

**Strengthening  
Early Childhood  
in Kansas in 2019**

WEBINAR  
April 3, 2019



# Welcome

- ▶ Amanda Petersen, *Director of Early Childhood*  
Kansas State Department of Education



# Conduct Needs Assessment

- ▶ Story collection and Community Sensemaking.
- ▶ Community engagement sessions in 37 communities across Kansas.
- ▶ Collect and analyze existing needs assessments.



*tomorrow* OUR



**Project Update**  
**April 3, 2019**



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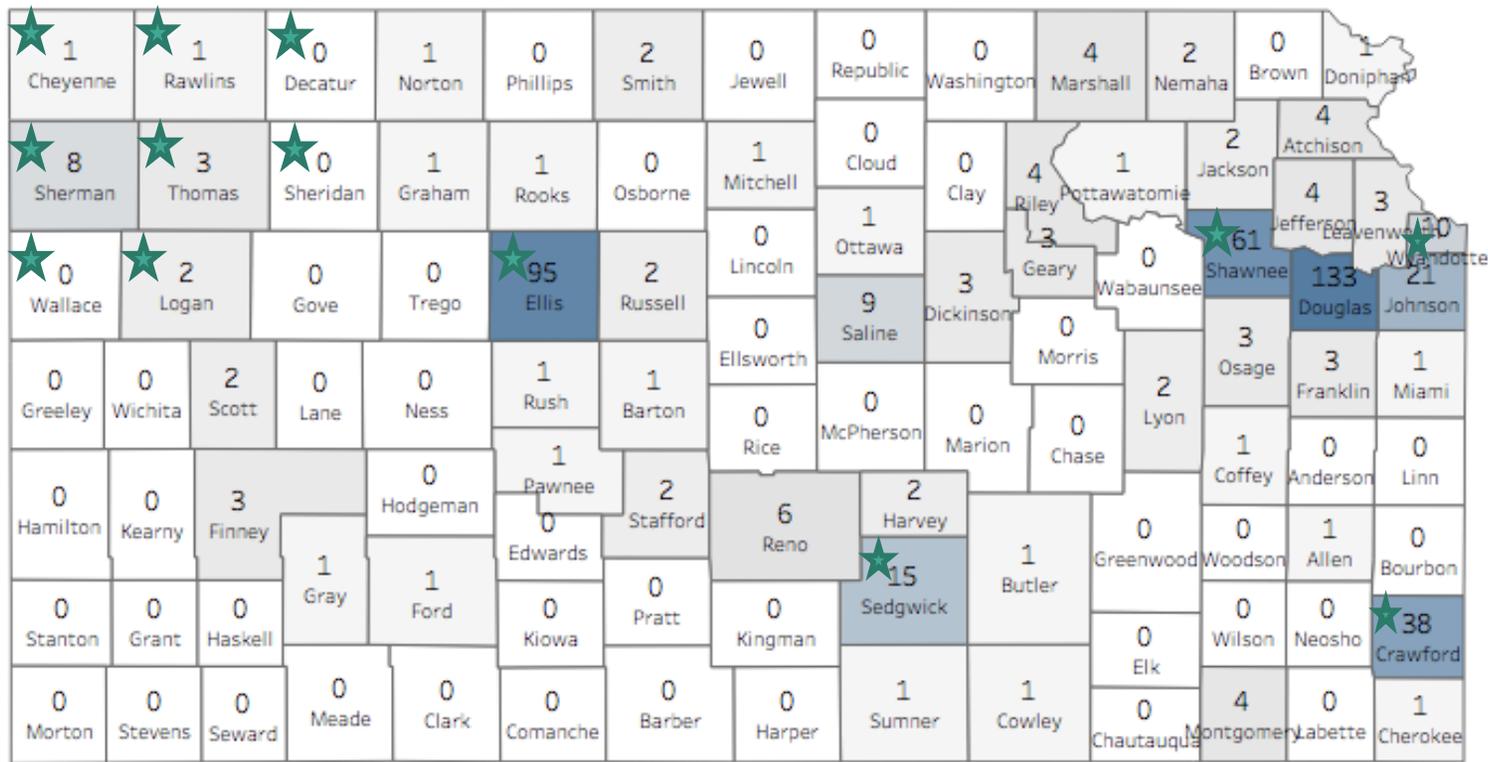
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# 476 STORIES SHARED BY KANSANS

