

## MINUTES OF THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MEETING

October 16, 2015

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund board meeting came to order at 9:00 a.m., with a quorum present. The board met in Marvin Auditorium 101-A of the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library, located at 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka, Kansas with notice of the meeting published in the Kansas Register.

Present: Amanda Adkins, Shannon Cotsoradis, Terrie Huntington, Shari Weber, Valdenia Winn, LeEtta Felter, Colleen Riley and Gayle Stuber, KSDE Ex Officio Designees, Karen Beckerman, DCF Ex Officio Designee, Karla Wiscombe, KBOR Ex Officio Designee, and Mark Gleeson, Supreme Court Justice Ex Officio Designee

Cabinet Staff: Janice Smith, Amy Blosser, and Dyogga Adegbore

*Presenters:* Lynn Schrepferman, Tara Gregory, WSU Center for Community Support and Research (CCSR) Jackie Counts, Jessica Sprague-Jones, Gina Byrd-Stadler, Margaret Brumberg, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR)

### Opening of the Meeting

Executive Director Janice Smith reported Chair Amanda Adkins was en route to the meeting, however, delayed due to an accident on the highway and backed up traffic. The Chair asked Janice to begin the discussion. Janice asked for introductions around the table and from the audience.

### Discussion on Home Visiting Funding in ECBGs

Executive Director Janice Smith discussed a memorandum she sent to the Children's Cabinet board, prior to the meeting, concerning home visitation funding in the Early Childhood Block Grants. In the memorandum, Janice proposed the Cabinet board explore its CIF home visiting investment strategy, review existing Early Childhood Block Grants' investments, and discuss how might the board like to prioritize investments in home visiting programs. Janice reported that she worked with Amy Blosser, KCCTF Early Childhood Director and Dr. Lynn Schrepferman, ECBG Evaluator, WSU CCSR to compile and send a survey of 11 research questions to the ECBGs providing home visiting programs. That objective was to obtain a comprehensive snapshot of the impact of home visiting investments. The Cabinet board received a copy of list of questions as an Appendix A attachment.

Janice explained that the ECBGs are guided by the RFP process and have been in operation since 2008 for providing early childhood services to at-risk children. There are currently 24 recipients of the grant that began with needs assessments. With the assistance of WSU CCSR, Cabinet staff began looking at research based services to select communities and incorporated the criteria into the application process. Janice said they determined there are six (6) different home visiting programs for which they began putting information into a table. Dr. Schrepferman went back to the field test and provided preliminary snapshot data, which was shared with the Governor's office based on a request made. Janice said she thought it was a good idea to look into home visiting data and how investing those programs could occur in the future. Amy Blosser discussed the 2015 listing of grantees that provide home visiting programs.

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### *Contin. Discussion on Home Visiting Funding in ECBGs*

LeEtta Felter said based on the memorandum, there is an opportunity to begin conversations about prioritizing investments. Valdenia Winn asked what was the motive behind the memorandum on exploring home visiting investments? Janice said no hidden motives are involved. She thought this would be an opportune time for the Cabinet to consider how it intends to address the impact of limited funding and giving guidance to communities to find and recruit the underserved and fund them first.

Terrie Huntington expressed concerns that extra dollars in the KEY Fund were taken away to balance the budget. She recommended the Cabinet board issue a statement about it.

**Terrie Huntington stated the Board has consensus about the importance in conveying the following message to the Legislature: The Kansas Children's Cabinet board believes it is important that the KEY fund operate as it was intended, to fund early childhood services and that the Legislature should discontinue sweeping the fund to plug the State's budget deficit.**

Shannon Cotsoradis suggested a shorter, concise statement: **The Kansas Children's Cabinet board recommends that no additional funds be swept from the KEY Fund.** Terrie Huntington was fine with the revised statement.

Shari Weber remarked that the original statute did not include early childhood. The statute addresses providing funding for services that directly impact the well-being of children in Kansas. Shannon Cotsoradis said she would like the focus to be on one risk factor not multiple. LeEtta Felter suggested that a subcommittee could be selected to review the Cabinet statute since it reads so convoluted. Shannon commented that the original ECBG RFP was to serve at-risk kids with 30 percent going to the youngest children.

Mark Gleeson asked does the Cabinet have data that reflects whether we are serving 30 percent at-risk children ages birth to 3? Cabinet Chair Adkins commented that the programs are serving the most at-risk children in several areas. She liked the idea of multiple factors but understood others' interest in focusing in on one factor.

After further discussion, Janice Smith stated she would ask the ECBG grantees to provide program descriptions on their interventions and revisit the topic with the Cabinet board at another meeting. Janice said that Dr. Schrepferman and her team would provide information to the Cabinet, at a future meeting, as an update from a report she presented last summer on infographics.

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### **ECBG Timeline Discussion – Running Grants on the State Fiscal Year**

Cabinet Chair Adkins reported on discussions that had occurred with Director Shawn Sullivan, Division of the Budget and with our fiscal agent Kansas Department for Children and Families' Budget staff. Amanda said she and the Budget Director Sullivan met after he met with the State Chief Financial Officer DeAnn Hill. After which the CFO stated the Cabinet is running the ECBGs illegally and not in alignment with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP) for cash basis. The problem is regarded as an alignment issue according to GAAP. Calendar year awards do not match up 100% with GAAP when the state runs on a July to June budget year. The Division of Budget recommends that the Cabinet change its grant award timeframe from January to December and operate grants from July to June. Janice's memorandum explained the issues, conversations and recommendations to address the situation.. The non-alignment is due to when the Cabinet makes decisions to fund programs, on the calendar year. The Cabinet was not able to send out Early Childhood Block Grant award notices because of these discussions regarding grant timelines and the encumbering of funds. The options include:

Option 1: Stay on current award time frame (Calendar year) with the risk being minimal, 100% of ECBG funds would be encumbered by January 1, 2016,

Option 2, Move to a Federal Fiscal Year time frame, there is a moderate risk that \$5 million dollars allocated for 2016 unencumbered by January 1. and

Option 3, Move to a State Fiscal Year time frame, the risk is significant because it leaves \$10 million dollars allocated for 2016 unencumbered by January 1, 2016.

