

**MINUTES OF THE KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET MEETING**  
**May 9, 2014**

Cabinet Chair Amanda Adkins called the Kansas Children's Cabinet board meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. May 9, 2014 with a quorum. The Cabinet met in Marvin Auditorium 101A at the Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library, located at 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Topeka, Kansas.

Present: Amanda Adkins, Tina Ames, Jonathan Freiden, Shannon Cotsoradis, Shari Weber, Terrie Huntington, Sierra Scott, Valdenia Winn, Mary Cohen, Aaron Dunkel (KDHE Designee), Andy Tompkins (KBOR Ex Officio), Randall Bowman (KDOC-Juvenile Justice Designee), Gayle Stuber (KSDE Designee), Mark Gleeson (Supreme Court Justice Designee) and Pamela Beach (DCF Designee)

Staff: Janice Smith, Jane Weiler, and Dyogga Adegboro

Guests: Jackie Counts, Teri Garstka, Jessica Sprague-Jones, Margaret Brumberg, and Rebecca Gillam  
The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships & Research

Cabinet Chair Amanda Adkins asked for introductions around the table and from audience.

**Approval of the Minutes of November 8, 2013**

Cabinet members received the minutes of November 8, 2013 prior to the meeting. Cabinet Chair Amanda Adkins asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

**MOTION:**

Mary Cohen moved to approve the minutes of November 8, 2013, as written. Following a second by Jonathan Freiden, motion carried.

**Introductory Comments from the Chair**

Cabinet Chair Amanda Adkins commented about one of her volunteer activities, which is working with the Kansas-Missouri Division of The Salvation Army. She and Executive Director Janice Smith recently attended the Annual Salvation Army's Civic Luncheon where former First Lady Laura Bush was the keynote speaker. Mrs. Bush is well-known for championing humanitarian causes around the world. Mrs. Bush serves on the Salvation Army's National Advisory Board. Cabinet Chair Adkins remarked Mrs. Bush' comments were both encouraging and inspiring regarding the value in volunteering on behalf of children. Amanda commented the Cabinet members and audience members are special people and should remind themselves why this work is important; because it makes a world of difference in children's lives.

Cabinet Chair Adkins introduced new Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Executive Director, Janice Suzanne Smith. Ms. Smith Janice joined the Cabinet in January after 12 years as the Executive Director of The Opportunity Project (TOP) in Wichita, a non-profit organization currently serving 700 low-income children across three centers that serve as a state and national model for high quality early childhood programming. She has been instrumental in developing and implementing innovative early childhood programs that proved to have strong positive longitudinal outcomes for at risk children. Prior to joining TOP, Ms. Smith was a classroom teacher and administrator for the Mulvane and

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Wichita Public Schools. She has also served as an Adjunct Professor with Wichita State University, Newman University, Butler Community College and Cowley Community College. Janice is a candidate for a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership at Wichita State University. She holds an MA in Communications from Wichita State University, Wichita, Kansas, a BA in English/Education from Park College, Parkville, Missouri.

### **Introduction of the Kansas Blueprint for Early Childhood**

Janice Smith discussed the Blueprint for Early Childhood, the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund's vision for early childhood in Kansas and a strategic framework to optimize child and family well-being. The Cabinet will be using the Blueprint to align its investment portfolio and monitor progress toward goals. Cabinet members received a copy of the Blueprint for Early Childhood notebook for reference. Janice said Cabinet staff met with the Early Childhood Block Grantees, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grantees and the Children's Initiatives Fund program contacts to discuss the blueprint. We have obtained feedback from business and state agencies folks about the blueprint in earlier versions. The Blueprint for Early Childhood builds a strong foundation for children and families by demonstrating continued investment, emphasizes strong accountability and nurtures a culture of public private partnerships. Cabinet Chair Adkins commented on Janice's brilliance in crafting the blueprint in only her first few months as KCCTF Executive Director. She added the Cabinet's focus will help in the development strong families and early learning. We saw results on the investments we have made, and now we want to create multiple partnerships to hold the work together.

### **Overview of Common Measures**

Janice Smith reported Cabinet staff and the Wichita State University evaluator have selected a compilation of common measures that the ECBGs will be providing data on outcomes. Through the assistance of KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR), the KCCTF's grantee will report on common measures in the DAISEY database. The pilot and field tests will be completed 7/31/2014, and Go live sometime between 8/1/2015 and 7/31/2016.

Janice reported the CIF Accountability work is completed by the end of the summer and the CIF recipients who volunteer will be included in the reporting on common measures and will align their programming with the Blueprint for Early Childhood. Rep. Valdenia Winn asked how the CIF program contacts reacted to being asked to report on common measures at the CIF Information meeting. Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones reported recipients were asked to rate how interested they would be in reporting on common measures, and 46 percent rated Neutral. Dr. Winn asked what does that percentage mean in relationship to those who strongly agreed and somewhat agreed? Did someone ask the participants for clarification about their responses? Cabinet Chair Adkins remarked it is actually a great response because 29 percent of the contacts rated Strongly Agree with reporting and 17 percent said they Somewhat Agree with having to report on common measures. The 46 percent response is waiting for additional information. Dr. Mary Cohen, asked "what are you going to do with this information in the end? What are the expectations?"

