

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Initial Member Survey: 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
- Addressing effective, meaningful, representational equity in our early childhood system.
- 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.
- 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 EC in Kansas. "It takes a village."
- Work on collaboration and system alignment of services to better support families, young children, and service providers.
- Continue to collaborate and coordinate our efforts on behalf of kids!
- I see a lack of understanding of the work each partner does as a barrier to collaborative. The first progress has to be establishing trust with partners and having a better understanding of how all of our missions/visions work together.
- 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

- Equity and alignment of services across the state
- How we can 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. Given the events of the past 4 months, childcare is going to be an important topic for us to address as well. Pre-covid, there was a bill introduced in the legislature regarding unlicensed providers. This has always been a concern of mine and so while we need to support our providers, especially through these times, I hope we don't lose sight of the need to hold true to the regulations and EBP we have worked so hard to implement. I would like us to look at training for the various levels of childcare providers we have (various experience and education) and possibly create a statewide portal for access to quality training. Also, concerning childcare, I have always struggled with the ability to regulate childcare ultimately coming down to the decision of the County Attorney who may or may not have any knowledge of quality care. This really hit home this week when I became aware of a situation that I addressed with our county attorney 9 years ago. I have since moved from the community but that issue I attempted to address with the county attorney was proven accurate and ended in an arrest of a provider, charged with 11 counts of childhood endangerment.
- Child care for children with various abilities.
- More support to districts on quality early childhood services across Kansas.
- Equity on access to affordable high-quality child care across the state
- Grants/resources to maintain & increase the supply of child care program all around the state.
- Availability of high quality, affordable child care
- Kindergarten Transitions
- Collaborating to fill the gap between the services that are available to families and their actual needs, especially for vulnerable and underserved populations
- I would like to address stability and support for family and center-based child care providers to strengthen the early childhood workforce. This in turn may affect availability and access to quality care.
- Outlining the needs of children and formulating a plan to help meet those needs.
- Educational Guidelines for Child Care Employees.
- How to bring more people into the field of child care providers.
- Statewide registry with full data integration with all state agencies, pd organizations and IHE

- Establishing/developing a comprehensive early childhood and child care workforce registry.
- The Child Care Registry
- Recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators. I feel that COVID has rocked our world in ways we haven't even begun to acknowledge or understand. Supply and demand issues are top of mind right now, knowing that social distancing and unknown elementary school schedules will impact families' needs for child care. We can talk about quality and professional development--- which are extremely important. But I think we also have to seriously think about the funding structure of child care and more public investments to support the field. Parents cannot begin to cover the full cost of quality care.
- 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 EC professionals
- Economic impact; coordination and access to services for families.
- Updating the Kansas Early Learning Standards