

**Strengthening
Early Childhood
in Kansas in 2019**

WEBINAR

May 15, 2019



Welcome

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

Statewide Needs Assessment

- ▶ Community engagement sessions across Kansas.





Community Engagement Sessions

- ▶ **May 15 – Osborne**
- ▶ **May 21 – Junction City**
- ▶ **May 21 – Shawnee Mission**
- ▶ **May 22 – Concordia**
- ▶ **May 23 – Marysville**
- ▶ **June 4 – Hays**
- ▶ **June 4 – Medicine Lodge**
- ▶ **June 5 – Liberal**
- ▶ **June 6 – Dodge City**
- ▶ **June 10 – Emporia**
- ▶ **June 12 – Salina**
- ▶ **June 18 – Newton**

Additional session dates are available on the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website as it is finalized. <http://kschildrenscabinet.org/events-calendar/>

Community Engagement Sessions

▶ Session Questions and Format UPDATES



- ▶ What bright spots, services, or attributes does your community have to support young children and families that we should be amplifying and celebrating?
- ▶ Tell us about your vision for early childhood in your community? What would you see, hear, and experience?
- ▶ What gaps do you see between the early childhood system as it is and your vision? What is one particular area we should focus on improving immediately?

▶ Individual Worksheets and Table Worksheets

Community Engagement Sessions

- ▶ Initial Themes and Reactions from First Two Weeks...
 - ▶ THANK YOU to partners and participants in Chanute, Fort Scott, Goodland, Oakley, Syracuse, Ness City, and Great Bend!
 - ▶ Bright Spots:
 - ▶ Innovative collaborations to expand community services
 - ▶ Variety of supports for all facets of families' well-being
 - ▶ Challenges related to:
 - ▶ Communities' child care capacity
 - ▶ Outreach to families in need of services and transportation barriers
 - ▶ Availability of mental health services.



Thank
You!

Community Engagement Sessions

- ▶ June/July Dates - <http://kschildrenscabinet.org/events-calendar/>
- ▶ Marketing Materials
- ▶ **Share with Parents and Families!**
- ▶ Share session information on Twitter and Facebook
 - ▶ Twitter - @KCCTF
 - ▶ Facebook - @KUCPPR





Statewide Needs Assessment

- ▶ NA Synthesis – Seeks to Answer Questions Such as ...
 - ▶ Current availability and quality of EC programs and services in Kansas? How are vulnerable populations supported?
 - ▶ What is the experience of those who navigate and interact with the various programs and services? What is the experience of those who don't?
 - ▶ Barriers to smooth transitions amongst early childhood programs and between early child programs and K-12?
 - ▶ Opportunities for maximizing efficient use of resources? Opportunities to identify and promote best practices and ongoing quality improvements?