Cabinet Chair Adkins said she will be meeting with Director Shawn Sullivan and convey that the Cabinet will move forward with following the GAAP and State Fiscal Year cycle regarding the ECBGs. She will be visiting with fiscal agent, DCF Executive staff to convey the need to payout the grants in a different way. Mark Gleeson commented that the Supreme Court uses 18-month awards for grants. He suggested that as an option. Janice said Division of the Budget does not want to issue Purchase Orders for funds not on hand. Amanda and Janice will visit further with Division of the Budget staff and DCF will take back this feedback and questions. Janice said the approved ECBGs would be sent award letters by October 31st.

### **Approval of Minutes – August 7, 2015**

Cabinet Chair Adkins said having heard no objections to the minutes as written, the minutes of August 7, 2015 were approved. No motion was made.

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### **Annual Investment Impact Report**

Janice Smith announced that all Children's Initiatives Funded (CIF) programs met the criteria and conditions and can be vetted to receive the 10 percent balance of their FY 2016 dollars. These letters of certification will be sent to the Kansas Department of Administration's Office of the Chief Financial Officer with carbon copies to Division of the Budget & Kansas Legislative Research Department, asking for the funds to be released to these recipients.

Margaret Brumberg, KU CPPR discussed the Annual Investment Impact Report (AIIR), timelines and changes to the book formerly known as the CIF Briefing Binder. Cabinet Chair Adkins commended Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones and the CPPR Team on the creation of the AIIR.

Janice Smith stated the AIIR will be used to "tell the story," show images that stay with people, and show how investments are working for communities. Currently, a subcommittee is working on crafting a message to Governor's policy staff, legislators, public. FY 2018 will be the first year without receiving the strategic formula funding, which could result in a 24% loss in funding. She asked if all programs will share cut across the board or higher performing programs receive more dollars? Shannon Cotsoradis said although all programs are valuable, some should seek alternative funding such as, Family Preservations, Children's Mental Health Waiver and Child Care Assistance. Dr. Karla Wiscombe asked how does it get determine which programs receive CIF dollars? Cabinet Chair Adkins remarked the Cabinet's priorities are funding services to children birth to 5 years of age and programs that participate in the Blueprint for Early Childhood, with no supplanting of SGF dollars. Cabinet members discussed each CIF program and determined the categories would be either: *Continue funding, Continue funding with Conditions or Do Not Continue funding for FY 17.*

### **MOTIONS:**

It was moved and seconded by LeEtta Felter and Shannon Cotsoradis, the Cabinet recommend continued funding of **Autism Diagnosis** at **\$50,000 for FY 2017**. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded by Terrie Huntington and LeEtta Felter, the Cabinet recommend continued funding of **Child Care Assistance** at **\$5,033,679** for FY 2017. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded by LeEtta Felter and Shannon Cotsoradis, the Cabinet recommend continued funding of **Child Care Quality Initiative** at **\$500,000 for FY 2017**. Motion carried.

It was moved and seconded by Terrie Huntington and LeEtta Felter, the Cabinet recommend continued funding of **Children's Mental Health Waiver** at **\$3,800,000 for FY 2017**. Motion carried.

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After further discussions, it was moved and seconded by Valdenia Winn and Shannon Cotsoradis the Cabinet recommend continued funding of the full slate of CIF programs for FY 2017. Motion carried.

<b>Autism Diagnosis</b>	<b>\$50,000</b>
<b>Child Care Assistance</b>	<b>\$5,033,679</b>
<b>Child Care Quality Initiative</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>
<b>Children’s Mental Health Waiver</b>	<b>\$3,800,000</b>
<b>Early Childhood Block Grant</b>	<b>\$18,124,711</b>
<b>Family Preservation</b>	<b>\$2,154,357</b>
<b>Healthy Start/Home Visitor</b>	<b>\$237,914</b>
<b>Infants &amp; Toddlers Program</b>	<b>\$5,800,000</b>
<b>Kansas Preschool Program</b>	<b>\$4,799,812</b>
<b>KIDS Network Grant</b>	<b>\$96,374</b>
<b>Newborn Hearing Aid Loaner</b>	<b>\$47,161</b>
<b>Parents as Teachers</b>	<b>\$7,237,635</b>
<b>Smoking Prevention Grants</b>	<b>\$946,671</b>
<b>Cabinet Accountability Fund</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>
<b>CIF Recommendations total</b>	<b>\$49,203,314</b>

Amanda Adkins said she and Janice Smith will be meeting with the Governor’s policy staff and Division of the Budget representatives about the CIF recommendations.

**Future Meeting Dates**

The Cabinet board meetings set for 2016 will commence at *9:30 a.m. on Fridays* on the following dates:

- February 5, 2016
- April 22, 2016
- August 12, 2016
- October 28, 2016

**Adjournment**

There being no further business for discussion, it was moved and seconded by Terrie Huntington and Shari Weber, the meeting be adjourned. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.