

Moving Toward a Coordinated Early Childhood System in Kansas

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WICHITA, KS

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Need for a coordinated system

- when issues are greater than any one organization
- when there is provision of services across organizations that have similar missions but different regulations, purposes, tasks etc.
- challenges of multi-organization service systems
 - overlap
 - gaps
 - lack of coordination
 - unequal access

Developing a Coordinated System

High quality services

Evidence based practices

Strong leadership

Shared policies and resources

Shared vision and outcomes- investment of resources

Collaborative decision-making

Responsive

Comprehensive

Shared Priorities

Positive learning experiences

Family engagement and capacity building

Collaborative practices

Workforce- high quality, supported

Healthy development

Developing a coordinated system in KS

Shared or joint mission to provide high quality, evidence based services to young children by

- supporting and informing early childhood professionals and
- advocating for children, families and professionals.

Focus areas:

- professional development related to standards and evidence based practices;
- legislative advocacy and
- professional advocacy & public awareness.

First Steps

- assemble and engage stakeholders from associations/groups
 - survey about their perceptions on that state of early childhood services
- develop mission, vision and action plan- a system for advancing the professions
 - survey results will provide information for the group to identify priorities and challenges
 - develop mission, vision and steps needed for coordinated system across organizations and associations

Survey

Zero To Three “Infants and Toddlers in the Policy Picture: A Self-Assessment Toolkit for States” (<https://www.zerotothree.org/resources/359-infants-and-toddlers-in-the-policy-picture-a-self-assessment-toolkit-for-states>).

Information would be gathered across the 4 policy areas identified by Zero To Three:

- Good Health
- Strong Families
- Positive Early Learning Experiences
- Collaboration and System Building

State and program level administrators received the Collaboration and System Building survey since they have knowledge of program level systems in place.

Early childhood professionals received the survey addressing how programs support child health, families and early learning experiences.

Demographic information such as profession, position/title, work setting, degree and education level, and years worked in early childhood were also gathered.

Positive Learning Experiences

Child Care

Early Intervention

Strong Families

Policy

Child Welfare

Health

Physical

Social Emotional

Collaboration and System Building: Challenges and Priorities

Coordinated Services

Stakeholder Engagement

Coordinated Leadership

Accountability

Supporting Improvement

Financial Planning

Feedback on Challenges, Priorities and Recommendations
