**Notes**

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**Kansas Children’s**

**Details**

* September 29, 2023
* 10:30 – 11:30
* Location: zoom

**Vision Health and**

**School Readiness**

**Commission**

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| ***Members*** *- (present at meeting X, absent at meeting A)*

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| x | Alisa Krehbiel | x | Connie Neuhofel |  | Michael Epp |
| x | Ben Proctor |  | Dr Kendll Krug | x | Shelly Schneider |
| x | Cindi Tedder |  | Dr. Linda Lawrence |  |  |
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***Guests/KSDE Staff members***Lisa Karney, Pat Bone, Nicole, nursing student attending with Cindi Tedder |
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| **TOPIC** | **Discussion points** |
| **Welcome and Introductions** | * Dr. Ben Proctor welcomed members to the meeting and members all introduced themselves sharing the role they are filling on the commission.
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| **Overview of Commission Work/Duties** | * Review of Senate Bill 62 from the 2022 legislative session where this 8 member commission was formed.
* We are to implement the provisions of this bill.
* Duty 1 Oversee the Kansas State Vision Screening Requirements and Guidelines at least once every seven years. Link to document:
	+ It was revised in the summer of 2023.
	+ Cindy Tedder, Cindy Gailmore and Dr. Krug did the most recent review.
	+ The Kansas Vision Coalition. And that particular group has taken on most of the needs of what we need for vision screening in the State of Kansas and vision requirements similar to what they do for hearing.
	+ Guidelines are now posted online. It's very user, friendly.
	+ Review should be done at least every 5 years. Updated every 7 years at the
	+ minimum.
* Duty 2 Provide standardized vision screening referral letters and eye professional examination report, as reference in the Kansas vision screening requirements and guidelines.
	+ within the guidelines, the screening guidelines, requirements, and guidelines that we have currently in the appendices are the referral letters that they're talking about.
	+ So you'll find the references and guidelines show where these things are coming from and the evidence based practice pieces that it has been written from one of them is the APA.
	+ The Kansas vision requirement guidelines and requirements for school age children. It is based for those students student age. So it's not got the doctor type testing in it.
	+ Noting the difference between a screening and an exam is the key to understanding this document.
* Duty 3 Identify state resources that assist in providing opportunities to offer free or low-cost eye exams for students who fail vision screenings and are unable to afford an examination of their own.
	+ the Kansas Division Coalition has a website that does have some state resources, and the Coalition actually has some really great group of umbrella as far as age birth all the way through, you know, aging out of our lives.
	+ Kansas Coalition resources, as well as the National Association School nurses resource. Needs to be refined to school aged resources only.
* Duty 4 - Establish a system to collect data from school health personnel concerning results of the original screenings and referral outcomes.
	+ Issue an annual report to the Secretary of Health and Environment and Commissioner of Education.
	+ This report is something that KSDE can oversee with input from the commission as it is prepared.
	+ Will need the quantitative data but would like to collect some qualitative data on their screenings are going and what their needs are, and maybe some ways that we could help them to do their job better. I don't know but that would be another way to collect some vision data to just make it better in the State of Kansas and to hopefully get services to the students that need them.
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| **Terminology in the Bill** | * **Basic Vision Screening** – an age-appropriate eye testing program for each child that is implemented according to the most recent edition of the Kansas vision screening requirements and guidelines and includes referrals for eye examinations and necessary follow-ups.
* **Frequency of Vision Screenings**

Provides children with free basic screenings as follows:* Annually for children with disabilities age three through five who are participating in IDEA programs.
* At least once each year for students enrolled in kindergarten, 1st grade, 3rd grade, 5th grade, 7th grade, and 10th grade in a school district or accredited nonpublic school.
* Within the first year of admission for any student enrolled in a school district or an accredited nonpublic school.

Kansas School nurses at the Kansas State Summer Conference for School nurses in Wichita, July of 2020. We informed them our expectation was for our nurses to have this changed over within the next 18 to 24 months, and so at this point everyone should be following this throughout our school systems across the State.* One of the good things about the Kin School nurses organization is, we do have public school nurses that come to the conference, but we also have a lot of private and parochial school nurses as well as a health department nurses who are providing school nurse services.
* Is there any regulation oversight to any of this? It is a state law. The local school board could make their own policies but school nurses are encouraged to follow these guidelines. KSDE would be able to help ensure the message of the requirements is getting out to all schools. KASB does a great job of creating draft policies for districts to implement at the local level.

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| **Next Steps** | * I would like to add that in like in the Special Education and title Services Department, too, along with Dr. Proctor and Pat. We have people that then go to the KASEA meetings. So that's the special education directors meetings. We can definitely get information out that way as well.
* Most important is to establish our next meeting. In looking at roles and responsibilities we probably need 2 – 2 ½ hours.
* School nurses are asking for help. It could help this group develop this work if we built a regional vision and contact process put in place.
* Cindy and Ben will collaborate and put together an agenda for the next meeting and set some objectives for the meeting.
* Quarterly is probably good, because eventually, you know, we're going to have like these prongs. People are gonna work on education. People are gonna work on resources. People are gonna work on research or stats, or whatever those all those different prongs. And we gotta come back together to kind of meet to see where everybody's going and make sure we're all you know, apprised, and understand what's happening, and get input from everyone. I would suggest that at the least, probably quarterly.
* Pat will send out a poll to determine the best date in November for the next meeting.
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