spencer, KSDE
Gayle Stuber, KSDE
Leadell Ediger, KACCRRRA
Nancy Keel, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Jim Redmon, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund
Dyogga Adegbore, KS Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund

Welcome

Jim Redmon opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and asked for introductions. Doug Bowman, Jennifer Spencer, and Leadell Ediger participated via telephone.

Professional Development

Jackie Counts suggested postponing discussion of the professional development agenda item until next meeting. She added that Alice Womack was unable to attend the meeting and should be included in this discussion.

KECCS Meeting in Salina

Jackie Counts commented on how energized was the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) planning meeting held in Salina on August 9th. The ELCC members agreed the meeting went very well although there was agreement they would need to re-think the coordination of the break-out sessions for next time. Some sessions had too many presenters for the time allotted while other sessions had insufficient space for participants.

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. A report is due July 11, 2008. 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.

Those states better positioned for the grant award have both governor's support and involvement, and a diverse early childhood community of stakeholders from the private and public sectors (which puts Kansas in a good position). Jackie commented more information would be available on the ECCS competition grant in January.

2010 Commission Meeting

Jim Redmon discussed a request from the 2010 Commission regarding an early childhood governance model. The 2010 Commission at its August 20 meeting requested the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund representatives to respond to asking the Early Childhood Coordinating Council to brainstorm and come up with an alternative early childhood governance model. The request was presented to the full Kansas Children's Cabinet board at its meeting of August 23, since the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund acts as a facilitator and convener for the ELCC.

Jim reported the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, at its August meeting agreed to continue to play the role of facilitator and convener of the ELCC and will move forward the ELCC's process around helping design an early learning governance model. However, the Cabinet asked for more details on what role the ELCC is being asked to play in the development of an early childhood governance model. Jim obtained more details from the 2010 Commission's request. The specific request asked the Children's Cabinet to respond to the Commission regarding "an expanded role for the ELCC, including long-term planning, development of a single application for all programs, comprehensive data collection, and discussion of an organization structure designed to assist in the development of the whole child."

The ELCC discussed the request and ramifications at length. Most of the ELCC members present viewed the request as a challenge and a good opportunity to help drive the vehicle and become involved in the development of an alternative governance model. Jim Redmon and Melissa Ness will be presenting again at the 2010 Commission's September 13th meeting.

Report from Kansas Coalition for School Readiness

Mary Baskett reported the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness toured The Opportunity Project (TOPs) facilities in Wichita, Kansas recently. Approximately 50 people left the bus to meet with Barry Downing. Mary said the tour event went very well. Mr. Downing, also a member of the Kansas Coalition for School Readiness, talked about partners in Head Start, Early Head Start, and the Pre-Kindergarten pilot programs.

ELCC Meeting of September 11, 2007

Page 3

Governor's Summit on Early Childhood

Jim Redmon and Jackie Counts reported on preparation for the Governor's Summit on Early Childhood scheduled September 17, 2007 in Topeka. Civic and business leaders and some early childhood educators will be invited to this event to discuss and learn more about why investing early in early childhood is important. Dr. Jack P. Shonkoff is the keynote speaker. Panel discussions involving civic and business leaders have been scheduled along with a special appearance by Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Adjournment

The ELCC did not set a date for the next meeting.

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