tomorrow **OUR**

Project Update

May 15, 2019



@cprpr_media



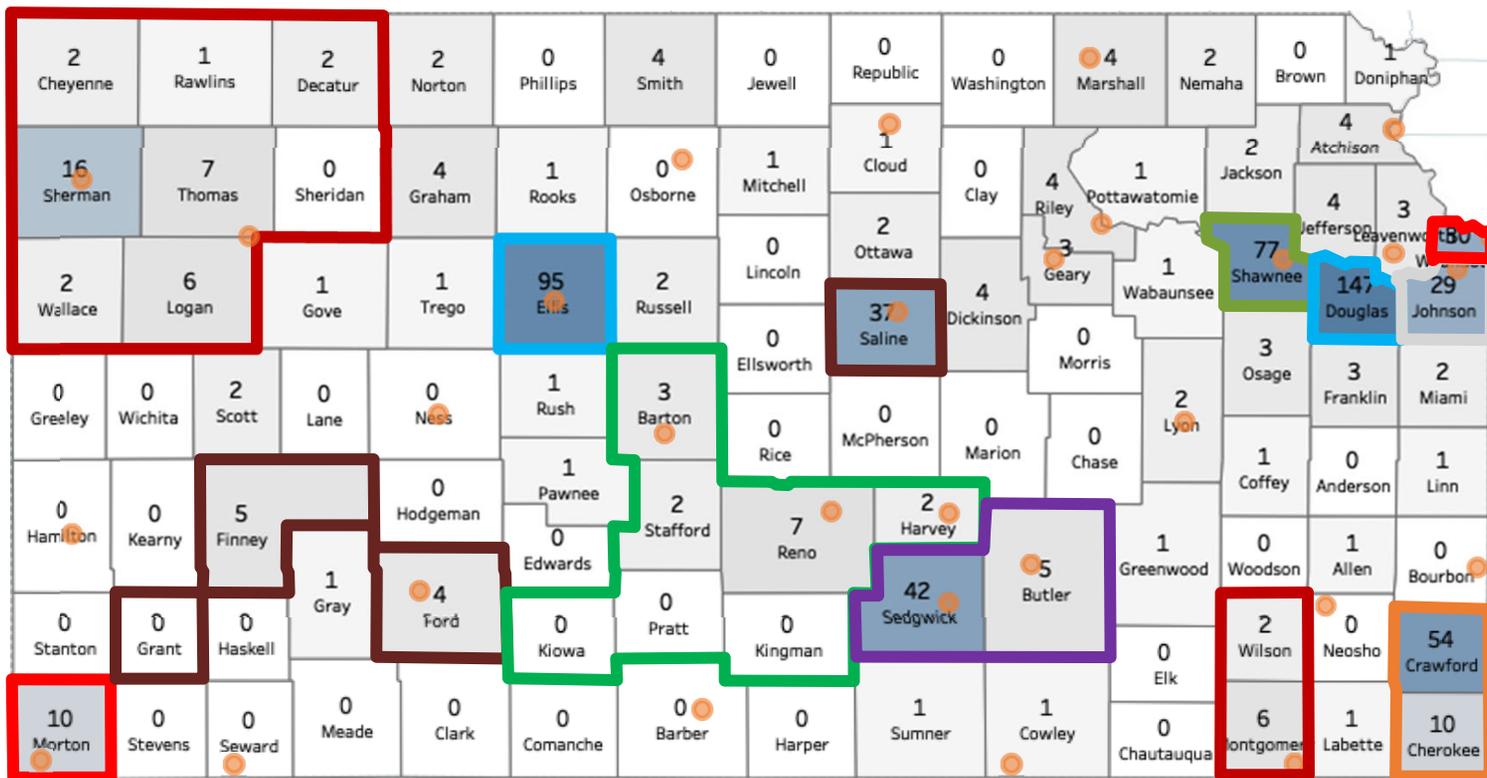
kucprpr.org/OurTomorrows

KU CENTER FOR
PUBLIC PARTNERSHIPS
& RESEARCH

The University of Kansas

677 STORIES SHARED BY KANSANS

879 TOTAL STORIES



ALIGNMENT OF PARENT VOICES

	Community Engagement Sessions	Sensemaking Workshops
Data	Parents and community views and input	Stories and experiences of families thriving or surviving
Insight	Voice on questions directly related to early childhood system	Important patterns in story data show unasked questions and unknown relationships
Action	Include policy, programmatic, and impact recommendations in the strategic plan	Support strategic development with Community Action Labs

HOW SENSEMAKING WORKSHOPS ADD VALUE

Insight into three themes:

1. Disruptors
2. Uncovering needs
3. Unheard voices

Disruptors





HOW SENSEMAKING WORKSHOPS ADD VALUE

Uncovering Needs

Job Security

For the past ten-ish years, my mom's **job was really uncertain**. Our family didn't really feel like it was safe, because my mom's job security wasn't there. My mom was always stressed, which caused everyone else in the family to be **stressed out and not happy**. Now she has a new job and with that comes job security. It's made everything already so much more comfortable.

Strike

When my **dads job went on strike** I was in grade school and it had a huge impact on our lives as kids, we found out how helpful the community was it was tough but good.

Depressed mom

A mom had a baby recently-the baby was failing to thrive and hospitalized. **Dad had lost his job**, they moved in with his family and mom was **stressed** and had postpartum **depression**. We got resources for the family but could not find housing and the whole family smoked and did not support the mom and she quit breastfeeding and went back to work at night. dad's family will not let her sleep during the day and calls her lazy

