



KECCS Update

May 2008

2007 Kansas Child Care in the 21st Century Listening Tour

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) hosted a 10-city listening tour that drew over 700 participants from across the State. The Kansas Child Care in the 21st Century Listening Tour took place during the fall of 2007 and provided a starting point for a review of child care licensing regulations. KDHE has made available the [input and comments](#) received from participants – including child care providers, parents, advocates, and the public.

The Child Care Systems Improvement BEST Team has started the two-year process of reviewing child care licensing regulations. Based on listening tour feedback and the initial work of the BEST Team, KDHE has issued several [Policy Regulation Exceptions](#) for child care centers and preschools, licensed family and group child care homes, and registered child care homes.

Child care licensing is part of the KECCS Plan, Goal 3: Early Care & Education. Stay tuned for more updates as the BEST Team continues their work.

Update the KECCS Plan with your activities!

*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

The Kansas Parent Information Resource Center, in partnership with the Kansas Fatherhood Coalition created and produced the first ever [Kansas Fatherhood Directory](#). Kansas is the 3rd state in the country to have a fatherhood directory. The directory provides information on child development, ideas for encouraging the involvement of

fathers in their children's education, information on exemplary programs which emphasize the involvement of fathers and resources for parents and practitioners.

Tips & Tools

- Agencies are often required to report outcomes to funders about programs and services that they provide in the community. In doing this, programs often provide a description of their activities (outputs) but little data relating to their desired outcomes. The confusion about what constitutes “outcomes” is common.

In an effort to clarify the confusion, evaluators from the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas developed [a guide for defining outputs and outcomes](#). The guide outlines three evaluation stages (Inputs, Outputs, and Outcomes) with a description of the types of data that fits into each category. The guide is designed to be used for evaluation monitoring purposes with the goal of getting programs to the outcome level.

If you are interested in learning more about the evaluation stages, contact Karin Chang-Rios, Evaluation Coordinator, Institute for Educational Research and Public Service, at kcr@ku.edu or by phone at 785-864-7041. Additional information about differentiating outputs from outcomes is also available in the “Guide to Outcome Measurement,” located on the United Way website, www.unitedway.org/outcomes.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities

- Local inter-agency community teams (of between 8-12 persons) are invited to participate in [Building Local Bridges for Social & Emotional Development](#) on *May 19, 2008* in Salina, KS. The purpose of the event is to provide support for local teams to begin the process of developing community based early childhood family centered systems of care. These local efforts will build on the new Kansas Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Strategic Plan. Please let community leaders know about this so that they can communicate this opportunity to their local early childhood partners. For more information, contact [Rich Minder](#), Collaborative Projects Coordinator for Success By 6 of Douglas County.
- The spring **Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan Stakeholder meeting** will be held on *May 28, 2008* in Salina, KS. RSVP to [Dyogga Adegbore](#) at the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund by May 9th. Meeting registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott Hotel located at 3020 Riffel Drive in Salina. For room reservations, contact the Courtyard Marriott directly at 785-309-1300.

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.