

Minutes of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund board met in regular session 9:30 a.m., **Friday, February 15, 2019**, at Curtis State Office Building, in Room 530, 1000 SW Jackson Street in Topeka. Kim Moore, Chair presiding. There was not a quorum. The meeting announcement was published in the Kansas Register.

Present: Kim Moore, Shari Weber, and Dinah Sykes, Ex Officio Designees: Rebekah Gaston, DCF, Amanda Petersen, KSDE, Max Fridell, KBOR, Randy Bowman, DOC/JJ, Rachel Sisson, KDHE.
Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegboro

No Action on October 26, 2018 Minutes

Chairman Moore remarked since there was not a quorum, no action could be taken on the October 26, 2018 minutes. The October minutes will be added to the April 5 meeting agenda.

Introductory Remarks from the Chair

Chairman Kim Moore thanked everyone able to attend and those joining via the zoom link provided by the KU CPPR team. He talked briefly about his background.

Chairman Moore said that due to the inclement winter weather, the plan was to allot no more than 90 minutes for the meeting, forgo introductions, and move quickly through the agenda.

Chairman Moore commented on the importance of only conducting meetings that were worth having, being transparent and following the rules. He stated the *keys to good meetings* include:

1. Presenting decisions the Cabinet board needs to make
2. Learning together is essential and having common, factual information and background, we can look at what other states are doing, and
3. Meetings should be a celebration: There are always great things happening. Kim commented that he was excited to be a part of the Children's Cabinet.

Introductory Remarks from the Executive Director

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director, also thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

She talked briefly about her background and passion for early childhood. Melissa said she has had a good first week and thanked Cabinet staff for their assistance. Melissa said she looked forward to meeting the stakeholders and encouraged them to feel free to reach out to her about their programs.

NGA Report

Senator Dinah Sykes reported on the National Governor's Association's Lab grant. Last May, Kansas applied for the grant and was a successful recipient. The grant allows Kansas team members to work to foster cross-sector collaboration addressing the health and success of children and families. Their action plan goals include:

1. Developmental screening environmental scan using Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) and Sensemaker Story collection. To date, 406 surveys have been completed and 459 stories collected. The next step is to analyze and map data during the January through April 2019 period, and use that data to inform program and policy.

2. Sensemaker “Our Tomorrows” – See <http://kucppr.org/ourtomorrows/>
The next steps:
Collect 500 stories
Prepare emergent patterns report
Develop story packs to lead community conversations
Create community profiles (Summer 2019)
Conduct community SenseMaking sessions and menu of safe-to-fail interventions (Summer 2019)
and
3. Children's Budget
Rachel Sisson remarked that the team uses an existing infrastructure.

The NGA Lab team includes Dinah Sykes, representation from Office of the Governor, Kansas Children's Services League (KCSL), a school district (USD 428), Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE), Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research and the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

Chairman Moore remarked he looked forward to continued reporting to this body.

Governor's Policy Director remarks

Haley Pollock, Director of Policy, Office of the Governor was invited to give remarks. Ms. Pollock commented that Kansas has a long history of providing exceptional and high performance early childhood programs. With the various partners represented on the NGA Lab (Kansas) team, this is the time that everything is coming together in the state. She said that Governor Kelly has been a long-time advocate of early childhood and considers it one of her priorities.

Early Childhood Systems Preschool Development Grant– Amanda Petersen

Amanda Petersen, Early Childhood Director, KSDE talked about Kansas receiving \$4,482,305 in federal dollars for the Preschool Development Planning Grant. Kansas has an opportunity to do great things in 2019 in strengthening early childhood. The Preschool Development Grant Birth through Five is a one-year planning grant for period December 31, 2018 through December 30, 2019. Partners will work collaboratively across sectors to meaningfully engage families and communities. Partners will build on existing initiatives, programs and systems and the work will be completed by December 30, 2019.

Through this project, Kansas will:

- Conduct needs assessment
- Develop strategic plan,
- Maximize parental choice and knowledge
- Share best practices among early childhood providers The final result will be improved overall quality of early childhood care and education programs in Kansas. Everyone can stay engaged and informed through *webinars* (every other Wednesday at 12:00 p.m.), *Email Updates* (following the webinar) with recording and key links, and *Website Page* with webinar links, a sign-up for email updates, and contact form. See <http://kschildrenscabinet.org/early-childhood-initiatives-in-kansas-2019/>

Position Papers – Megan Leopold & Jessica Sprague-Jones

Ms. Megan Leopold, KU CPPR, presented information about a position paper on *Full-Day, Full-Year Child Care*. A primary input for the paper was interviews with individuals involved in the development and continued success of The Opportunity Project in Wichita. Updates to the paper since the August 2018 meeting included,

- Extended the school readiness description to be more holistic
- Included ECBG statistics to highlight the success of another Kansas program; and
- Added a recommendation: “Identify at-risk communities at the county level by thoroughly assessing child and family risk factors and the community’s capacity to meet child care needs.”

Research and identified central themes around benefits and barriers include:
Benefits for children and parents:

- Children enter kindergarten ready to learn
- Parents see increased workplace success, and
- Safety and consistency

Benefits for workforce and community:

- Employers have more engaged and reliable employees
- Communities see economic growth and increased opportunities for a children and families, and
- Increased access to full day care narrows the achievement gap

Barriers:

- Full-day, full-year centers are expensive to maintain
- Many funds are not available to use for full day care, requiring blending and braiding of funds, and
- Finding and maintaining staff

Rachel Sisson commented that she did not see language about child care licensing capacity and improved quality for home-centered and facility-centered child care inserted, which was discussed at the August 17, 2018 meeting.

Chairman Moore suggested inserting a lead-in comment about the range of child care options available and distributing this position paper to various interest groups for feedback before finalizing the paper. He recalled from a recent Child Care Aware of Kansas board meeting, a chart displayed that home-based care was shown to have declined in the state.

KU CPPR staff will incorporate the suggested changes and bring back a final copy to the April 5 meeting.

Position Papers (contin.)

Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones presented information on a position paper concerning *Understanding Infant Mortality in Kansas through Social Determinants of Health*.

She talked about the known differences in infant mortality rates seen in Kansas across racial and ethnic groups using the World Health Organization's framework on social determinants of health.

In the paper, infant mortality rates continue to reflect highest among African Americans compared to all other social racial/ethnic groups. There were also significant differences in rates in births covered by Medicaid. Social determinants of health at the individual and community levels are connected to adverse perinatal outcomes. Prioritizing strategies to address social determinants can lead to improvements in closing the gap in perinatal health and reducing the rate of infant mortality in Kansas.

Amanda Petersen asked if a comparison had been done with other states and if there was anything that we might be able to learn from it. Jessica replied that comparisons among states had not been looked at yet.

Chairman Moore suggested adding a few paragraphs with Kansas information on Medicaid recipients getting access to early care.

KU CPPR team members will insert suggested changes and present a finalized position paper at the April 5 Cabinet meeting.

New Business

Melissa Rooker announced that a zoom link will be provided for participation in all future Children's Cabinet meetings.

Chairman Moore commented that he understood this to be the 20th year anniversary of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund and remarked that the Children's Cabinet is moving forward in excellence.

Upcoming Meetings

The April 5, August 23, and November 1, 2019 meetings will be held at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.