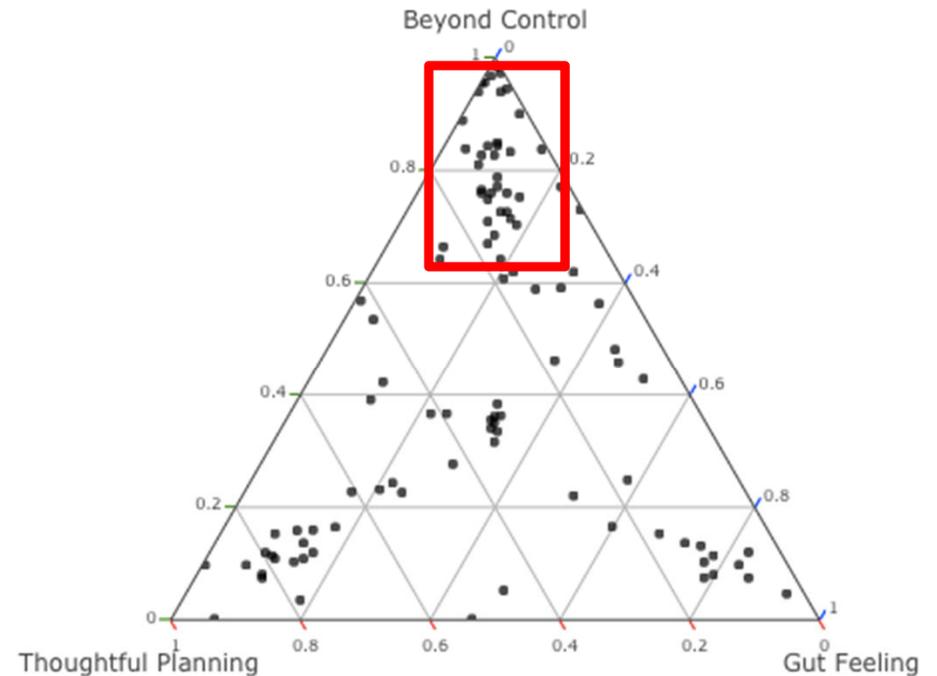


HOW SENSEMAKING WORKSHOPS ADD VALUE

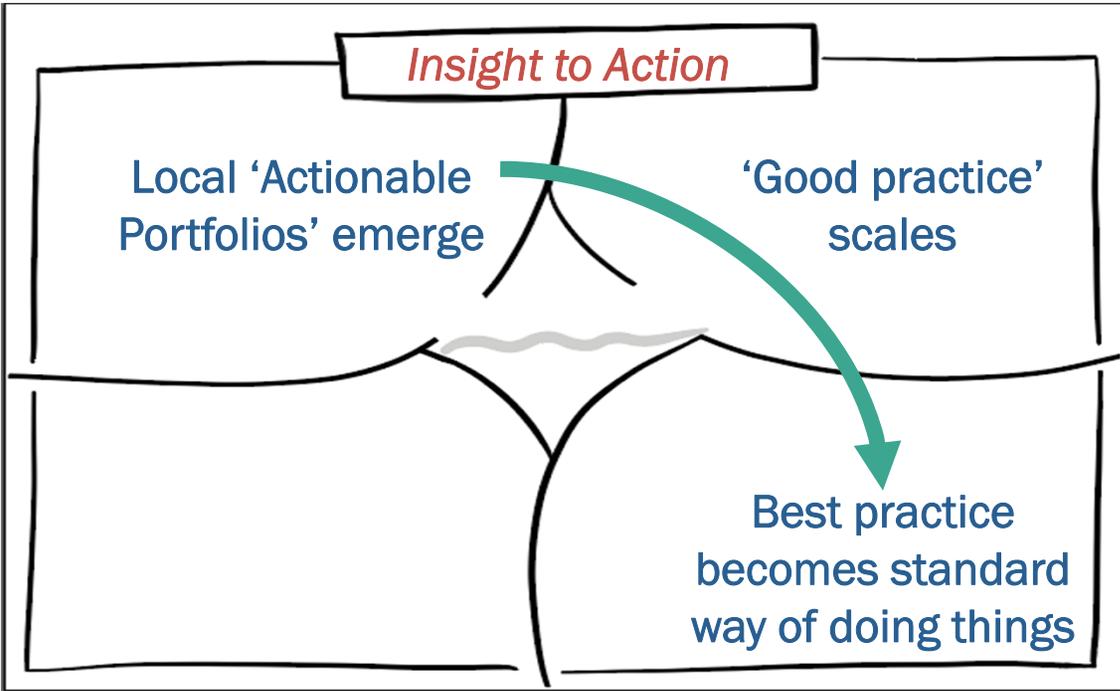
Story Titles

- Stress factor
- Poverty
- Stability
- Depressed Mom
- Just me and my girls
- Insurance blues
- Help

Unheard voices



CHOICE: Action Labs and Strategic Plan



What's next for Our Tomorrows

- ▶ BSAs out for Signature – May 20
- ▶ Guidance for Sensemaking Workshops – May 24
- ▶ Initial Guidance for Community Action Labs process – mid-late June
- ▶ Questions? : ourtomorrows@ku.edu



Statewide Needs Assessment

- ▶ Other Ways to Inform or Share
 - ▶ Stories, experiences, and insights on the Online Form (*CE Session Questions*)
 - ▶ Facilitation Team – Visioning Session for your existing meeting or group
 - ▶ Contact Us Directly
 - ▶ All information helps inform the Statewide Needs Assessment and the Statewide Strategic Plan!

<http://kschildrenscabinet.org/share/>

Name

County

Email Address

What bright spots, services, or attributes does your community have to support young children and families that we should be amplifying and celebrating?

Tell us about your vision for early childhood in your community. What would you see, hear, and experience?



What's Next?

- ▶ **Needs Assessment Efforts Continue**
 - ▶ Our Tomorrows Story Collection
 - ▶ Community Engagement Sessions
 - ▶ Facilitation Efforts – Visioning Sessions or Focus Groups
 - ▶ Workforce Professional Development Survey
- ▶ **Strategic Plan**
 - ▶ Continue synthesizing and organizing needs assessment information
 - ▶ Early Planning Stages for Summit – TBD in September/October 2019
- ▶ **Maximize Parent Choice & Knowledge Efforts**
 - ▶ Continue work on linking family engagement standards to best practices
 - ▶ Parent Cafes
 - ▶ Increase Access to Help Me Grow Resources



Ideas? Questions? Support?

- ▶ Website Page
 - ▶ <http://kschildrenscabinet.org/early-childhood>
 - ▶ Webinars – sign-up or view past webinars
 - ▶ Contact Us Form
 - ▶ Community Engagement Sessions
- ▶ Contact Us Directly
 - ▶ State Directors Team
 - ▶ Grant Coordination Team

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Thank you!!