607 TOTAL STORIES



# PARTNER HIGHLIGHTS & NEW FRONTIERS

- ▶ The Kansas Deaf-Blind Project
  - Marites Altuna, Director
- ▶ Email us! [ourtomorrows@ku.edu](mailto:ourtomorrows@ku.edu)
- ▶ Our Tomorrows blog
- ▶ Spanish version
- ▶ Business Services Agreements





## WHERE WILL WE BE NEXT?

- ▶ Thursday, April 4 – Kansas Head Start Association Meeting
    - 10:30am – 1:00pm
    - Webster Conference Center, Salina
  - ▶ Saturday, April 6 – Tabling with KCSL
    - 8:30am – 3:00pm
    - Sedgwick County Zoo, Wichita
  - ▶ Monday, April 8 & Tuesday, April 9 – Garden City
  - ▶ Tuesday, April 9 – *No Small Matter* screening
    - 6:30 – 8:30pm
    - Maceli's Banquet Hall, Lawrence
    - Register here: <https://secure.everyaction.com/hMt-xhToGEWrLEsHApbBRw2>
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## NEXT STEPS

1. Spread the word about *Our Tomorrows*
2. Connect us with potential partners
3. Get your custom URL for story collection
4. Schedule your Citizen Journalist Training
5. Complete your BSA

Let us know you're interested! <http://bit.ly/JoinOurTomorrows>

Remember, you do not need to be an official partner to get started on story collection!





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**Thank you!**



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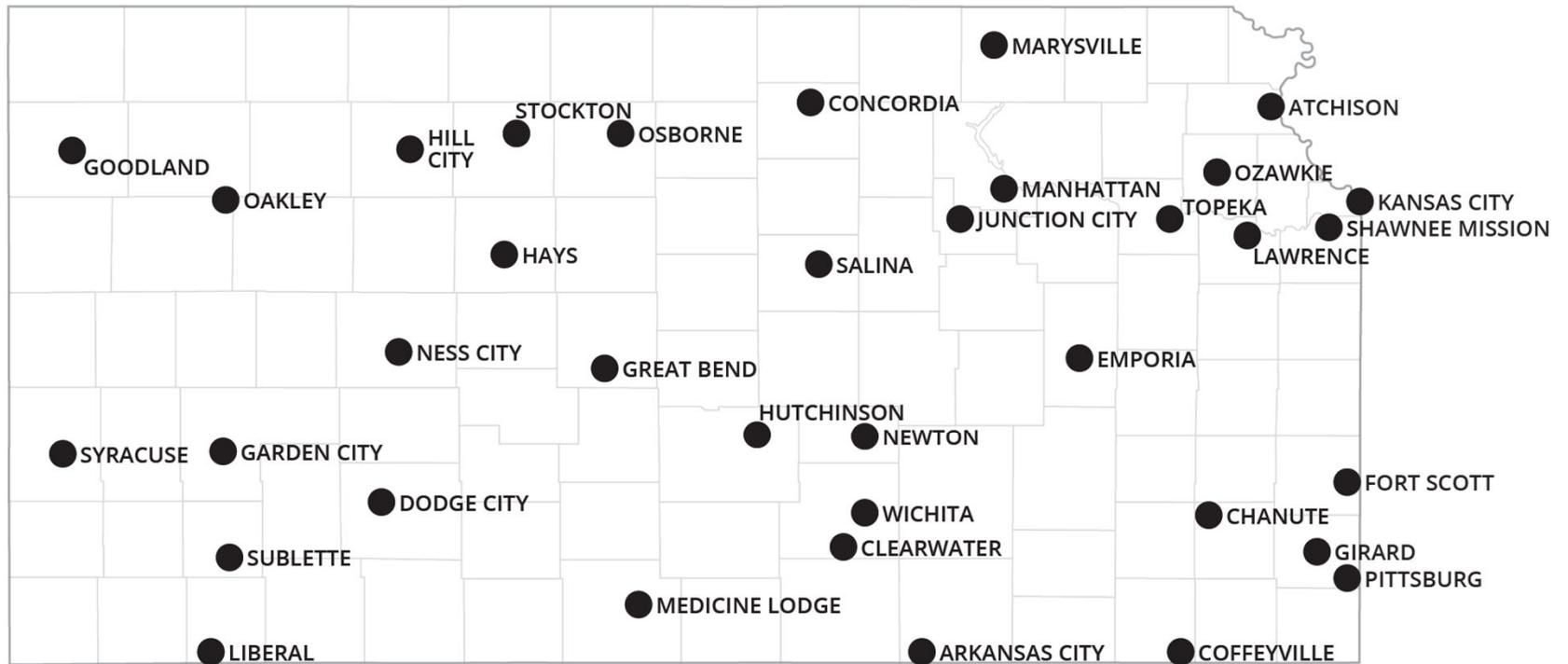
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# Community Engagement Sessions





