



**Visioneering Birth-K Alliance**  
**August 17, 2009**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Anne Maack, Lyndon Drew, Walter Thiessen, Randy Ellsworth, Joyce Reger, Nancy Rasmussen, Glenda Wilcox, Marla Canfield, Luella Sanders, Rita Flickinger, Cayla Wasson, Chris Johnston, Kandi Miller, Shana Schmidt, Anne Harris, Emily Lies, Vicky Roper, Cornelia Stevens, Debbie Mai, Susan Lamb, Chelie Nelson, Carla Heintz, Katie Lynn, Janice Smith, Shantel Randolph, Sarah Robinson

**Unified Legislative Agenda**

Anne Maack provided background information on the alliance's work with the Unified Legislative Agenda. Because Birth-K is a state-wide issue not a specific regional issue their proposal has not been included on the ULA.

During the 2009 legislative session, there was a proposal in the House Social Services Budget committee to take \$3.5 million from the Early Childhood Block Grant and give it to the Wichita Center for Graduate Medical Education (WCGME). Fortunately, the Block Grant remained unharmed.

The alliance decided not to submit a proposal to the ULA this year. Instead the alliance will approach the groups who represent the priorities chosen for the 2010 ULA and ask them to avoid competition with Visioneering Partners. A sub-committee, (Anne Maack, Michelle Eastman, Vicky Roper, and Emily Lies) will be formed to work on an agenda to present to the business community with direction from the alliance.

**Work Group Updates**

Vicky Roper shared a copy of her quarterly June 30, 2009 report to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund on the work of the Wichita Child Abuse Fatalities Community Response Team. That team has now rolled out their first program, the Period of Purple Crying. A PowerPoint has been created to describe the work of the Community Response Team that all Team members are welcome to share within their spheres of influence. It is available on the Visioneering website under the Birth-K Alliance.  
<http://www.visioneeringwichita.com/minutes/birth/Wichita%20Child%20Abuse%20Fatalities%20Community%20Response-May%202009.pdf>

**Block Grant Update**

**Report from the Children's Cabinet**

Nancy Rasmussen spoke with Jane Wyler at the Children's Cabinet. The new RFP will be out September 1<sup>st</sup>. This is a renewal process. The RFP is due Oct 30<sup>th</sup>. The Cabinet is willing to be flexible with us due to the current situation. Level funding is available at this time. The grant can be revised as a community.

The Cabinet will decide who the grant's fiscal agent will be for the remainder of 2009. The alliance can make recommendations, however they will make the final decision.

There are 4 agencies who have indicated a willingness to be the fiscal agent: United Way, KCSL, TOPS and Rainbows.

### **Grant Status Report**

None of the grant money is tied up in Rainbow's bankruptcy. There are monies designated for 0 – 3 for Rainbows that need to be reallocated.

Rainbows is up-to-date on block grant payments. If an agency has not received payment it has been requested and is being processed.

Rainbows volunteered to relinquish the role of fiscal agent. The Children's Cabinet will decide who will be the fiscal agent for the remainder of 2009 at their September meeting. The new RFP process will not be as rigorous. It is simply an updating of the application.

There are budget changes that need to be made such as training, misgauged demand for some services. At the end of the year there will be \$250,000 unspent dollars. The Cabinet does not want any money returned. The grant partners need to determine where to reallocate these dollars.

### **Grant Writer & Project Manager:**

Jim Garrett would like to continue as project manager. He feels the grant writer is part of the project manager's responsibilities. Rainbows is willing to allow Jim to continue in this capacity.

There was discussion around the advantage of not changing project managers. There is a great deal of grant history and understanding of the grant from the original project manager that greatly benefits the evaluation process. Others commented they have changed grant project managers with no problems. This discussion will be continued at a later meeting.

<b>2009 Meeting Schedule</b>
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Meeting of the Block Grant Partners will be held Sept 24 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce to determine how to reallocate some of the grant funds. The alliance has requested 1 individual from each partner organization attend.

Next Alliance meeting will be Nov 9, 2:00 p.m., Wichita Metro Chamber of Commerce.