



Visioneering Wichita Birth - K Strategic Alliance Summary of Accomplishments to Date December 2006

The Birth – K Strategic Alliance continues to have strong representation a wide variety of parents, grandparents, service providers, educators, community foundations and other community volunteers who have a strong interest in early childhood issues.

The Strategic Alliance has developed its benchmark: *To develop a plan for an Early Childhood System for South Central Kansas so that all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.* To achieve this benchmark, the Alliance has identified 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

The Alliance has also identified three areas that are Activity related that will be pursued further in 2007:

- Family Informational Fair
- Non-traditional Access to Literacy Resources
- Comprehensive Staff Training

In November, the Alliance participated in a presentation from Jackie Counts, Assistant Director of the Institute for Educational Research and Public Service at the University of Kansas, who oversees the Kansas Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (KECCS) Planning process through a federal grant from the Department of Maternal-Child Health. The Alliance continues to discuss how local planning will be connected to this statewide initiative and plans to look at "lessons learned" by those who have participated in the KECCS process. (For more information about the KECCS plan, visit www.keccs.org).

A number of participants in the Alliance met separately in November and elected to respond to a Request for Proposal from the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund for a \$10,000 Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Planning Grant on behalf of the four counties in the Wichita MSA. The grant proposal is due to the Cabinet by December 12 and awardees are scheduled to be announced by December 31.