



**Visioneering Wichita
Birth-K Strategic Alliance Meeting
September 18, 2006
Meeting Notes**

Attendees: Martha Fair, Debbie Mai, Emily Lies, Teresa Rupp, Lorraine Dold Bockorny, Pamela Cornwell, Janice Dixon, Carla Heintz, Larisa Miller, Jeanine Phillips, Jan Davis, Sue Sommers Barientos, Susan Wilson, Michele Spainhower, Suzanne Chapel-Miller, Eileen Leifheit, Kimberly Werth, Terri Norgren, Anne Corrison, Jeff Usher, Lyndon Drew, Calene Binns, Kandi Miller, Waltner Thiessen, Deb Voth

Leadership Team: Bill Hanna, Chelie Nelson, Connie McMullin, Jeannie Phillips, Jeff Usher, Katrina Boyd, Kelly Hayes, Lorraine Bockorny, Nancy Rasmussen, Sue Barrientos, Susan Wilson, Teresa Rupp, Vickie McArthur, Walter Thiessen

Purposes of today's Alliance Meeting:

- *Connect Visioneering's efforts to the Statewide Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan*
- *Complete discussion of B-K Strategic Areas*
- *Prioritize Action Steps for Alliance work over the next 12 months*

I. Providing the Context

Alliance Champion, Teresa Rupp, provided an overview of the August Alliance meeting and the accomplishments made. SHN staff then reviewed the B-K Alliance Logic model and how it ties to the Vision for the Education Foundation. The Alliance is currently completing an interim process for developing and prioritizing action steps that will guide the Leadership Team in its development of an Alliance Benchmark. SHN staff also provided a copy and reviewed the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan and relayed the Guiding Frameworks that are being used in the ongoing development of the KECCS plan. More information about the plan, the Kansas School Readiness Guidelines, and the Kansas Early Learning Guidelines are available at www.keccs.org.

II. What is the Future Vision?

In order to complete discussions that were started at the August Alliance meeting, participants were divided into work groups to discuss the development of one year goals related to the two remaining Strategy Areas and the Alliance's role in achieving each of these goals. This information will be presented to the Birth-K Leadership Team and used in the establishment of Alliance Benchmarks. The work groups completed the process for each of the four Strategy Areas.

The following information was developed for the two remaining strategies and added to the work done at the August Alliance meeting:

Strategy: Including programs for parents and children to address language skills and social development of B-K within the community.

Participants discussed what, if done right, this strategy area would look like in one year and using that developed a draft goal statement:

- To secure business and community will to invest in a viable workforce through investing in families and young children (pre-natal – K).

Possibilities within one year to reach this goal included the development of a comprehensive communication plan with the following steps involved:

- Identification of target audience(s)
- Framing of the issue
- Determining mechanisms for communicating message
- Engaging the community
- Determining statewide opportunities to communicate message
- Getting something on the 2008 Legislative Agenda

Strategy: Providing more qualified pre-school teachers in daycare and birth-K programs.

Participants discussed what this strategy area, if done right, would look like in one year and used this information to develop the following draft goal statement:

- Engage legislative and vision partners in efforts to increase wages and qualifications.

The top possibilities within the next year to achieve this goal include the development of an issue paper to present to the Unified Legislative Agenda (as well as other potential partners) that is focused on the early childhood workforce and its impact on the community's economic development, encouraging early childhood professionals to become more active in the advocacy groups that they are already connected to, and determining what sources of funding are available and research additional funding opportunities.

After discussion of what efforts currently exist, gaps that are apparent and who else may need to be involved in the process, participants determined that the Birth-K Alliance may be helpful by providing access to new partners such as the Unified Legislative Agenda Alliance, business leaders and their contacts and by adding an economic emphasis to the "message" early childhood professionals want to portray.

III. Prioritization of Action Steps

Teresa Rupp reminded the group that the goal of Visioneering is to have an economic impact on the Wichita MSA and that the strategy areas that are part of the Visioneering document were the result of over 16,000 members of the community and reflect what they feel are the priorities for Early Childhood. Visioneering is NOT about developing new programs, it is about providing support to the efforts already exist in the community and offering new partnerships to bolster those efforts.

Participants were asked to review the Possible Action Steps for each of the four Strategy Areas and vote for their top three, with a focus on the "low hanging fruit" that will offer a chance to be successful in making progress in the next 12 months.

The outcomes of the Alliance voting process were reviewed and the results will be presented to the Leadership Team in order to see if some similar priorities can be combined. The Leadership Team will use these priorities to develop Alliance Benchmarks to be presented at the meeting in October.

Next Steps

- Leadership Team will review and organize priorities
- Leadership Team will develop Birth-K Alliance Benchmarks to be presented to the Alliance in October

Next Leadership Team Meeting: Monday, October 9, 2006 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main

Next Alliance Meeting: Monday, October 16, 2006 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main