



KECCS Update

June 2008

KECCS Stakeholders Meet in Salina

Thanks for your participation in the spring KECCS Stakeholder meeting in Salina last month. Over 75 stakeholders from around the State came together to share information and resources and get updates on early childhood policies and systems development. An overview of the day is now available on the [KECCS website](#) – be sure to check out the latest School Readiness data and handouts from the breakout sessions that you missed:

- KECCS Plan Update
- School Readiness Project, Gayle Stuber
- Kansas Kindergarten Assessment Initiative, Lisa Klein
- Goal 1: Health
 - Oral Health, Marcia Manter
 - Dental Checklist
 - Newborn Screening, Linda Kenney
- Goal 2: Mental Health and Social Emotional Development
 - Building Local Bridges, Rich Minder
- Goal 3: Early Care and Education
 - Child Care Systems Improvement, Janet Newton
 - Professional Development Survey Results, Rebecca Gillam
- Goals 4 & 5: Parent Education & Family Supports
 - Lessons from Strengthening Families, Kerry Scott
 - Parent Leadership Development, Vicky Roper and B.J. Gore
 - Parent Leadership Development Checklist

Kansas Professional Development Survey Results

During the spring of 2008, the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas conducted a survey of agencies and individuals that provide professional development activities to early care and education professionals in the State of Kansas. The survey was part of the Child Care and Development Fund and the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan. The survey is not comprehensive

in terms of respondents and question content but represents a snapshot of current professional development activities across the State. The [Kansas Professional Development Survey Report](#) is now available with a complete description of results and responses.

Tracking our Progress

*The grant application for continuation of the KECCS Plan is in progress...We need to know what activities your agency has been working on over the past year. You can enter your activities in the online [Implementation Tracking Tool](#). (Remember, in addition to supporting the Plan, you'll have access to individual agency reports!) **Need help?** Contact Rebecca Gillam at keccs@ku.edu or by telephone at (785) 864-7123.*

Plan in Action

Building effective and meaningful partnerships across Kansas is part of what makes the KECCS Plan successful. Hopefully you had the opportunity to learn about and meet new potential partners to support your work with young children and their families at the recent KECCS Stakeholder meeting in Salina, KS.

That's just what happened for Marcia Manter of Oral Health Kansas and Dana Stanton from USD 489 Hays West Central Kansas Smart Start. After Marcia's presentation on the Targeted Oral Health Service Systems grant that Kansas received, they had the chance to talk about USD 489 Hays West Central Kansas Smart Start's efforts to find resources to support oral health services for those who are going without care in their county. Oral Health Kansas had started a partnership with Hays Regional Health Center to develop an oral health coalition and new public health dental services to not only Ellis County but potentially to all of Northwest Kansas.

Marcia, Dana, and several key staff who provide services to children recently met with the senior staff at the hospital, the local United Way, and the local health clinic – a meeting which resulted in a commitment to draft plans together in order to analyze who is able to fund what dental care and to support each other's grant applications. Partners including the Kansas Head Start Association and the Office of Oral Health will also be offering school screenings and prevention services to reach young children in the community.

Tips & Tools

- The United Healthcare Children's Foundation (UHCCF) starts a new program to help children who need critical healthcare treatment, services, or equipment not covered or not fully covered by their parents' health benefit plans. The foundation provides grants to families to help pay for child healthcare services such as speech therapy, physical therapy, occupational therapy sessions, prescriptions, and medical equipment such as wheel chairs, orthotics, and eyeglasses. Parents and legal

guardians may apply for grants of up to \$5,000 each for child medical services and equipment by completing an online application at the [UHCCF website](#).

- The Cooperative Extension System is a nationwide educational collaboration of [federal, state and local governments](#), and [state land-grant universities](#). The mission of the Cooperative Extension System is to disseminate research-based information on topics as varied as family and child development, health, nutrition, agriculture, horticulture, small business and personal finance. Each state Extension serves its residents through a network of local or regional offices staffed by educators in their field. The System's new [eXtension \(e-extension\) Initiative](#) provides a web-based interactive learning environment delivering the best resources of the Cooperative Extension System to support a variety of educational outreach efforts including resources to promote healthy families. There are a wealth of parenting programs and resources provided by USDA through their Extension services. The [list of State Cooperative Extension Contacts](#) is available online.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KECCS partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KECCS website and in the newsletter, the *KECCS Update*. Send information to keccs@ku.edu or contact Rebecca Gillam at (785) 864-7123.