

Minutes of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund's board met in regular session 9:30 a.m. **Thursday, April 11, 2019**, in the Old Supreme Court, Room 346 South in the Kansas Statehouse. Kim Moore, Chair presided with a quorum present. The meeting announcement was published in the Kansas Register.

Present: Kim Moore, Valdenia Winn, Annie McKay, Shari Weber, Dinah Sykes, LeEtta Felter, Terri Rice, DiAnne Owen Graham, Jerry Henry, Randy Watson, KSDE, Amanda Petersen, KSDE, Laura Howard, DCF, Lee Norman, KDHE, Rachel Sisson, KDHE, Blake Flanders, KBOR, Max Fridell, KBOR, Randy Bowman, JJA/DOC, and Amy Raymond, Supreme Courts.

Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegbore

Introductory Remarks from the Chair

Chairman Kim Moore thanked everyone in the audience and 61 individuals on the zoom webinar for joining the meeting. Before introducing Governor Laura Kelly, he mentioned that the Cabinet had one piece of business to take care of and that was approving two sets of minutes.

Approval of Minutes

Chairman Moore asked for a motion to approve the minutes. It was moved by Dinah Sykes and seconded by LeEtta Felter the Cabinet board approve the minutes of October 26, 2018 and February 15, 2019, as written. Motion carried.

Chairman Moore remarked it was a privilege to welcome Kansas Governor Laura Kelly to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting, and looked forward to hearing the Governor's remarks.

Governor's Address

Governor Laura Kelly remarked it was a great morning and she was delighted to attend the Kansas Children's Cabinet meeting. She was pleased to see so many familiar faces and friends present that are invested in early childhood through the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. She thanked everyone in the audience and those joining online across the state, for their dedication to giving every Kansas child the best possible start in life.

Governor Kelly is the second Kansas governor to have ever served on the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund board. Governor Kelly said it was a special treat for her to attend this meeting. (*Note: Kathleen Sebelius was the first and served as the Senate Minority Leader appointee to the Kansas Children's Cabinet prior to becoming Kansas Governor.*)

Governor Kelly commented that since her inauguration last January, much of her work during the past few months has revolved around establishing a new tone and outlining new priorities for Kansas, some of which included:

- Recommended to the Kansas Legislature restoring the previous administration's cuts to the Children's Initiatives Fund (CIF);
- Brought the Kansas Endowment for Youth (KEY) Fund back from verge of bankruptcy to roughly \$8.9 million dollars;
- Added \$12 million dollars to the S-CHIP program;
- Assisted Kansas in drawing down federal funds through the landmark Family First Prevention Services Act;

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- Putting forth a plan to fund Medicaid expansion so that low-income moms and dads can be healthier, better parents;
- Stabilized state government from top to bottom;
- Budget negotiations will not be finalized for another month, however, Governor Kelly was pleased to share that legislators have joined her in supporting most of these investments.
- There is no better place to begin that shift than here at the Kansas Children's Cabinet. Governor Kelly has put her commitment to children and families, front and center, in her budget recommendations. Smart investments do not make much difference without smart leadership. Guiding the work of early childhood advocates, she was proud to appoint both Melissa Rooker, Executive Director and Kim Moore as Chairman of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. They both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the table. They will assimilate innovation and engaged in partnerships as we move forward. Governor Kelly commented that the status quo cannot propel us forward. We must continue to build on our past successes and aim higher. She said to think about how much more we know now in 2019 than we knew in 1999, when the Children's Cabinet was established. Research now shows that 90 percent of a child's brain architecture is established in their early years.
- KSDE is collecting both quantitative and qualitative data from across the state about the experiences and challenges currently facing our children. This will open a forum among early childhood agencies so that they are talking to each other and better leveraging our resources.
- The Council on Education is operating under the leadership of Dr. Cynthia Lane and Dr. Fred Dierksen to develop a broader, comprehensive vision for the future. She said that everyone here understands that education begins at birth and continues throughout our lives. Education impacts every facet of our society. Seamless transitions between early childhood, K-12 education, technical schools, community colleges and universities and onto business and industry are vital to achieving shared prosperity. That will require robust public private partnership and collaboration. To that end, she was delighted to see and acknowledge Joe Reardon, Co-chair, Subcommittee on Early Childhood on the Governor's Council on Education in the audience. We need cross sector collaboration, local buy-in, shared accountability and much more.
- Kansas Children's Cabinet will ultimately serve as the intersection between these efforts. Preserving the most successful elements of our early childhood system, using data to imagine what we could do better. Governor Kelly remarked that during her 14 years in the Kansas Senate, one of her best accomplishments was the creation and funding of the Kansas Early Childhood Block Grants, focused on ensuring more at-risk kids enter kindergarten ready to learn. She said she fought along with many people at the meeting, defending our schools, early learning programs, the Children's Initiatives Fund, and our most vulnerable children. It was a difficult time but we are now stronger. We now find ourselves in an exciting time of change and opportunity. By the time Governor Kelly leaves office, she said she envisions a Kansas where everyone is considered an early childhood stakeholder. She is passionate about this and said that we must strive to be more proactive, not reactive. We will get this done right and Kansas will be a different and better state for it.

