

## **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. **Friday, August 23, 2019,** in Marvin Auditorium Room 101 BC at the Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Topeka. Kim Moore, Chair presided. There was a quorum. The meeting was published in the Kansas Register.

**Present:** Kim Moore, Annie McKay, Shari Weber, DiAnne Owen Graham, Sen. Dinah Sykes, Rep. Valdenia Winn, Tyler Smith, M.D. (*via zoom*), Amanda Petersen, KSDE, Rachel Sisson, KDHE, Karla Wiscombe, KBOR, Tanya Keys, DCF, and Karen Beckerman, DCF  
Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegbore

### **Welcome**

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone in the room and joining via zoom to the meeting. He remarked that Tyler Smith, M.D was joining via zoom. Melissa Rooker, Executive Director added that Jerry Henry was recently phased off the board and Governor Laura Kelly appointed Dr. Tyler Smith to succeed him. Melissa remarked that the Children's Cabinet appreciates Mr. Henry's service.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chairman Moore remarked the Cabinet received the minutes and asked the board to entertain a motion. It was moved by Annie McKay and seconded by Dinah Sykes the Children's Cabinet board approve the minutes of April 11, 2019, as written. Motion carried.

### **Early Childhood Systems-Building State Directors Team Update**

Melissa Rooker presented information on the Early Childhood Systems Building State Directors team work happening in Kansas. Amanda Petersen, Rachel Sisson, Karen Beckerman, Amy Meek and Rebekah Gaston are on the team. Melissa asked team members to chime in during her presentation.

The Planning Grant efforts include:

- Conduct needs assessment
- Develop strategic plan
- Maximize parental choice and knowledge
- Share best practices among early childhood providers and
- Identify quality improvements in early childhood care and education programs.

The Statewide Needs Assessment included:

- Review Existing Needs Assessment Reports and Information
- Conduct Community Engagement Sessions from May to July
- Conduct "Our Tomorrows" Story Collection and Sense-making workshops.
- Gather additional information – Professional Development Survey, Parent Cafe, Environmental/Facilities Scan, and Visioning Sessions

**Early Childhood Systems-Building State Directors Team Update (Contin.)**

The Statewide Needs Assessment – By the numbers:

40 Existing Reports Reviewed  
53 Community Engagement Sessions  
82 Online Responses  
1,893 Kansas Stories (2,252 total)  
805 Professional Development Surveys Completed  
20 Visioning Sessions  
400 Environmental Surveys from Child Care Programs with 87 site Visits  
21 Parent Cafes  
8,312+ Miles traveled by team members  
245 Surveys from Schools on Pre-K  
5,822 Kansas Voices heard!

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood (KSDE) and Karen Beckerman, Strengthening Family Services Director, Economic & Employment Services (DCF) discussed the Community Engagement Sessions. At those sessions, team members focused on answering questions on how bright spots could be amplified and celebrated; what are the community's visions for early childhood; and what gaps are there between the early childhood system as it is and how the community envisions it. Amanda talked about how the Phillipsburg community converted an old convenience store into a child care facility and raised seed money which allowed them to qualify for a grant. Melissa mentioned that a common bright spot in all communities was the public library. Many of the sessions were held at libraries. The libraries were busy hosting different activities and viewed as an important focus point.

Melissa talked about the Statewide Needs Assessment key findings and themes which included: Availability, Navigation, Collaboration & Integration, Systems Alignment, Workforce, Facilities, and Bright spots. Melissa also discussed the fiscal mapping update. The goal is to increase integration, communication and collaboration among all parties serving children and their families including multiple state agencies and the private sector. This included collecting comprehensive information from each state agency for all early childhood programs and services; exploring distribution of investment across the Cabinet's *Blueprint for Early Childhood* building blocks through Early learning, healthy development and strong families. Next the State Division of the Budget adopted the fiscal map as standard means of enforcing the Governor's Children's Budget statute.

Melissa reported the team is working on a statewide strategic plan which will be presented at the November 1 meeting. Chairman Moore asked if the board had questions. Annie McKay asked whether more efforts were being made to home child care providers and families with resources. There will be help legislatively in decision-making. Kim Moore talked about including information on child care providers in the next ECBG open competition RFP. Rachel Sisson remarked there is the possibility that all state agency team members will need to modify their RFPs to include similar visions and calls to action. Kim asked Rachel if this is an opportunity to blend and braid funding. She replied yes.

### **Family First Prevention Services Act Overview**

Tanya Keys, Family Services Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department for Children and Families, (DCF) gave an overview of the Family First Prevention Services Act which was started in 2018. The FFPSA will serve children at imminent risk of removal who can remain safely at home with services and with their parents or caregiver.

DCF released an RFP last May to support families with children in their communities from entering state custody and foster care placement through implementation of evidence-based programs. There were 55 applications received with \$13 million dollars available to fund. Reviewers included KCCTF, KDHE, and KDADS. There was a readiness orientation and training for DCF frontline child protective services (CPS) practitioners regarding referrals to FFPSA prevention providers. Regions will host provider expos service showers. Tanya discussed the Qualified Residential Treatment Programs.

### **Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Grant**

Rachel Sisson, Director, Bureau of Family Health, KDHE discussed and provided a brief introduction to the KS Kids Map to Mental Wellness and the Patient-Centered Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care, a mini-fellowship program for medical professionals. Rachel provided handouts. KDHE wrote a grant to US Department of Health & Human Services, (HHS), Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) for the Pediatric Mental Health Care Access Program Award. Rachel focused her presentation on the goals of the Pediatric Mental Health Care Team services. Currently, she is recruiting the staff.

