

## **Minutes of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund**

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund board met in regular session at 9:30 a.m., **Friday, August 4, 2017**, at Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library, Marvin Auditorium 101-A, 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka, with Amanda Adkins, Chair presiding. There was a quorum. Cabinet notices all meetings by publishing in the Kansas Register.

Present: Amanda Adkins, Gerald Henry, Terrie Huntington, Annie McKay, Shari Weber, Ex Officio Designees: Colleen Riley (KSDE), Amy Raymond, (Supreme Courts), Karla Wiscombe (KBOR), Sandra Kimmons, (DCF), Rachel Sisson, (KDHE), and Randy Bowman, (DOC/JJA)  
Cabinet Staff: Janice Smith, Amy Blosser, and Dyogga Adegbore

Cabinet Evaluators/University Partners present:

*KU Center for Public Partnerships & Research:*

Jackie Counts, Jessica Sprague-Jones, Shabrie Perico, Teri Garstka, Amy Smith, Mallory Rousseau, Megan Leopold

*WSU Community Engagement Institute:*

Lynn Schrepferman and Tara Gregory

### **Introductory Remarks from the Chair**

Cabinet Chair Amanda Adkins welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked for introductions from around the table and from audience.

Chair Adkins reported on progress of the Wyandotte County public-private partnership and efforts to engage the community in connecting schools to health and early learning services. There have been several business leaders and educators joining as investors. The next step in the process is to create a 501 (c) 3 and appoint board members in the next 8 weeks. The goal of the partnership will be investing in the Wyandotte County community so that early childhood services are available to help lay the foundation for K-12 students to be career ready or college ready.

### **Audience Participation using note cards**

Janice Smith, Executive Director announced that audience members can participate in the meetings by asking questions using note cards located in various locations in the room. Audience members can write a question down, provide an e-mail address, return card to one of the KU CPPR representatives in the room. Questions may be answered during the meeting, if time permits or will be responded to via-email.

### **BoardDocs Reminder**

Janice Smith reminded everyone the Children's Cabinet is moving toward a paperless board and the agendas, minutes, meeting slides, policies, and other historical information could be accessed online through BoardDocs at <http://www.boarddocs.com/ks/kcct/Board.nsf/public>. Limited copies of the agenda will be available for the audience members at the meetings. Janice encouraged attendees to use their electronic devices to access materials.

### **Approval of the Minutes of April 28, 2017**

Cabinet Chair Adkins remarked that board members received copies of the minutes prior to the meeting. Chair Adkins asked if there were any edits. Hearing none, Annie McKay moved that the board approve the minutes of April 28, as written. Motion was seconded by Terrie Huntington. Motion carried.

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### Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Evaluation: 2016-2017 Report

Dr. Lynn Schrepferman, Senior Research Scientist at the Community Engagement Institute at Wichita State University presented risk factors, common measures collected, screening measures, and demographics for children and families screened during the evaluation through the ECBGs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of Live Phase. The ECBG required participating grantees to:

- \* Demonstrate community needs
- \* Identify evidence-based or innovative interventions
- \* Implement programs that promote Healthy Development, Strong Families, and Early Learning
- \* Identify short-term outcomes that have connections to school readiness

*The following findings were noted:*

The accomplishments included impact reporting on programs for 8,707 children and 7,546 families. 89 percent of children screened were identified as having one or more ECBG-identified factors, 81 percent of children assessed were proficient in language comprehensive skills, 78 percent of children assessed were proficient in pre-numeracy skills, 77 percent of classrooms in the program met high quality standards, and 122 programs participated in collecting common measures.

Annie McKay said she would like to see this data mapped over other demographics. Chair Adkins asked if Juniper Gardens is expanding its training in the Kansas City area. Dr. Schrepferman replied Juniper Gardens has been providing training at various locations. Chair Adkins said she would be interested in attending a session. Jennifer Traffis, United Way of Wyandotte County sat in the audience and said she could provide Chair Adkins with dates and times after the meeting.

Chair Adkins asked Dr. Schrepferman, how other states compared with Kansas. Dr. Schrepferman responded that not all states disclose this data. She said that University of Minnesota provides information on several states. Gerald Henry asked if the study provides information on how many kids and families no longer are served due to the cuts to programs. Dr. Schrepferman replied that ECBG programs could provide that information.