Governor Kelly thanked the Children's Cabinet for the invitation to speak to them.

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Chairman Kim Moore thanked Governor Kelly for her remarks. He said he is excited about the early childhood work and that work is now part of the business of the community.

Chairman Moore commented, with the vision having been set and motivated by the energy of our Governor, he asked the Ex Officio members, representing the various Cabinet state agencies, to give their ideas and positions on how they are support the early childhood mission. First up was Commissioner Randy Watson.

Dr. Randy Watson, Commissioner of Education, *Kansas State Department of Education*

Commissioner Watson said that KSDE is excited to be a part of the early childhood vision and the work that the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund does.

- **Kansans Can Vision:** Kansas State Board of Education’s Kansans Can visions challenges us to lead in the success of each student. Through listening to Kansans that believe the path to success begins in early childhood and before children enter kindergarten, we can gain a solid path to success.
- **Early Childhood key to Board Outcomes:** KSDE measures progress toward accomplishing its vision on strong early childhood systems. As children enter kindergarten at age five socially, emotionally, and academically ready for success, these children are on a trajectory to success. They will more than likely graduate high school and attain a postsecondary degree or vocational education credential and experience success in their chosen career path.
- **Kansans believe in strong community partnerships as essential to accomplishing their goals:** Ensuring each child enters kindergarten ready for success, means schools must partner with community-based child care options, faith-based partners, business community, health and mental health care providers, Head Start and many other early childhood providers in their communities. There is no one- size fits all solution.
- **KSDE appreciate partnering with state agencies and early childhood organizations to establish Kansas’ federal early childhood planning grant in 2019.** KSDE is engaged in the work of developing a needs assessment and strategic plan for Kansas collaboratively facilitating a trustworthy process where Kansans come together. In the summer, KSDE will be going on the road with state agency partners and collecting stories to meaningfully engage with families and communities so that Kansans are being heard concerning what they want and need from their early childhood system.
- **KSDE’s early childhood team, headed by Amanda Petersen, seeks opportunities to ensure that the federal planning grant (Preschool Development Grant) resources Kansas received supports this process.**

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Laura Howard, Secretary of *Kansas Department for Children and Families*

Secretary Laura Howard remarked that DCF is excited to be part of the Early Childhood Systems Team work.

- DCF supports parental choice and that sharing of knowledge with parents on early childhood choices is in line with DCF's early childhood work. DCF is committed to making this multi-agency collaboration successful for Kansas families.
- DCF as a lead agency for the federal Child Care Development Funds (CCDF), actively is involved in efforts to help families in accessing quality child care for their kids.
- DCF's child care assistance program assists low income families by subsidizing child care costs.
- DCF further supports quality early childhood by directing CCDF quality funds to:
 - * The Kansas Early Head Start Program, offering home visitation model and Child Care Partnerships model to increase quality child care options for families.
 - * Child Care Resource and Referral Services to assist families in finding information on the availability and selection of quality child care and community resources
 - * Professional development and training opportunities for child care and early education providers;
 - * A network of technical assistance and training specialist to increase access to needed infant and toddler care;
 - * Kansas' afterschool network whose mission is to ensure safe, affordable and quality out of school time options;

The development of the state's Quality Recognition and Improvement System (QRIS), Links to Quality, which celebrated the completion of the first year of a 2-year pilot.

Other information: DCF received slightly over \$5 million in CIF dollars to use for match for the CCDF. DCF transferred approximately \$3.4 million of CCDF dollars to KDHE for Child Care Licensing expenditures. An average of 7,025 children received assistance for child care subsidy each month and there were 2,038 licensed child care providers enrolled with DCF to accept subsidy.

