



**Visioneering Wichita**  
**Birth-K Strategic Alliance Meeting**  
**October 16, 2006**  
**Meeting Notes**

**Attendees:** Polly Basore, Gloria Markuly, Kandi Miller, Jeff Usher, Calene Binns, June Rempel, Nancy Rasmussen, Anne Maack, Shirley Theurer, Karina Boyd, Teresa Rupp, Joe Johnson, Maureen Hofrenning, Cayla Wasson, Eileen Leifheit, Suzanne Chapel-Miller, Rita Flickinger, Kelly Hayes, Pam Cornwell, Jeanine Phillips, Kimberly Werth, Chelie Nelson

**Leadership Team:** Beverly White, Bill Hanna, Carla Heintz, Chelie Nelson, Connie McMullin, Jeannie Phillips, Jeff Usher, 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*
- *Presentation of Benchmark and review Prioritization outcomes*
- *Take initial steps toward achieving Benchmark*

**I. Providing the Context**

**A. Overview of Previous Meetings and Presentation of Benchmark**

Suzie Ahlstrand reminded the group that she will continue to ask this group to "think big". She asked that the group set funding issues aside and look at what the Alliance would like to see the for the big picture.

SHN staff provided an overview of accomplishments since the first meeting in July 2006. (All Alliance meeting notes are available on the Visioneering Wichita website: [www.visioneeringwichita.com](http://www.visioneeringwichita.com).) This overview included a review of the Birth – K strategies and logic model and the presentation of the Leadership Team recommendation for an Alliance Benchmark.

After some discussion, the Alliance agreed on the following Benchmark:

*To develop a plan for an Early Childhood System for South Central Kansas so that all children enter Kindergarten ready to learn.*

**B. Prioritization of Action Steps – Top "Vote Getters"**

Alliance members voted on their priority Action Steps for the Alliance at the September meeting. The result of that voting process is as follows:

- Develop comprehensive plan to achieve goal. **(23 votes)**
- Develop an issue paper to present for the Unified Legislative Agenda **(16 votes)**
- Review of successful initiatives in other communities **(13 votes)**
- Increasing access to literacy resources in "non-traditional" ways **(8 votes)**
- Develop a comprehensive, "customer oriented" training for all staff that have contact with young children and their families **(6 votes)**
- Establish a "Choices Fair" for Early Childhood providers to inform families about services that are available **(6 votes)**

The top three "vote getters" have been combined into **Planning Related Action Steps** and the Alliance will consider developing work groups for the remaining **Activity Related Action Steps**.

## II. **What is the Future Vision?**

### Initial Steps

The **Planning Action Steps** for plan development includes:

- 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

To begin the process the group was asked to discuss at their tables:

*What else do we need to know to create this vision?*

Based on these table discussions, information was identified and the group was asked to then answer:

*Who will get it?*

*How does the information get organized?*

*Where will it be housed?*

*What will be presented at the November meeting?*

Members of the Alliance made agreements to obtain information (see below) and identified what they would like to have presented at the November Alliance meeting. Cayla Wasson offered on behalf of the Sedgwick County Early Childhood Coordinating Council to house the information that is obtained and assured the group that they have the capacity to do so on behalf of the MSA, not just Sedgwick County.

## III. **Sign Up for Work Groups**

Alliance members who are interested are encouraged to sign up for the following work groups based on the **Activity Action Steps**:

- a) Family Informational Fair
- b) Non-traditional Access to Literacy Resources
- c) Comprehensive Staff Training

Once work groups are formed, the group will be asked to pick a "champion" who will schedule the first meeting. If the Alliance chooses to focus on plan development, the activity work groups will be presented again at a later date. To sign up, please send your contact information to [vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu](mailto:vanessa.lohf@wichita.edu).

### **Next Steps**

- Review meeting agreements and schedule presentations for November Alliance Meeting
- There will be NO MEETING in December to allow for Alliance members to obtain requested data

**Next Leadership Team Meeting:** Monday, November 13, 2006 from 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358. N. Main

**Next Alliance Meeting:** Monday, November 20, 2006 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Self-Help Network, 358 N. Main (meeting date is subject to change based on speaker availability)

<b><u>AGREEMENTS FROM TODAY'S MEETING</u></b>		
<b>WHO</b>	<b>WHAT</b>	<b>BY WHEN</b>
Jeff	Invite Jackie Counts from KU to present on the KECCS Plan at November meeting (be prepared to discuss the plan, the system, policy implications, and who's involved)	11/13/06
Polly	Gather information from Downing Foundation research for development of The Opportunity Project to share with Alliance	11/20/06
Kelly H	Gather information from the National Governor's Association committee on Early Childhood that was chaired by Governor Sebelius	11/20/06
Cayla, Vickie M.	Share the "Fishbone" that was developed for Sedgwick County to begin discussion of a Resource/Asset map	11/20/06
Cayla, Kim	Review of other Early Childhood <u>systems</u> across the country. Kim will provide a list to provide others with a place to start their research review.	11/20/06
Chelie	Review of University Studies (i.e. University of Idaho, Rutgers University, Florida State, and University of Kansas)	01/15/07
Jeanine, Pam C	Determine whether there are communities or states that have a "high" Kindergarten Readiness level and what they did to achieve it. (i.e. Colorado, New Mexico, Indiana, Oklahoma, and North Carolina)	01/15/07
Shirley	What Kansas communities have had a "successful" plan? (KU may be a resource)	01/15/07
	Obtain School Readiness Data from the Kansas Health Institute and Kansas Department of Education	When data becomes available
	Review of K-12 and Higher Education systems as potential models for an Early Childhood System	

For those who have agreed to contact other communities, the group identified common questions to ask:

- Who has responsibility for what?
- How is the system structured? How was it developed or organized?
- What are your goals/purposes? What is your strategic plan?