Chair Adkins suggested staff collect the stories from ECBG programs describing how cuts impacted their programs, and Amy Blosser could provide a composite of what they share in common for the next board meeting. Janice Smith commented when the CIF recommendations are presented to the Governor's staff and Division of the Budget, we could include some of the grantees written stories. Shari Weber added it would be ideal for program staff to share their stories and challenges as a result of losing funding, while it is fresh on their mind and share the impact of those cuts. Terrie Huntington remarked that policy makers need to create an endowment account and ensure there are no further cuts to CIF. Amy Blosser remarked over a two year period, the ECBGs have incurred a 25% cut across the board. Gerald Henry asked if staff could put together a position paper summary for board members to use for testimony. Chair Adkins said a position paper would be of great value especially for the October 20 meeting. Janice asked KU CPPR team to include this request as another position paper to prepare.

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### **Early childhood initiatives currently managed by KSDE**

Colleen Riley, Director of Early Childhood, Special Education & Title Programs at KSDE, briefed the Cabinet on the Early Learning Kansans (ELK) program (formerly known as Kansas Preschool Program or KPP) and Kansas Parent Educator Program (KPEP) (formerly known as Parents As Teachers (PAT)). She introduced her team members: Dean Zajic, State and Federal Fiscal Coordinator and Ryan Weir, Public Service Executive.

Colleen explained that:

- KSDE approached the USDs with a funding opportunity with a quick turnaround time.
- She confirmed that outside entities were not invited to apply or included in the communication sent out this year to apply for the RFP's for the preschool or home visiting programs currently managed by KSDE.
- KSDE interpreted legislative language regarding funding to only be offered to USDs.
- KSDE approached DCF in order to collaborate in using TANF for preschool programs managed by KSDE.
- KSDE asserts that this funding opportunity was used to maximize TANF dollars available.
- KSDE conducted 8 early learning road shows this year to aid in sharing KSDE's early childhood work with community members.
- KSDE reported there were various house and senate legislative hearings conducted which resulted in language changes regarding the preschool and home visiting programs managed by KSDE.
- KSDE interpreted legislative language changes as permission to change the KSDE managed preschool and home visiting programs' names resulting in the new Early Learning Kansans (ELK), formerly known as Kansas Preschool Program (KPP) and Kansas Parent Educator Program (KPEP), formerly known as Parents As Teachers (PAT).
- KSDE interpreted legislative language changes as permission to allow USD's autonomy in selection of the approach they wish to use in implementing a preschool or home visiting program. The USD's submitted proposals to KSDE for final approval regarding the use of funds for their local programs.
- Everyone had the best intentions.

Annie McKay remarked to Colleen Riley:

- That had the Cabinet had this information early on, "We could have prepared talking points at committee hearings."
- The Cabinet missed an opportunity to talk about KSDE changes in name and redesign of these programs at an earlier Cabinet meeting in order to coordinate services.

Dean Zajic remarked:

- KSDE did not want to involve additional requirements expected to evaluate programs.
- KSDE cannot advocate at the legislature for any programs.
- KSDE offered our funding opportunity to our local programs.

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Janice Smith stated:

- The new KSDE KPEP is funded by CIF, therefore this program offering home visiting services to children birth to five years of age is required to participate in the common measures evaluation system. Statute requires programs funded by CIF to participate in a Cabinet approved evaluation.
- And asked if KSDE had built the expense for KPEP's participation in the common measures into their KPEP budget (as stipulated in an email sent to KSDE prior to July 1, 2017). A portion of the CIF dollars allocated was to be held back to pay for this participation.

Colleen replied:

- KSDE did not build the expense in the KPEP budget in order for KPEP to participate in the common measures evaluation.
- KSDE did not feel they had the resources to cover training from WSU and accessibility to a KU data base.

Dean Zajic remarked his interpretations of legislative language was that:

- \$7.2 million dollars of CIF was established to go directly to USD's.
- None of these dollars can be set aside for indirect costs for KSDE.

Janice Smith asked:

- Can the USDs budget the expense for the evaluation?

Dean Zajic replied he did not think so.

Cabinet Chair Adkins said:

- She appreciated KSDE's transparency, however the Cabinet needs to rectify and revisit the common measures issue with KSDE.

Colleen Riley agreed, but

- Had concerns about how not to take funding from kids.

Cabinet Chair Adkins asked that we figure it out prior to October 20.

Janice Smith added, a portion of the \$7.2 million allocated for the home visiting program can be used to fund the Cabinet approved common measures evaluation. Ms. Smith asked KSDE to find a way to budget the expense necessary to participate in the common measures.

Colleen Riley noted that the USDs are already collecting data that could be used or interfaced with the KU database (DAISEY).

Janice Smith added that an important component of the common measures evaluation is the third-party evaluation from WSU (which is not something local USD's or KSDE currently collects or provides).