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Cabinet Chair Adkins remarked, "if we have clarification on the objectives in the early stages you will always have a solid representation that feels good about what we are doing." Sierra Scott asked about "how time-consuming will this reporting be for the State agencies that will be collecting and reporting data?" Janice responded, "the information reported affects the end-user. Once people volunteer to be engaged in the process, it will make more sense the importance of the reporting." Jonathan Freiden and Tina Ames said they favored streamlining reporting requirements with focusing on collecting the best information. Mark Gleeson asked, "how will data be protected while maintaining the integrity of information tested from entities?" He said he hoped the Cabinet could rely on obtaining consistency and continuity of data and hoped measures were in place to protect individual program data. Janice commented that the WSU evaluator went out to the program sites and selected the common measures most familiar to the ECBGS going to use.

Cabinet Chair Adkins summarized comments from the board:

- 1) Make sure there is clarity for those participating in providing data;
- 2) Take into account participants interested in participating and listen to what we are hearing from them;
- 3) Avoid added extra layers of work on the participants; re-visit this at future Cabinet meeting(s).
- 4) Obtaining reliable data and seeing continuity among programs in what is being collected. The point is to collect longitudinal measures and outcomes today versus looking at how we spend CIF money.

### **Introduction of competitive RFP for 2015 Early Childhood Block Grant Initiatives**

Executive Director Smith announced the 2015 ECBG RFP will be sent out for open competitive bid around August 1, 2015. She anticipates applications will be requested returned by September 12. She is assembling a review team and will be obtaining Cabinet board approval by early October, 2014. The nine targeted communities, Blueprint for Early Childhood, and common measures and capacity to be engaged will be components of the RFP. Some technical assistance can be provided for those receive the award.

### **Update on DAISEY, the Cabinet's data base support – KU CPPR**

Dr. Teri Garstka, Assistant Director at The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research, talked about the DAISEY database. DAISEY stands for Data Application and Integration Solution for the Early Years. KU will provide database training and technical assistance support to the Cabinet. DAISEY is a web-based outcome reporting system developed by KU for the Cabinet to collect outcomes for children and families served by Cabinet grantees. Grantees can upload data from their own systems or enter new data directly into DAISEY.

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It helps grantees by providing user-friendly reports to inform practice and improve services to families. KU owns the data base and the Cabinet owns the data.

The data is secure and adheres to KU privacy and security policies. The DAISEY is hosted on KU servers that are both HIPAA and FERPA compliant. Access is limited to authorized users with traceable login information. ECBG and CBCAP grantees will receive training on how to use DAISEY this summer, and CIF recipients can volunteer to participate in early 2015. Terrie Huntington asked if recipients will be penalized for not inputting into DAISEY? Janice responded that is up to the Cabinet board. DAISEY is free for Cabinet-funded grantees and users. Cabinet member Pamela Beach commented look at it as progress comparison versus just comparison.

### **Update on CIF Accountability Framework – KU**

Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones talked about the accountability framework which includes gathering information, describing program information, assessing evidenced-based practice tools used and assessing quality evaluation checklists. Changes to the process includes streamlining the QEC and making the accountability process more transparent. The QEC streamlining process more transparent. The QEC Streamlining process uses a wider variety of sources: websites, data submitted for the Briefing Binder and consumer perspectives. KU CPPR staff notified CIF participants in March of the process, hosted a webinar for those participants in April and offered individualized technical assistance. The process will improve confidence in the meaning of QEC scores, provide greater nuance between programs, provide opportunity to help programs improve evaluation practices and better understand the accountability process and ultimately show better outcomes.

Cabinet Chair Adkins said she was pleased to notice measures discussed at the last meeting in November, 2013 had been included in the accountability framework such as involving consumer perspective, quantitative views, and cost avoidance.

### **New Business**

Cabinet member Shannon Cotsoradis remarked the Cabinet has to balance collecting additional information non-ECBG and State Agency grantees as they plan how they use those dollars. She suggested the Cabinet request from all programs either the most recent RFP distributed using CIF funds or their plan on how CIF funds will be used. Cabinet member Shari Weber commented it was a good idea, however, it could be an onerous task at the end of the process. Cabinet Chair Adkins suggested collecting a copy of each program's plan. We could determine if the RFP by agency funded with CIF dollars fits with Cabinet's Blueprint. Dr. Sprague-Jones said the team could collect RFPs and plans during the next CIF recipient interviews. Dr. Jackie Counts added the team could collect logic models as part of the process. The Cabinet agreed that RFPs, plans and logic models should be collected during the interview processes.

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Cabinet member Terrie Huntington asked about the Cabinet's relationship with The University of Kansas and Wichita State University and whether they had engaged in competitive bid process for their contracts. Janice Smith replied the WSU interagency agreement had just been renewed for 2015. It did undergo a competitive bid process prior to Year 1. Cabinet has worked with KU for many years now. The accountability process has been revamped and we have been very satisfied with both institutions' work. The KU interagency agreement also will be renewed beginning in FY 2015.

Terrie Huntington asked Cabinet members if they had heard about the Kansas Legislature voting to sweep \$5 million from KEY fund to fund Kansas Bio Science Authority. KBSA already has a well-funded designated fund. She recommended the Cabinet pursue asking the Governor to line item veto that sweep. Cabinet Chair Adkins stated she and Executive Director Janice Smith have an appointment with the Governor's policy director today. The issue has been flagged to the Governor. Amanda said she as Cabinet Chair has voiced objection to CIF dollars being taken for non-community capacity building projects.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business for discussion, it was moved and seconded by Mary Cohen and Valdenia Winn to adjourn the meeting at 11:57 a.m. Motion carried.