

**Coordinating Board for Early Childhood  
May 9, 2008 Minutes  
9:00 a.m. –11:00 a.m.  
Conference Call**

**Attendance:**

**Members Present on Conference Call:** Karen Bartz, Sue Stepleton, Kathy Thornburg, Hillary Elliot, Roseann Bentley, Patricia Carter, Kent King, Deborah Scott, Monica Haaf, Nancie McAnough, Joe Ulveling, Stacey Owsley, Brenda Shields, Theresa Mayberry-Dunn and Sharon Rohrbach.

**Absent:** Tom Frawley and Valeri Lane.

**Others Present:** Sharon Aldrich, Bill Vanderpool, John Heskett, Carrie Shapton, Carol Scott, Margo Heger and Anne Clouse.

**Proceedings:**

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Chair, Karen Bartz, at 9:10 am.

**Quorum:** A quorum was present at the beginning and throughout the meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made to approve the minutes with the addition of Stacie Goffin as a guest. The motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

**Chair's Report:**

- Meeting Schedule – Reviewed meeting schedule dates through December 2008, noting new dates of September 12<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup>. Some are to be done through conference calling. The Chair encouraged full participation for those meetings that will be held in person, as the agendas will be full and require a quorum for votes.
- Staff – Sharon will be leaving June 30, 2008. With the help of Sharon and John Heskett a job description has been created for a senior-level administrative support staff person. The salary is \$13,000 to \$17,000, total expenses \$21,000. Discussions are underway to determine the best place to house the position. DMH has been most helpful in supporting the work of the Board and it has been appreciated
- NGA Advisory Council Meeting – NGA is offering another opportunity for state early childhood advisory groups to meet and learn more about the potential of their work. A Policy Retreat for Early Childhood Advisory Council Leadership will be held in Denver on June 19-20. States may send up to three people, including one person from the governor's office, all expenses paid.

With help from Hillary, Missouri has been accepted to participate in the retreat. The Board Chair, Karen has been approved as the Governor's representative to carry on after

the end of his term. Karen is registered and asked for two others to attend. Deborah Scott and Sharon Rohrbach indicated they would like to do so.

The Harvard Symposium is June 26 and 27. The entire state team is still planning to attend.

- Grant Applications – A grant request for \$42,500 was submitted to the Hall Family Foundation, KC on May 5<sup>th</sup>. We should receive a decision within a month. The proposal is flexible in terms of use of funds, but asked that it be used to complete the work of the Professional Development contract, Pre-K Panel and other priorities as identified in the Board's plan of work.

The Kauffman Foundation sent authorization to extend the Board's current grant through the end of 2008.

- Meetings – Karen will attend a meeting the executive directors of private early childhood special education programs in KC on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. Karen was also invited to attend the Missouri Early Childhood Mental Health Summit in Columbia June 16 and 17. She declined as several other members of the Board are planning to attend.

### **Report from School Readiness Committee/Pre-K Panel:**

The Panel has 32 confirmed members. The committee would like to get one more business representative which Roseann is working to do. Members of the school readiness committee are busy compiling information for panel members which will be mailed in the form of a binder a week prior to the May 29<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Stacie Goffin, Consultant, has had very productive conversations with Karen and also Tom Watkins, who has agreed to chair the Panel.

Board members are encouraged to observe the Panel meetings. You will, however, be on your own for meals.

### **Report from Professional Development Committee:**

Kathy Thornburg provided an update to the work of Dr. Joyce Miller, the PD Consultant who has been traveling the state interviewing early childhood professionals and other stakeholders. Joyce will be in the state again May 14-16 with a very busy interviewing schedule.

### **Report on Legislative Session:**

#### **Department Budgets:**

The legislature passed the FY09 budget May 8<sup>th</sup>. Deborah Scott reported several positive decisions in DSS Budget: 1) funds to maintain subsidy eligibility at 127% of poverty and transitional benefit of 75% up to 139% of poverty, 2) funds to adjust rates to 65% of market for infants and toddlers and 50% of market for preschoolers, 3) \$1 million new dollars for Early

Head Start, 4) funding to complete the full accreditation of the division in 2009, 5) 3% rate increases for foster parents, residential care and adoption, 6) slight increases for child abuse and neglect centers, and 7) increased funds for SCHIP to expand coverage to more children.

Nancie McAnagh reported the HSS funding was approved for a youth tobacco prevention program for only one year.

Kent King reported that DESE's school foundation funding was preserved but they lost approximately 25%, or \$5 million in professional development funds. Funds for PAT were not increased and may feel an impact from the decrease in professional development funds.

John Heskett reported that the DMH budget includes additional funds for the autism centers around the state.

### **Status of Legislation:**

Several members of the board and guests contributed to the discussion of the status of legislation with only one week remaining in the session.

- SB 726 (QRS) and HB 2264 (Child Care Affordability) were heard in the House Family Services Committee on Wednesday. During executive session, Rep. Mott-Oxford offered a scaled down version of HB 2264 as an amendment to SB 726 and it passed on a voice vote. The amendment sets a goal of raising subsidy eligibility to 160% FPL by 2012, subject to appropriations. It would cost \$19.1 million. Amendments related to NAECY accreditation and the Pre-School + program were removed from the bill. On behalf of the board, Karen will contact Senator Shannon Cooper, House Rules Committee, and Senator Rod Jetton, Speaker of the House, to encourage consideration of this bill. However, it is unlikely that the bill will get to the House floor. Still it got further this year than last and we should be encouraged by these efforts.
- There are still some efforts to offer a floor amendment to SB 885, sponsored by Senator Graham, which is currently on the House Calendar, for child care assistance that would cost \$13 million over the next 4 years.
- No other bills related to pre-k programs are still viable.
- HB 1876, which includes the P-20 Council language, is still on the informal calendar in the Senate and hasn't been brought up for debate yet. The underlying bill is very important and it is likely to come up next week.
- No action is likely on eliminating gambling loss limits that would free up dollars for early childhood.
- That status of funding to expand home visiting programs to Green County and the Kansas City area was unclear.

Stacey Owsley shared that Deborah Scott will receive an award next week from Head Start for being a champion for children and families. The board congratulated Deborah on this recognition.

**Adjournment:**

**Motion: A motion was made to adjourn at 10:20a.m., seconded and approved unanimously.**

Next meeting will be June, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Jefferson City.

Minutes drafted by Sharon Aldrich

Minutes submitted by Secretary, Deborah Scott

Minutes approved June 10, 2008