

## **Birth to K Leadership Team Notes from April 14, 2008**

**Attendees:** Cayla Wasson, Kandi Miller, Tami Bradley, Anne Maack, Nancy Rasmussen, Chris Johnston, Lorraine Dold, Teresa Rupp, Debbie Mai

**Goal:** To redefine organizational structure of Visioneering Wichita's Birth to K Leadership/Strategic Alliance.

**Background:** Development of Early Childhood Authority has provided an opportunity for focusing regional Birth to K efforts in south-central Kansas. With the creation of an Authority, business leaders would need to be recruited in order to leverage state dollars, allocate funds and promote early childhood efforts.

Among the list of names already generated the Authority, other possible considerations include:

- Legislative representation
- Members from the higher education community (including possibly WSU and Butler Community College) and
- Representation from smaller counties (Sumner, Harvey and Butler).

As a result, the **roles and responsibilities** of the Authority, the Birth to K Leadership Team, and Birth to K Strategic Alliance are as follows:

**Early Childhood Authority:**

- Leverage state dollars with local matches
- Allocate dollars to priority early childhood issues in the region
- Promote early childhood issues that benefit south-central Kansas

**Birth to K Leadership Team:**

- Recruits business leaders for the Authority
- Establishes regional priorities based on comprehensive systems plan
- Connects to state-level issues
- Identifies other funding opportunities (foundation, etc.)

**Birth to K Strategic Alliance:**

- Works on details of the comprehensive systems plan (i.e. "works the plan")
- Connects community-level work to regional/Authority efforts
- Connects with ICCs

### **Regional Early Childhood Priorities:**

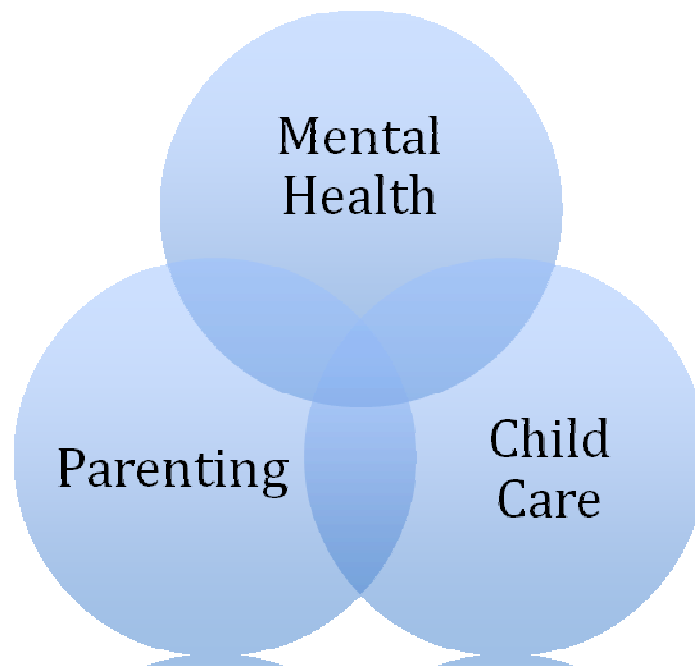
The comprehensive systems plan identified three themes that impact early childhood programs in the region: Mental health, child care and parenting.

After reviewing these themes, the central focus for early childhood efforts in south-central Kansas was determined to be: **A quality community for young children.**

In order to accomplish that focus, the **three priorities** were identified (represented by the center of the overlapping circles below):

- Access to knowledge and resources for families (in short, creating **parent demand** for quality early childhood programs in the region)
- Professional, trained **staff**
- Increased and **flexible** financial resources

**Benchmarks** identifying progress in these three areas will be established and incorporated with the comprehensive systems plan.



### **Other notes:**

- Parent demand – outreach/parent support system
- Child Development – quality of place/life/workforce – quality young children
- Parent support system
- Community emphasis – build a social network to give children the skills they need to succeed
- Resource Center
- Network/Pipeline/Connection