

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood
Recommendations Panel

KICKOFF MEETING JULY 17, 2020



WELCOME

- **Thank you** for your willingness to serve Kansas children, their families, and our state's early childhood care and education professionals!
- Today's meeting materials are posted at <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/panel-meetings/>.
- This is a remote meeting.



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Overview of draft “Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel”
- Small group discussion/Reporting out
- Discussion and Action: Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel
- Kansans' Open Forum - Written Comments
- Discuss future work of the Panel
- Upcoming meetings



DRAFT “ROLE, NORMS, & PROCEDURES OF THE PANEL”

This is a **draft** document. Today we will share our feedback and come to consensus for how we'll do our work moving forward.

- Article 1: Role of the Panel
- Article 2: Panel Membership
- Article 3: Panel Norms
- Article 4: Panel Actions
- Article 5: Meeting Procedures
- Article 6: Working Groups and Subcommittees
- Article 7: Amendments to Norms and Procedures



ARTICLE 1: ROLE OF THE PANEL

- The 2019 Kansas Statewide Early Childhood Care and Education Needs Assessment finds that greater systems alignment is needed to fully realize an efficient and robust early childhood care and education infrastructure. This informs **Goal 1: State-Level Coordination**, of the [*All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan*](#), which outlines the steps needed to ensure the early childhood care and education system is structured and aligned for maximum impact.



State-Level Coordination



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

- Development of **a more cohesive cross-agency "early childhood system"** at the state level with respect to roles, effectiveness, funding streams, common terminology and goal-setting.
- **Better understanding of the various organization and developing a shared understanding** of how to promote equitable access to high quality early childhood learning opportunities for each and every child and their family.
- **Connecting the early learning community** in a way that creates a strong altruistic community ready to activate opportunities and find unusual, positive solutions that lead to good public policy.



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

All of the stakeholders involved in this project bring different perspectives to the table. Many times, I feel each stakeholder group operates in its own "bubble". I am hopeful that through this project, the communication and collaboration among all of the stakeholders will serve to strengthen those relationships. It is important for each stakeholder group to understand and respect the roles of the others. With better understanding, it becomes possible to bridge the gaps between the state agencies, community partners, the private sector, and families served, to improve the quality of early childhood in Kansas. "It takes a village."



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

- Community empowerment for improved quality, easily accessible early childhood experiences for families and children.
- Collaborating to **fill the gap** between the services that are available to families and their actual needs
- **Improved access** to affordable early childhood educational programs.



ARTICLE 1: ROLE OF THE PANEL

- The Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel is an **advisory group** to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. It plays a key role in enabling our state to implement the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan, respond to challenges, elevate recommendations from communities and stakeholders, and make key decisions to help us achieve the vision outlined in our strategic plan.



ARTICLE 1: ROLE OF THE PANEL

- Kansas [Executive Order 20-02](#) designates the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund ("Children's Cabinet") as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.
 - It states, "In order to support the Cabinet in fulfilling [these duties], the Cabinet shall convene and maintain a panel of volunteers ("the Panel") with demonstrable early childhood expertise to operate at the pleasure of the Cabinet in an advisory role. The Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund shall coordinate the activities of the Panel on behalf of the Cabinet. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund shall provide ongoing direction to the Panel, delineating areas in which it would benefit from the Panel's expertise and establishing responsibilities, governance, and reporting structures as it finds beneficial."



ARTICLE 2: PANEL MEMBERSHIP

- Comment from our survey of Panel members: *I wondered if/how new members will be recruited during the year, if a spot becomes open?*



ARTICLE 3: PANEL NORMS

- Child- and family-centered
- Equity
- Leadership is an activity, not a position. Anyone can lead, anytime, anywhere.
 - Can we give the work back?
 - We are **all** early childhood stakeholders.
- We will work transparently and accountably.
- We will use strengths-based language.
- We will use clear language.
- Panel members will make clear when they are representing an agency's or organization's point of view. Otherwise, it will be assumed that the viewpoint represents the panel member as a professional in the field of early childhood.



ARTICLE 4: PANEL ACTIONS

- **Recommendations** will include the following:
 - Clear identification of the entity that will receive the recommendation
 - Background information explaining the issue that includes:
 - Description of how considerations of equity have informed this recommendation
 - Description of how Kansas families have shaped this recommendation
 - Description of the councils, committees, or workgroups with expertise, experience, or jurisdiction related to the issue



ARTICLE 4: PANEL ACTIONS

- The Panel may contact other councils, committees, and workgroups with expertise, experience, or jurisdiction related to a particular issue **to share information gathered and identify opportunities for further progress.** The Panel may also contact other councils, committees, and workgroups **to request additional information or feedback** on draft recommendations.
- The Panel may provide recommendations, information, or requests for information or feedback at any point during the year. The Panel will provide an annual report summarizing its work to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.



ARTICLE 5: MEETING PROCEDURES

- The Panel shall be subject to the **Kansas Open Meetings Act**:
 - “A representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate.” The policy of the State of Kansas is that “meetings for the conduct of governmental affairs and the transaction of governmental business be open to the public” (K.S.A. 75-4317).
 - Review the Kansas Attorney General’s Frequently Asked Questions at <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq>.



KANSAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- **If a group is subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act, what are they required to do?** There are two main requirements: (a) Their meetings must be open and (b) Notice of meetings must be (individually) provided to those requesting notice. All meetings subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act must be conducted openly - that means that the public must be allowed to listen to the discussion.
 - Review the Kansas Attorney General's Frequently Asked Questions at <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq>.



KANSAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

➤ **When does a meeting take place?** A meeting of a public body subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act has three elements; (a) **An interactive discussion** (NOTE: discussion alone triggers the Kansas Open Meetings Act , it is not necessary that action or votes be taken); (b) by and between at least **a majority** of the body; (c) **on matters relating to the functions of that body**. All three elements must be present to trigger the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

- Review the Kansas Attorney General's Frequently Asked Questions at <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq>.



KANSAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- **Can members of a public body subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act use other people, the telephone, notes, or email to privately discuss public matters?** Not if it involves a majority of the public body. If an interactive discussion on the affairs of the body takes place, among the threshold minimum number of members, it is subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act. It does not matter what method is used to conduct the discussion.
 - Review the Kansas Attorney General's Frequently Asked Questions at <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq>.



KANSAS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- **Can members attend a general interest meeting of another group?** Yes, as long as they refrain from any private discussions on the affairs of their body, they may attend conferences where general topics are being presented.
 - Review the Kansas Attorney General's Frequently Asked Questions at <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq>.



ARTICLE 5: MEETING PROCEDURES

Voting:

- The Panel will strive first for consensus in decision making.
- If consensus is not possible, participants may call for a vote.
- Each Panel member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote.
- A vote of **two-thirds** of those members present is necessary to approve any formal action taken by the Panel pursuant to Article 4: Panel Actions.
- The votes of Panel members participating virtually shall be included on matters submitted to a vote.



ARTICLE 5: MEETING PROCEDURES

Typical procedures for the Kansans' Open Forum shall be as follows:

- Each speaker shall be allowed to speak for three minutes.
- Panel members may ask clarifying questions of the person making the presentation. The speaker will have up to one minute to respond. The presiding officer may grant additional time.
- Information may be submitted to the Panel in written and electronic form. This information shall be included in the meeting minutes.
- Following the Kansans' Open Forum portion of the agenda, the presiding officer will acknowledge the participants and announce that the Panel will determine if any of the issues will be addressed at future meetings.
- In the event of a meeting conducted virtually, the Panel may require that it will only accept written comments. The posted agenda shall outline the procedures for providing written feedback.



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- **Connection before Content:** Who are you, and how do you support young children and their families? What's something you've seen recently that's given you hope or made you smile?
- **Discuss the draft “Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel” document**
 - Do these norms reflect the system that Kansas children and families deserve?
 - Do the procedures enable us to do meaningful work?
 - **Do we have any proposed changes to discuss with the group?**
 - How can we all exercise leadership to make progress on important issues in the year ahead? What support can we provide one another to achieve our goals?



REPORTING OUT: SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

- **Introduce yourself:** Please share your name and role in supporting young children and their families.
- **Feedback on the Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel**
 - Do these norms reflect the system that Kansas children and families deserve?
 - Do the procedures enable us to do meaningful work?
 - **Do we have any proposed changes to discuss with the group?**
 - How can we all exercise leadership to make progress on important issues in the year ahead? What support can we provide one another to achieve our goals?



DISCUSSION AND ACTION: ROLE, NORMS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE PANEL

- Voting: Seeking a motion and a second to either edit or adopt the draft “Role, Norms, and Procedure of the Panel” document.
- Amanda will ask for a show of hands for each vote and will clearly announce the results of the final vote.



KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

Kansans may email written comments to Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org) to be shared with the Panel during this portion of the meeting.



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

Collaboration

- Addressing effective, meaningful, representational equity in our early childhood system
- Community empowerment for improved quality, easily accessible early childhood experiences for families and children
- Establishing trust with partners and having a better understanding of how all of our missions/visions work together



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

Capacity and Access

- Stability and support for family and center based child care providers
- Work with the current individual funding streams in Kansas to better promote, encourage and make it feasible for districts to engage in inclusive preschool education, setting the stage for K-12 inclusion
- Grants/resources to maintain & increase the supply of child care program all around the state
- Availability of high quality, affordable child care
- Kindergarten Transitions



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

Workforce

- Early childhood care and education registry
- Statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators
- Educational guidelines for child care employees



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

Family Knowledge and Choice

- I would like to improve our system to help parents understand, seek, and secure high-quality child care.
- Coordinating access to supports for families and supports for all early childhood professionals



WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON OVER THE COURSE OF THE NEXT YEAR?

Quality and Environments

- Updating the Kansas Early Learning Standards



DISCUSS FUTURE WORK OF THE PANEL

- Aligning funding streams
- Statewide workforce registry
- Supporting identified, intentional **kindergarten transition planning** for all children, family and staff members, taking into account transitions between programs, from home to school and from preschool to kindergarten
 - Template agreement between school districts and early childhood care and education programs?
- Defining how success is measured in the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan
- **Discuss: What else?**



UPCOMING MEETINGS

➤ Requests for future agenda items:

- Is there a specific date/timeframe for the proposed agenda item?

➤ Next Meeting:

- Friday, August 21, 9:30 a.m. via Zoom

➤ Planning for 2020-2021:

- The mornings on the third Friday of each month
- Via Zoom for the foreseeable future





Adjournment