Lee A. Norman, MD, Secretary of *Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

- Dr. Norman is new to state government. He has a background in social work prior to going to medical school to become a physician and serves in the military. He has worked with families and provided prenatal care throughout his career.
- KDHE covers environmental, public health and financial areas all under the same agency. Key to its services are maintaining clean air, clean water and providing services for newborn babies and families. KDHE strives to help parents become healthier so that they can be better parents to healthier children.
- KDHE recognizes the inequity in the health care system, need for a Medicaid expansion, lack of access to better health care for some of the population. We need to strive to help the elderly and disabled individuals.

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Dr. Blake Flanders, President and CEO, *Kansas Board of Regents*

- Dr. Flanders explained that observers might wonder how the work of the Board of Regents impacts early childhood besides the obvious preparation for workforce development. KBOR prepares students to obtain credentials through technical college, community college and at the university level.
- Investing in early childhood programs has resulted in a 40 percent completion at the postsecondary education level. In Kansas we know that work force needs to reach 71 percent requiring some postsecondary education. We are at the 52 percent mark now.

Randy Bowman, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department of Corrections/*Juvenile Justice Authority*

- Kansas Department of Corrections not necessarily first thought for early childhood, however DOC/JJA serves the life span from birth to end of life
- Prison population members are often parents of the early childhood target population
- Collective efforts of early childhood contributes to less juvenile offenders and adult prisoners
- Appreciative of the collective effort to reduce future use of JJA/DOC services
- Clients served might be case examples of where gaps still exist and for need to further reduce justice involved populations.

Amy Raymond, *Supreme Courts* Designee for Ex Officio member Justice Lee A. Johnson, on the Children's Cabinet. Amy is the Director for Trial Court Programs.

- The Trial Court Programs office is responsible for implementing the rules and policies for the Supreme Court as they apply to operating the judicial branch in Kansas.
- The Judicial Branch invests in the well-being and care of the youngest citizens and their families. Judges and their employees prioritize the well-being of children when they come into contact with our courts by using the systems and rules developed.
- The Judicial Branch uses a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families to deliver training for our judges and social workers, CASA volunteers and attorneys on best practices in child welfare law. The Judicial Branch also works with court appointed advocate programs with the purpose to seeking permanency of children in the child welfare system because of an alleged or confirmed abuse or neglect.
- Twenty-four (24) of the Kansas' 31 judicial districts have certified CASA programs. Eight of the judicial districts have Citizen Review Boards, which consist of community volunteers appointed by judges to review the status of domestic cases involving child welfare in juvenile justice. The Judicial Branch approves of court appointed mediators to assist in child abuse cases. The mediators may help families develop a parenting plan or a custody agreement. Court appointed mediators go through training and demonstrate the ability to mediate, follow rules and standards established by the Supreme Court. In addition to the programs administered by the Trial Court Programs office, court service officers and clerks help children everyday through their everyday tasks.

Chairman Kim Moore said that the State agency representatives' comments are symbolic of a common focus to serve all children in Kansas. His vision is that as Cabinet members, we become a learning community so that we can work to cut across lines to provide comprehensive needed services to children and their families in Kansas and hoped it was compatible with the remarks expressed. Chairman Moore expressed appreciation to the State agency leaders for their statements of support and sharing of information. Chairman Moore then introduced Joe Reardon.

Governor's Council on Education

Joe Reardon, Co-Chair, Subcommittee on Early Childhood for the Governor's Council on Education addressed the group. As President and CEO of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Reardon also brought a perspective from the business community.

Joe Reardon thanked Chairman Moore and Executive Director Melissa Rooker for the opportunity to address the Children's Cabinet. He was honored to be before the group on behalf of the Council. Mr. Reardon acknowledged Dr. Fred Dierksen, Co-Chair, Governor's Council on Education for leading their effort. He also thanked Governor Kelly for understanding the critical relationship between education and the state's prosperity.