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Dean Zajic asserted:

- KSDE wants to ensure there are no duplicate efforts in using different databases in collecting kids information.

Cabinet Chair Adkins asked

- "What can KSDE do to provide an analysis report, given where we are, and have it ready by the October 20 Cabinet meeting?"
- She felt the 3<sup>rd</sup> party evaluation was an important component of the common measures initiative, so if KSDE could upload information into DAISEY for an evaluation that would be helpful.

Colleen Riley added:

- KSDE has access to additional statewide information to share with the legislature.

Janice Smith added:

- That the Cabinet and KSDE have had multiple communications over the last 3.5 years regarding KSDE's participation in the common measures evaluation (indicating the request/requirement has been in place with little movement to participation).
- Another way of getting the data is to have the ECBG grantees pull the PAT information they currently collect to provide an evaluation of the effectiveness of the KSDE managed program.

Colleen Riley said:

- KSDE is determined to make preliminary awards to recipients soon.
- KSDE is awaiting an MOA with DCF.
- We are maximizing what we can do and awaiting a MOA.

Janice Smith asked:

- Can KSDE provide the legislative language showing the preschool programming funds can only be allocated to USDs? (previously the program could go to either private or public community organizations)

Dean Zajic replied:

- The funding for the preschool program was originally set to be funded by CIF, however in one of the last hearings, legislative language showed TANF would be the funding source for this program.
- On June 6, legislative language did not include funds to be allocated for any entities other than a USD.
- We used the legislative language to offer flexibility to USDs. (regarding their autonomy on selecting types of service approach.)
- At a June 9 hearing, KSDE determined that USDs would continue to be the recipient of funds with RFP language encouraging USDs to participate with private partners.

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Chair Adkins:

- asked whether the new preschool program (ELK) was sent out as a consolidated application to USDs?
- Commented that it was the Cabinet's understanding there was opposition from the private sector in not being able to apply for funds previously available to them.

Dean Zajic replied, Yes, it was a consolidated RFP/application sent to the USDs.

Chair Adkins recommended:

- 1) The Cabinet (KCCTF) listen to comments from private programs left out of the application/RFP process on October 20.
- 2) KSDE provide the Cabinet their next steps regarding budgeting the dollars necessary to participate in the common measures evaluation by October 20.

### **Other: Remaining Agenda Items postponed until the October 20 Meeting**

Chair Adkins recommended that the Cabinet postpone discussing remaining agenda until the October 20 meeting. Those items included: Item 6. Help ME Grow-KDHE, Item 7. IRIS-KU CPPR and Item 8. Accountability Process Update - KU CPPR. The Cabinet members agreed with that plan.

### **Adjournment**

The next and final meeting of the year is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Friday, October 20, 2017.

***Note: The meeting location will be in Room 112-North of the Kansas Statehouse, located at 300 S.W. Tenth Avenue, Topeka. The Children's Cabinet board will be reviewing the Annual Investment Impact Report (AIIR) and making CIF recommendations. Lunch will be provided.***

There being no further business for discussion, it was moved by Terrie Huntington that the Cabinet adjourn its meeting. Annie McKay seconded the motion. Motion carried. The Cabinet adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.

Good Morning!

Members of the Cabinet – thank you for the opportunity to be here today. I am here today with two key staff members who have worked very hard to pull together resources, then communicate the best use of those resources for strong early learning programs at the local level across our state. Dean Zajic and Ryan Weir are team members from KSDE who are here with me today.

I apologize to you as a group or individual members if you feel KSDE has not consulted with you enough as we have worked through revisions of early learning programs so they can make more decisions at the local level, but I assure you, we continue to take feedback and look for ways to improve every day, including today.

I have a couple of handouts – displayed and can be distributed. Today, I will be providing information to you from prepared notes so that I don't mix up the sequence of events that occurred. Feel free to ask questions either during – or at the end of my remarks.

KSDE has a Vision for Early Learning which can not be realized without collaboration among partners at the state and local level. This includes

- Coordination and cooperation across all programs in each community. Public and private.
- Cohesive system from birth through graduation
  - *See continuum graphic*
- Curriculum and other decisions are made at the local level, but must be:
  - evidence-based, AND
  - Measure outcomes

#### Planning For 2017-18 school year:

- Amazing collaboration with staff from DCF throughout the entire 2016-17
- Our team fielded numerous emails and calls throughout the spring, starting with spring break – wanting to know when the applications would be sent out so staffing could be arranged.
- Held 8 early learning roadshows across the state with districts and community providers from **March 28<sup>th</sup> through May 17<sup>th</sup>**.
- Short timeline and application process
  - KSDE staff developed plans and processes over the last year, but couldn't get in front of legislature's actions.
  - Legislature passed the appropriations bill at a time where only two weeks were available for applications to be completed prior to the July board meeting (11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>)
    - If KSDE were to allow extra time for the applications, the approval of applicants would not have occurred until the August board meeting (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup>)
- Unexpected changes from the legislature
  - Throughout the 2017 session the major funding bills included specific CIF funding and provisions for both Kansas Parent Educator Programs (KPEP) and Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP)
  - On **June 5<sup>th</sup>** the leading house and senate school finance bills were combined during a late night conference session.

