

State Plan Hearing Comments

- Child Care Assistance does not support parents who are attending college so they will be able to get a higher paying job unless they are also employed. This encourages parents to not attempt to go back to school to better themselves. Child Care Assistance should support these parents as long as they are maintaining a “C” average and continue in school.
- Child Care Assistance needs to be expanded to cover child care while parents pursue higher education opportunities for Head Start parents and low income families
- Funding for KCCTO should be restored to provide mini-grants or there needs to be another way to make this training available in the parts of the state that use it most heavily (Southeast) as trainers are struggling to find ways to deliver the KCCTO trainings with no funding available to them
- Child care grants for providers need to be reinstated because child care providers are having a difficult time meeting licensing requirements and/or doing any quality improvements without the grants
- The Apprenticeship Program needs to be expanded statewide as it is not available in some areas where it is needed
- The Healthwave application process is problematic because when parents apply through the Clearinghouse they never have contact with a worker who can assist them in exploring other resources like child care subsidy that they might need and be eligible to receive
- The state plan should clarify the link between EXCEL Project and KQRS - this is not clear to the reader
- KEESM needs to be spelled out in the state plan as many readers do not know what it is referring to
- In order to ensure consistent language, the term “School Readiness Guidelines” in the state plan should be replaced with “Early Learning Guidelines”
- In Section 5.2.1 of the state plan, “indicators” should be changed to “child developmental domains” and under K-12 content standards, “general knowledge” should be changed to “learning to learn”
- SRS needs to find a way to engage parents to attend state plan public hearings and provide input

- SRS payment rates for child care need to be increased; many centers (including the only one in Emporia) are not accepting infants whose parents use subsidy to pay for their care due to the low rates offered
- Child care subsidy rates must be raised as they are well below the market rate in many areas
- The market rate survey attached to the state plan is excellent; using KACCRRRA data to produce it appears to be more accurate than methods used in the past and more cost effective (using data available rather than surveying to gather data)
- Doubt that improper payments is enough of an issue to need to devote a section of the state plan to this topic
- KQRS is an initiative that SRS should use CCDF dollars to support
- KACCRRRA needs to move to an automated web-based referral system; can CCDF funds be used to do this?
- I have just discussed this meeting request with my staff, and I understand that they have worked with Beverly Long of East Central Kansas Child Care Resource & Referral Agency to get a meeting place in Emporia for the 5/3/05 meeting. What we don't have is money to send several thousand letters (we have 729 providers and lots of stakeholders in 17 counties) to CC providers and stakeholders in 17 counties of the SC Region. What funds are we to use for this undertaking? Also, is there any way that CC providers could be sent an automated system notice with this information from KsCares? What about having our R&R partners help us contact providers and/or community stakeholders? We will do what we can to help with these meetings, but we have no community Capacity or Outreach budget, and very little Regional OOE money to spend for these mailing and copy costs let alone the amount of staff time that this will take.

Central Office Comment to the above comment: This Region really displayed a lot of energy to prepare for the public hearing. They used the resource and referral office, bulletins in newsletters, notices in the public offices and, on the day of the hearing, had a radio spot. Still turnout was low. I don't know if more money would have made a difference or not, but Regions did struggle with the amount of time and expense needed for these meetings. Central Office staff provided a lot of man hours and travel expense to present the information.