

Members Present					
	Alisa Krehbiel				
x	Ben Proctor	x	Kendall Krug		Michael Epp
x	Cindi Tedder	x	Linda Lawrence	x	Shelly Schneider
	Connie Neuhofel	x	Lisa Karney	x	Pat Bone (assistant)

## Meeting summary for Kansas Childrens Vision Health School Readiness Commission (02/02/2024)

### Quick recap

Meeting participants discussed the importance of updating school screening technology and the role of the Kansas School Nurses organization in this process.

They emphasized the need for evidence-based practices and the challenges of reaching counties without school nurses. Also highlighted was the potential of training American county pediatrics and the availability of a national certification in vision screening.

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### Summary

#### School Screening Technology Update

Meeting participants discussed the importance of updating school screening technology and the role of the Kansas School Nurses organization in this process. Cindi highlighted the need for evidence-based practices and the challenges of reaching counties without school nurses. She also mentioned the American county pediatrics and the potential of training them. Cindi emphasized the need for continued education and outreach to ensure all counties are aware of the guidelines and can update their tools accordingly. She also mentioned the availability of a national certification in vision screening.

#### Vision Screening Challenges in Schools

Meeting participants discussed the challenges associated with vision screening in schools, emphasizing the need for comprehensive testing and potential limitations of certain methods. They discussed the efforts of groups like the Lions Club, but also highlighted the importance of follow-up evaluations and parental communication. Cindi discussed the challenges of screening and diagnostic evaluation for students on state insurance, emphasizing the need for a list of providers who accept state insurance.

Towards the end of the meeting, she shared personal experiences and the potential need for further attention for some students. No decisions, alignments, next steps, action items, or open questions were identified in this meeting.

### **Student Health Needs Screening and Tracking**

Meeting participants discussed the importance of screening and tracking the needs of students in schools. It was suggested that a potential for a digital system to streamline the process and enhance communication between school nurses and health departments. The idea was also brought up of an annual survey on student health but expressed concerns about the response rates from smaller or more remote districts. Cindi mentioned the possibility of creating a centralized system for referral forms to improve efficiency and reduce paperwork. However, there is also a need to balance these ideas with the privacy and potential abuse concerns.

### **HIPAA, Screening, and Early Identification in Family Medicine**

Meeting participants discussed several topics during the meeting. One specific concern highlighted the challenges related to HIPAA regulations and obtaining medical records. Ben brought up the creation of a database and the possibility of revisiting the topic. He brought up consulting Scott Gordon, legal. The discussion also touched on the role of screening in family medicine and the school system, with a focus on early identification of potential health concerns. It was emphasized about the importance of screening in schools, the shift in billing practices, and the need for educating pediatric offices and health departments about these changes. Finally, the committee discussed the role of Lions Club screenings in schools and the significance of identifying and treating vision impairments early.

### **Student Evaluation System Updates and Charges Discussed**

Meeting participants discussed the recent updates to the electronic system used to track student evaluations, highlighting the inclusion of all students in the system with the onset of open enrollment. Ben stressed the importance of individual student identification numbers, such as State ID and district student ID, used across various settings. He also touched on the charges imposed on public school systems by the State to identify and support students with academic or health concerns. Lisa then shifted the discussion to early childhood education, emphasizing the availability of specialized services and programs for children with developmental concerns. Lisa highlighted the integrated nature of their system and the potential for students to transition from their parents as teachers program. She also mentioned partnerships with

outside experts for evaluations and the possibility of qualifying for services due to low income.

### **Education and Resource Guide Proposal**

Meeting participants emphasized the importance of education and proposed the creation of a comprehensive guide to various programs available. It was also suggested the need for more resources and education, and the potential use of Zoom for vision screening in students. Additionally, it was proposed the idea of a shared Google Sheet page for the group to list relevant articles and resources, highlighting the importance of effective communication and collaboration. The discussion points were clear and emphasized the need for improved education and resources.

### **Parent Story Sharing and Meeting Schedule**

Meeting participants discussed the potential value of parents sharing their personal stories with their children, particularly those around 13 years old who might be dealing with their own worries and fears. Also discussed were the organization of monthly opportunities and suggested the use of platforms like Google or Microsoft for information collection. Towards the end, Kendall emphasized the need for interim communication and set a date for a meeting to discuss the meeting schedule, possibly on Fridays of the third or fourth week of the month. The length of the meeting was suggested to be an hour, depending on whether it's a virtual or in-person meeting.

### **Developing Resource Document for Commission's Website**

Meeting participants proposed the development of a resource document for the commission, which would be made available on a website built for the commission. The document would include guidelines, research articles, and trainings, with the aim of educating the public and educators. The team agreed to review articles before sharing them to ensure their importance and relevance. There was also a discussion about translating articles into other languages for a diverse audience, but the team agreed to consult with the vision coalition before proceeding with this task. The team also agreed to include resources for vision services on the website.

### **Meeting Frequency and Schedule**

The team discussed the frequency of meetings, deciding to hold a main meeting at the end of October to finalize report and avoid the holiday season. The team decided to schedule the meeting on the 18th of October, due to the last full week of October being unsuitable due to a conference. They also considered the possibility of having virtual meetings more frequently in the

meantime. Cindi was assigned to help develop a draft for a survey project, and another meeting was planned for April or June.

### **Policy, Development, Education, and Integration**

Meeting participants discussed the expansion of their organization's influence in the American Academy through policy and development medicine. They also touched upon their first meeting at the NIH, which will focus on diagnostic criteria for high-functioning kids. They also discussed the importance of education and the potential for utilizing the expertise of Amanda Peterson, the early childhood director for the state. Meeting participants discussed plans for a survey to be sent out to the group, ongoing work with Kansas instructors to update a survey for the Kansas school for the deaf and their outreach, and the idea of merging the surveys. Ann Yates at KSDE will be asked to help develop a survey. Meeting participants emphasized the need for better integration of vision and hearing assessments in schools and proposed the idea of a resource tab on the website for upcoming treatments and training opportunities.

### **Product Name Change and Screening Guidelines Update**

Meeting participants discussed a product name change initiated by Dr. Chathan, from "EyeSpy 20/20" to "GL D Vision." More details about the proposed changes is needed. Cindi highlighted the need to update the provision screening guidelines, with Michael Epp responsible for the document update, and Kira and Cindy Gilmore's involvement in the last update. Cindi suggested the next update should be completed by June, with necessary materials including images to be gathered. She also discussed the importance of color vision screening, expressing concern over recent recommendations suggesting it's unnecessary. Finally, she mentioned the need for additional time for an unspecified task, considering reaching out to Carol, Kate, and possibly Cindi for help, and suggested the gathered information could be useful for the next Zoom meeting.

### **Next steps**

- Consider conducting a survey to gather more information on current practices and needs in the field for data in the Governors report.
- Organize periodic meetings or discussions to review ongoing projects and ensure progress.
- Review and discuss the survey results.
- Schedule meetings for October 18th, August 23rd, and December (date to be determined).

- Consider reaching out to Amanda Peterson and Cindy Gilmore for input and assistance.
- Update the Deaf/Hard of Hearing survey and consider merging it with the Kansas Instructors for the Deaf survey.
- Reach out to Kira for contact information for Dr. Chathan
- Update the vision screening guidelines by June
- Investigate the evidence behind the NCCB's recommendations on stereopsis and color screening
- Consider updating the color vision screening guidelines based on the evidence