# Community Engagement Sessions

- ▶ **Starting May 1**
  - ▶ First week: Chanute and Fort Scott
    - ▶ Logistics – 1 hour sessions with small group table conversations
- ▶ **Coming Soon** – marketing language and visuals to help get the word out about the session coming to your community!



# Expected Outcomes

- ▶ Decisions affecting early childhood in Kansas are informed by and coordinated through children, parents, families, communities, stakeholders and agencies.
- ▶ An actionable, statewide strategic plan for early childhood is relevant to and validated by stakeholders and communities.
- ▶ Best practices are amplified, and workforce challenges are recognized and addressed.
- ▶ Quality services in communities are connected, coordinated and accessible so that families have choice in the resources that best meet their needs.
- ▶ A sustainability plan leverages funding to scale efforts, maximize efficiencies and increase access to early childhood services.



# Facilitation Team

- ▶ A third way to hear from as many voices across Kansas as possible
- ▶ Four experienced facilitators can join an existing meeting or event in your organization or community to ensure we have your input.

# Who We Are



Mary Baskett  
Lead Facilitator

Janine Hron  
Senior Facilitator



Robin Gingerich  
Facilitator



Megan Toal  
Facilitator



# What We Do

- ▶ Offer neutral, objective facilitation
- ▶ Ensure that your group's input is included in shaping the future for young children
- ▶ Connect your group with others around the state working on similar issues



# How We Work

- ▶ Facilitate a 1 to 2 hour activity as part of your regular agenda
- ▶ Assist with facilitating other parts of your meeting, if requested
- ▶ Provide questions you can pose to your group if needed



# Core Questions

- ▶ What is working well now in serving the needs of young children and families?
- ▶ If you could change one thing to make services to young children and families better, what would it be?
- ▶ Imagine that it's the year 2027—eight years from now—and Kansas ranks #1 in the country as the best place to raise a child. What would that future look like in your community and in our state? What would be different from the way things are now?



# A Recent Example

- ▶ QRIS Advisory Group Meeting (Links to Quality)
  - ▶ Added “looking back” and “looking forward” exercises to planned agenda
  - ▶ Discussed connections between L2Q and our plan
  - ▶ Helped us identify what’s working well and how those “bright spots” can carry forward







# Another Example

- ▶ KPIRC Best Practices Work Group
  - ▶ Developing “best practices” for implementing Kansas Family Engagement and Partnership Standards for Early Childhood
  - ▶ Reviewed best practices from NAEYC, DCF, KDHE, Head Start and the state of Maryland
  - ▶ Great way to see and discuss connections and commonalities around parent/family engagement



# A Final Example

- ▶ The Kansas Head Start Association is using the 3 core questions with their parent representatives from across the state at a meeting tomorrow.
- ▶ The regular facilitator for that parent group will be leading the discussion and sending feedback to us



# How to Schedule

- ▶ If you want to talk about a possible opportunity where the Team could be helpful, or to schedule one or more facilitators to join your meeting, contact:

Sara Gardner: [sgardner10@ku.edu](mailto:sgardner10@ku.edu)



# **Kansas Early Childhood Systems- Building Needs Assessment**

## **Seeking additional assessments and reports:**

- Interested in additional documents related to all parts of the early childhood system in Kansas.
- Please send additional assessments and reports to Sara Gardner: [sgardner10@ku.edu](mailto:sgardner10@ku.edu)

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Thank you!!