- Providing quality education is key to promoting the success and well-being of individual Kansans and growing the economy and cultivating a highly trained and skilled workforce
- Council emphasizes collaboration and is uniquely made up of chambers of commerce, business executives, representatives from all levels of education; foundations and non-profits, and state agencies.
- Council has the goal of increasing prosperity by providing equality for early learning through postsecondary
- Council is focused on equity, opportunity and innovation in its work through four subcommittees to carry out the Kansas Governor's work; Universal Early Childhood; Work based learning, Workforce Development, and Innovation
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, found 40% of companies cannot take on more work because they cannot fill the jobs they have. By year 2020, the Foundation estimates there will be 6 million unfilled jobs across the country. Unemployment is low but they do not include the 37% of the people not in the labor force due to lack of child care, lack of training and education, and lack of transportation for the jobs available.
- Appreciate Governor Kelly's emphasis on access to quality early learning. Kindergarten Readiness has been a focus of the KC Chamber for the past five years.
- Collaboration and cooperation are essential for success among government, education, communities and business.
- Council on Early Childhood Educations looks forward to working with the Children's Cabinet on our progress in the coming days and months ahead.

Kansas Prevention Investments Annual Report

Megan Leopold, Assistant Researcher Senior, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research and Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, addressed the Cabinet and presented highlights from the Kansas Prevention Investments (KPI) Annual Report.

- Kansas Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention Program was established in 1996 under Title II of Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. For Fiscal Year 2018, \$687,889 federal CBCAP funds were allocated to six local programs and one statewide grantee. The Children's Cabinet contributes match dollars and the programs provide a 10 percent match.
- A group of innovative programs are designed to meet the needs of their communities. Communities complete a needs assessment and identify how they will meet unmet needs; prioritize partnerships and collaborate as well as provide outreach to special populations and create a data collection plan for participation in evaluation process.
- A variety of services are designed to meet the unique needs of their communities: Parenting classes, home visitation, child development resources, connections to child care, parent support groups, fatherhood programs to name a few.
- Megan and Amy conducted site visits in February 2019 to learn about program challenges and successes, listen for ways to provide support, discuss experience with data collection and learn about changes to programs or their services.
- Key Findings resulting from common measures evaluation:
 - Eighty-two (82%) of families served earn less than \$20,000 a year
 - Approximately 64% of caregivers served by CBCAP have a high school diploma or less
 - Approximately 73% had trouble affording basic needs each month
 - Approximately 46% of vulnerable families had their food run out before they had money to buy more.

Details about the program profiles can be found in the CBCAP Kansas Prevention Investment (KPI) Annual Report distributed to the board and located on the Children's Cabinet website www.kschildrenscabinet.org.

Response Advocate Program

Chairman Moore introduced Ann Elliot, Executive Director of Family Resource Center, in Pittsburg.

- FRC is a non-profit started in 1995 by Pittsburg State University, the hospital and the school district.
- Main function is a licensed childcare center and pre-kindergarten center for over 300 kids, FRC has a long history of coordinating family supports systems.
- Pittsburg is in the extreme southeast corner of the state and 64% of the students in the Pittsburg school district receive free and reduced lunch. The median income is \$39,521 annually; about 20% below the state average.
- The city has high child abuse and neglect rates.
- Response advocates support law enforcement, schools, and agencies with at-risk families, provide resources and home visitation; accompany police officers on calls; offer case management and referrals; and educate and train families and frontline personnel on issues of strengthening families and preventing abuse and neglect.
- Project focuses on Crawford County. The City of Pittsburg, Pittsburg Police and Family Resource Center along with other agencies work together to implement proven strategies that reduce the incidence of child abuse and neglect within the community.
- Annie McKay asked about blending funds. Ann said funds are blended using dollars from DCF, CIF/ECBG and health departments.
- Amanda Petersen asked how resources are requested and coordinated. Dr. Jackie Counts, KU CPPR talked about the Integrated Referral & Intake System (IRIS), a web-based community referral system housed on a secure, HIPAA-compliant server at the University of Kansas. Dr. Teri Garstka, KU CPPR was asked to discuss the work that went into making IRIS HIPAA-compliant.
- Rachel Sisson remarked that the State health department can assist in leveraging and helping with support.
- Kansas is being used as model for its CBCAP work per Kansas Children's Service League.

New Business

Executive Director Melissa Rooker announced the revamped Kansas Children's Cabinet website.

www.kschildrenscabinet.org. The website houses the Cabinet's agendas, archived zoom videos, past minutes, funded CIF and CBCAP program profiles and links to the Annual Reports for Kansas Prevention Investment (KPI) and Annual Impact Investment Report (AIIR) and other board information. There are new features such as Connect with US through portals for EC providers, leaders, legislators and grantees and much, much more.

Annie McKay remarked she had positive impressions about the new leadership and direction of the Kansas Children's Cabinet.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meetings are scheduled August 23 and November 1, 2019 at Topeka-Shawnee County Public Library.

Adjournment

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m.