Lindeman joins discussion on inclusive early learning programs

This meeting with USDE Deputy Secretary, Libby Doggett, HHS Deputy Secretary, Linda Smith, Assistant Secretary for Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Michael Yudin, OSEP Associate Division Director, Christy Kavulic, and HHS Policy Advisor, Shantel Meek provided representatives from Kansas and Missouri to engage in discussion of the potential impact of the joint policy statement.

The discussion focused on activities in their respective states regarding inclusion and focused on both opportunities and challenges. The federal officials and state representatives engaged in extended discussion regarding the statement, identified dissemination opportunities for the statement, and discussed

...continued on page 2
reaction to the policy statement. They discussed specific components of the additional supports that the federal agencies can provide states. This discussion lasted an hour and a half.

This policy statement highlights the benefits of inclusion for both children with and without disabilities, provides the scientific and legal foundations supporting inclusion, provides a clear definition of inclusion, and provides recommendations to states, school districts and early childhood programs for expanding inclusive high-quality early learning opportunities for all children.

As noted in the news release on the event from the USDE, this year is the 25th anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, the 40th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Act and the 50th anniversary of Head Start, but too many preschool children with disabilities are still excluded from early childhood programs with their peers. There is significant work to be achieved regarding inclusions of young children with disabilities into everyday activities and learning environments.

Each member of the Kansas team represented a specific group of stakeholders, early childhood service program, and/or professional development and technical assistance supports for those individuals working in the field of early childhood. Other members of the Kansas team were Barbara Dayal, Kansas State Department of Education, Part B, 619 Coordinator, services for children 3-5 with disabilities; Carrie Hastings, Children’s Services Manager, Kansas Department for Children and Families, in the Strengthening Families Unit; Gayle Stuber, Kansas State Department of Education, Coordinator for Early Childhood Programs; Sarah Walters, Kansas State Department of Health and Environment, Coordinator of IDEA, Part C Services, services for children birth to age three with disabilities; and Erick Vaughn, Executive Director, Head Start Association.

This News Release was highlighted in the Business section of the Parsons Sun newspaper at this link http://www.parsonssun.com/business/article_f3efc8e2-6cb8-11e5-8725-0faca34645c2.html

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**Just the “STATS”**

Last year, Southeast Kansas Respite Services, associated with the Life Span Institute at Parsons, provided respite, supportive home care, payee, and homemaker services to 140 families for a total of 30,666.75 hours, as well as, managing the Social Security benefits for 150 customers.

*SEKRS has been serving families in Southeast Kansas since 1990.*
Brief Summary

Engagement is at the center of learning. This award was made to continue and expand the work that was accomplished with the 2012-13 Fire Safety project.

The goals of the 2015-16 project will expand Kansas capacity for prevention and control of fire related incidences, injuries and deaths by increasing understanding of the need for, acquisitions of, and proper use of smoke alarms to meet the needs of people who are deaf and hard of hearing and increasing knowledge of people who are deaf or hard of hearing by providing in-home fire safety education, fire escape planning and practice, and installing accessible smoke alarms.

Assistive Technology for Kansans (ATK) will collaborate with the Kansas Commission for Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Deaf Cultural Center, Olathe Fire Department, and Kansas Association/Deaf Clubs to create a permanent statewide network that will conduct cross training with local fire departments and members of the deaf and hearing impaired community. The project will expedite its activities due to the existence of educational materials developed from a previous successful Fire Safety and Prevention project.

The project has eight objectives and will educate a minimum of 300 individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired, conduct smoke alarm installations for 180 people who are hearing impaired across the state, and teach deaf culture and communications to twelve local fire departments serving larger populations of the deaf community.

People of all ages with a documented hearing impairment (deaf or hard of hearing), individuals, family members or service providers interested in the Kansas Fire Solutions 2015-16 program can contact the program by calling toll-free 800-KAN DO IT (800-526-3648).


PRESENTATIONS


COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sandy Hill has worked with KU colleagues at the Parsons Research Center for 15 years and her research environment paid off recently for a veteran who died before she was born.

... continued on page 6
Community Service, continued from page 5

After attending a funeral at the historic Oak Wood Cemetery in Parsons, Sandy walked through the veteran’s section and noticed that one grave was marked differently than all the others with only a simple metal plate that said “Frey Chandler 1958.” She wondered who Frey Chandler was and why his marker didn’t match the ones around his grave.

Sandy took a vacation day and spent hours of her time searching microfiche for more information about Frey Chandler. With no success, she enlisted the help of Gary Wall, a local funeral home director and he told her that in the 1950’s Frey was the name of the funeral home, not Chandler’s first name at all. They were able to determine that the man buried as Frey Chandler was actually Henry Chandler, a veteran of World War I having served in the 92nd Infantry Division, and survived at the time of his death by two daughters and a son.

Henry Chandler was born June 8, 1885 in South Bend, Indiana. He lived in Weir, KS in his later years and died January 15, 1958 at the veteran’s hospital in Muskogee, OK.

Now in 2015, because Sandy Hill wondered “why”, the record has been set straight.

Henry Chandler’s gravestone is pictured on page five. The engraving and the work to set the stone were donated by Mike Forbes, Don Babcock (S. I. Memorials), and Darrin Babcock (Oak Wood Cemetery).

Visit the KU Life Span Institute (LSI) at Parsons website at http://parsons.lsi.ku.edu/

Additionally, The Insider is archived online at http://www.parsons.lsi.ku.edu/newsletters

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