- Going in, each bill provided for both KPEP and KPP
- The final version that was ultimately passed into law in the very early hours of **June 6<sup>th</sup>** included KPEP, **but funding authority and related provisions for KPP were not included.**
  - Prior to this change, KSDE had anticipated the release of an application to specifically meet the needs of KPP, just as has been done in the past.
  - Following the omission of KPP by the legislature, KSDE staff scrambled to find additional funding options to continue support for those programs within the limits of the new funding laws.
  - The final legislation did not include KPP, but did re-instate the 4 year old at-risk weighting to the school funding formula. By law, these funds may only go to a school district. But rather than excluding KPP projects, KSDE staff did reach out to each of the KPP programs on **June 9<sup>th</sup>** and encouraged them to partner with the school districts that they were already working with and submit a consolidated application that encompassed all services in that community provided by those and any other partner organizations.
- While the legislature did not specifically authorize or fund KPP for 2017-18, the final version of the bill did allow for DCF to transfer TANF monies to KSDE.
- Pleased that there was recognition and support from legislature for early learning in Kansas to be expanded and allow for flexibility at the local level.
  - KSDE understands that it was the intent of the legislature that DCF will make those funds available to KSDE for the provision of KPP and KPEP programs as it had in the 16-17 school year.
  - KSDE and DCF are working to finalize the necessary MOU, and KSDE will be able to make new awards once those funds are available.

**These changes are confusing, but the collaboration among agencies to utilize these funds to support previous and new programs is very strong.**

- Kansas Parent Educator Program (KPEP) – The home visiting strand that binds everything else together
  - In response to feedback from the field at regional meetings
  - In keeping with the actual language in Kansas Statute (K.S.A. 72-3603)
  - Parents as Teachers (PAT) is an excellent parent educator program, but not the only parent educator program.
    - Gives locals opportunity to choose what works best for their community, or create a framework of valid models to serve families from pre-natal into elementary school.
- Early Learning Kansans ELK – The ecosystem of pre-k in a community
  - This is a consolidated application that qualifies districts for a variety of funding sources that may all be used to support the programs in an integrated manner.
    - Each revenue source may have different requirements to **GENERATE** the funding, but KSDE wants to create a blended system in which revenue may then be **EXPENDED** to support all children in an integrated environment
  - We have found that segregated program funding and applications has increased the siloing of programs.



- Headstart, 4 year old at-risk, special education, etc.
- The ELK retains the local ability to operate multiple programs, while requiring coordination between programs and intentional moves towards inclusion.
- KSDE understands that these are higher expectations than in the past, and will work with districts to set attainable milestones, provide TA and support them in meeting these expectations

**How does KSDE measure success?**

- We now generate KIDS numbers in the state longitudinal data system for all KPEP and ELK programs.
- The KIDS ID system allows KSDE to compare school performance across demographic cohorts according to participation in ELK or KPEP programs.

KIDS system in essence creates a “test” and a “control” group for participation in KPEP and ELK programs.

Last year we worked with programs to integrate TANF funding. This year we will work with districts to transition to ELK and KPEP. While doing so, we will document data collection and evaluation efforts so that during this year, we can work with the Cabinet on common measures, without duplication for districts. We hope to be invited to provide updates at each Cabinet meeting this year.

**We appreciate the opportunity to be here today. We appreciate you and your role in supporting us as we assist districts in developing and maintaining good programs in their local communities. This has been a challenging effort this summer, but we have confidence quality programming that includes public and private collaboration will be reflected at the local level- but the process is different for all.**

**In addition to thanking you – Cabinet members, I want to take this opportunity to thank members of the legislature, our DCF partners, staff from the Early Childhood, Special Education and Title services team, in Dean, Ryan, Tammy Mitchell, Barb Dayal, Nis Wilbur, Beccy Strohm and Pat Bone, as well as those of you who emailed and called our team asking for clarification these past two months. We appreciate the feedback you provided and hope you will continue to assist us in improving the process.**

**Dean, Ryan and I are available to respond to questions if you have them.**