*Chairman Moore called for a 5 minute break at 11:20 a.m. The meeting resumed at 11:25 a.m.*

### **Early Childhood Block Grant Annual Report**

Dr. Lynn Schrepferman, Senior Research Scientist at Wichita State University Center of Engagement Institute presented the annual report. The board received copies of the 2018-2019 annual report. This past year, 7,457 children served and 6,484 families were served. Risk factors included 77 percent on free & reduced price lunch, 9 percent were teen parents, 15 percent were parents with less than a high school education and 22 percent were caregivers that did not speak English as their first language. The report included risk factors, common measures collected, screening measures, and demographics for children and families screened during the evaluation through the Early Childhood Block Grants.

### **Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Grantee Presentations**

Brady Dean, Executive Director, *Mitchell County Partnership for Children (MCPC)*, Beloit, presented. MCPC is based out of USD 273 Beloit, located in north central Kansas. MCPC proudly serves the Jewell, Lincoln, Mitchell and Osborne counties which includes 225 children in 25 different classrooms, 210 families, 25 teachers/child care givers. MCPC works with partners in two early learning centers and USDs 272, 298, 299, St. Johns and USD 392. MCPC helped these school districts in securing funding for three and four-year old preschool classrooms.

**Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Grantee Presentations (contin.)**

MCPC's mission is to provide every child and every parent access to quality and affordable child care, family support, social/emotion support, and academic intervention to ensure all students enter kindergarten ready to learn. MCPC has six full-time and part-time employees carrying out work as social workers, mental health coordinators and school readiness specialists.

MCPC services include providing 3 & 4 year old Preschool classrooms and Early learning Centers:

1. Screening for risk factors
2. Assessments for school readiness
3. Teacher mentoring and professional learning
4. Social Emotional Support
5. Academic School Readiness Support

Parent Enrichment Program provides information for:

1. Parent Referrals to community services and early childhood programs.
2. Parent Training
3. Family Engagement Evenings
4. Childcare Tuition Assistance
5. Informational Materials

Mr. Dean talked about the 2018-2019 ECBG evaluation results collected and compiled by Wichita State University Center for Engagement Institute. All results were "on track" for Language Comprehension -- 71% for Fall, 98% for Spring, Phonemic Awareness -- 42% for Fall, 77% for Spring, and Numeracy -- 46% for Fall, 89% for Spring sessions. MCPC is continuously looking for ways to improve.

Amanda Petersen asked Mr. Dean, what other funding streams were in the mix for program slots and whether he found added value in having different grant funding streams. Brady replied that funding came from the ECBG, Kansas Preschool Program, and Four-Year Old at Risk. He added that as long as the funding is available to carry out all of the work, MCPC appreciates all of the funding. Rachel Sisson asked whether MCPC received funding through KDHE, and if not, would he be interested in working with KDHE. Brady replied no, he does not receive funding through KDHE, although the early learning center applied for child care funding. However, MCPC would be interested in working with KDHE. Chairman Moore asked what has been the impact of MCPC's child care centers as a result of the introduction of Pre-K Programs in terms of their attendance and finances. Mr. Dean replied that MCPC had not noticed any differences such as loss of slots. Once children are at the four-year old level, they can attend half day, preschool and then MCPC buses the children back to their early learning center.

Tammy Blaich, Director of Community Based Services, *Four County Mental Health Center*, in Independence presented information on the Four County ECBG. Chairman Moore asked if five counties are served. Ms. Blaich responded yes, the organization actually serves Montgomery, Wilson, Chautauqua, Cowley, and Elk and partners with USD 445 Coffeyville to provide services in that area.

**Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Grantee Presentations (contin.)**

FCMH provides three program services within the project collaborative with community partners to assist children and their families.

1. Early Childhood Mental Health Behavioral Services, provides a link between school and other child service agencies.
2. Parent Education provides support, education, skills development and linkage to resources needed to provide stable nurturing environment that supports positive development. Education is provided at mental health centers, churches, jails, and at schools.
3. Project Before Case Management is the family case management program. Through weekly intensive case management services, parent/child attachments are strengthened and education and linkage to community resources are provided. Ms. Blauch highlighted and shared a few success stories.

Chairman Moore thanked Brady and Tammy for their presentations.

**Director's Update**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director announced the Children's Cabinet meetings will be shifted from four quarterly meetings to six meetings including a Retreat annually. All regular meetings will be conducted at 9:30 a.m., unless otherwise noted, and on the first Friday of every other month. The dates are February 7, April 3, June 5, August 7, October 2 and December 4. A zoom link will be provided and a feature at all meetings.

Melissa announced the **Governor's Symposium on Early Childhood** will be held on October 7, 2019 at the Hyatt Regency hotel, 400 W. Waterman Street in Wichita. Governor Laura Kelly is on the agenda to address attendees. Everyone is encouraged to join the Cabinet at this important full-day event bringing together legislators, policy-makers, business leaders, parents, professionals and early childhood stakeholders.

Melissa also announced the **Cabinet Retreat** is scheduled November 8, 2019. *Note: The retreat will be held at the Shawnee Mission School District Academic Achievement Center, 8200 W. 71<sup>st</sup> Street in Overland Park.*

**Upcoming Meeting**

The Cabinet meeting will begin earlier than usual at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 1, 2019 at Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library. The board will be discussing CIF recommendations.

**Adjournment**

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.