



Visioneering Wichita Birth-K Strategic Alliance Meeting November 20, 2006 Meeting Notes

Attendees: Emily Lies, Kelly Hayes, Roxanne Brotsky, Jeff Usher, Jeanine Phillips, Kandi Miller, Polly Basore, Terri Norgren, Martha Fair, Stacy Mendez, Jackie Counts, Anne Maack, Teresa Rupp, Vickie Burgess McArthur, Lorraine Dold Bockerny, Eileen Leifheit, Emile McGill, Shirley Theurer, Chris Johnston, Nancy Rasmussen, Suzanne Tobias, Carol Roberts, Calene Binns, Suzanne Chapel-Miller, Lyndon Drew, Paco Price, Cayla Wasson, Michele Spainhower, Pam Cornwell, Walter Thiessen, Janice Dixon, June Rempel

Leadership Team: Beverly White, Bill Hanna, Carla Heintz, Chelie Nelson, Connie McMullin, Jeannie Phillips, Jeff Usher, Kandi Miller, Karina Boyd, Kelly Hayes, Lorraine Dold Bockerny, Nancy Rasmussen, Sue Sommers Barrientos, Susan Wilson, Teresa Rupp, Vickie McArthur, Walter Thiessen

Purposes of today's Alliance Meeting:

- *Review of Progress to date*
- *Learn more about the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Plan*
- *Discuss the South Central Kansas relation to the KECCS plan and how it is a model for a system-wide plan for this region*

I. Providing the Context

A. Overview of Previous Meetings and Presentation of Benchmark

SHN staff provided a brief overview of accomplishments since the first meeting in July 2006. (All Alliance meeting notes are available on the Visioneering Wichita website: www.visioneeringwichita.com.) This overview included a review of the Birth – K Alliance Benchmark: *To develop a plan for an Early Childhood System for South Central Kansas so that all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.*

Currently, the Alliance focus is on the first of the following Planning Action Steps

- **Review of successful initiatives in other communities**
- Identify target audience(s)
- Frame issue
- Determine mechanisms for communicating message
- Engage community
- Determine statewide opportunities to communicate message
- Develop proposal for 2008 Unified Legislative Agenda

Jackie Counts, Assistant Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas, presented information on the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Plan. For more information about the KECCS plan, visit www.keccs.org.

II. What is the Future Vision?

Members of the Alliance were asked to take 15 minutes at their individual tables to discuss what they heard and develop questions for Jackie regarding the KECCS plan. (For these questions and answers, please see the attached notes.)

At the conclusion of the Question & Answer opportunity, the Alliance asked what insights were gained and what information should we take forward in our local planning process.

Insights from today's meeting:

- We are all in the same place (in the planning process)
- We are not yet truly measuring school "readiness"
- We can use the State KECCS plan as a roadmap for our work on a local level
- Everyone involved cares about kids – but it's very hard work
- We don't have to ask permission to move forward – the Governor and Legislators are on board
- We need to find a way to capture dollars to make systems change without robbing money from services
- Funding is not going to come until people outside of the field become passionate about the issue
- We have something concrete we can take to the business community
- There is still a lot of work to be done in regard to Data Collection
- We need to listen to the "lessons learned" through the KECCS process
- There is software that currently exists for tracking purposes – we don't have to recreate the wheel
- We need to find better ways to get information to the parents who need this information and ways to get parents to respond to opportunities that are offered
- We need to "kick it up a major notch" – move things beyond their current level of planning
- We need more funding
- We've seen that Visioneering can promote collaboration and affect policy change and we can use that to benefit Early Childhood issues

What do we take forward?

- We have a plan to use as a framework for our local work
- The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund has issued an RFP for 15 grants in the amount of \$10,000 for communities to do Early Childhood Comprehensive Community Planning.
 - Response to the RFP are due December 12
 - Current Smart Start communities are eligible to apply
 - Can use the grant to mirror collaborations that exist in the community through Smart Start and the Interagency Coordinating Councils
 - Would need to speak to other communities in the MSA to assure we are not competing with their efforts
 - Members of the Alliance will meet next week to discuss a possible application on behalf of the community

III. Wrap-Up

Self-Help Network reviewed the Agreements from October meeting and advised those persons to forward any information that is gathered to Cayla Wasson at

Connecting Point for collection prior to the next Alliance meeting. Cayla can be contacted at cwasson@rui.org. At the next meeting we will review this information and discuss how the information will be used.

Diane reminded Alliance members of their opportunity to become a Vision Partner and asked that individual agencies sign up even if their parent organization is already a partner

Upcoming Leadership Team Meetings:

Monday, December 11, 2006 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network

Monday, January 8, 2007 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the SHN offices, 358 N. Main

Next Alliance Meeting: TBA – January 2007