

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL MEETING
Friday, July 17

Visit the *Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund* website for meeting materials and the [YouTube recording](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/panel-meetings/): <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/panel-meetings/>

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Jennifer Adhima, Project Eagle, University of Kansas Medical Center
Marites Altuna, Kansas Deaf-Blind Project
Rachel Anno, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Mallory Arellano, Newman University
Emily Barnes, Barnes Child Care
Deanna Berry, Russell Child Development Center
Gail Cozadd, Kansas Children's Service League
Debbie Deere, A Deere Place, Inc.
Rachele FioRito, United Way of the Plains
Jenny Flinders, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC, Inc.
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning
Kim Hawkins, USD 233 - Olathe Public Schools
Sheila Hermocillo, USD 443 - Dodge City Public Schools
Eva Horn, University of Kansas Department of Special Education
Peggy Kelly, Kansas Head Start Association
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Emily Killough, Children's Mercy Kansas City
Lorrena (Lori) Kravitz, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

David Lindeman, University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons
Kelli Mark, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education
Amy Meek, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
Paula Neth, The Family Conservancy
Karen Pahls, USD 231 - Gardner Edgerton
Kristin Pedersen, University of Kansas Speech Language Hearing Clinic
Patty Peschel, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.
Amanda Petersen, Kansas State Department of Education
Deirdre Rankin, Child Start
Sarah Rivers, Via Christi Rehabilitation
Angie Saenger, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Jan Scheideman, Riley County Health Department
Chelsea Schulte, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.
Cassandra Sines, Sines Virtual Assistant Service
Christi Smith, DCCCA
Heather Staab, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Amber Tankersley, Pittsburg State University
Reva Wywadis, Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

Welcome: Amanda Petersen called the meeting to order and thanked members for their service. Amy Meek shared information describing processes for a remote meeting. Amanda Petersen provided a general overview of the meeting agenda.

Overview of draft “Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel” document - Amanda Petersen

Role of the Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel (Panel):

- The 2019 Kansas Statewide Early Childhood Care and Education Needs Assessment found that Kansas needs greater systems alignment. This builds on previous collaborative work to strengthen the state early childhood system.
- Before the meeting, Panel members responded to the question "What one issue do you want to make progress on over the course of the next year?". Many members want to improve alignment, collaboration, and connections among early childhood stakeholders to improve early childhood experiences for families and children.
- [Kansas Executive Order 20-02](#) designates the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care. The Panel serves as an advisory group to the Children's Cabinet in that capacity.

Panel norms are the values members will hold one another accountable to in our work. Do these draft norms reflect the early childhood system Kansas children and families deserve?

Do the draft procedures enable the Panel to do meaningful work?

Visit <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq> for Frequently Asked Questions about the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

Each Panel meeting will include time for the Kansans' Open Forum. This will allow Kansans the opportunity to share feedback with the Panel. Other opportunities to engage include:

- The public web portal at <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/share/>
- Regular *All in for Kansas Kids* email updates and webinars
- Kansas Early Childhood Stakeholders meetings (open to all stakeholders and held after the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund meetings).

Small Group Discussions

Panel members used the Zoom breakout feature to break into groups of 2-4 members. Small groups discussed 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?

Discussion and Action: Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel

Amanda Petersen- Welcomed everyone back from the breakouts.

- Jennifer Forker reported out from her small group. Questions to consider: Can members join mid-year? Will that impact the Panel's ability to act quickly if there are frequent additions? The Executive Order lays out one-year terms and allows for reappointments. Frequent turnover may slow progress from year to year. The Panel should diversify membership so that it better reflects the state's makeup.
- Amy Meek reported out from her small group. Highlighted opportunity to clarify "excused" and "unexcused" absences. When applicants apply mid-year, when will their appointments happen? Do current members need to reapply? If a member resigns, is that position filled immediately? When do you fill positions after a resignation? At the beginning of the year or mid-year?
- Gail Cozadd continued reporting out from this small group. The way the draft inserts the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund's Commitment to Equity is confusing. Many Panel members shared feedback on this topic. **By a unanimous show of hands, the Panel voted to edit and reformat the document to clarify this norm. See the "Draft Role, Norms, and Procedures - Track Changes" document.**
- Debbie Deere reported out from her small group. Overall, they were satisfied with the document. Questions in connection to the panel membership section. How many members? If someone resigns, will a replacement maintain that person's representation? Since announcing the Panel appointments, have any groups shared that they feel unrepresented? Amanda Petersen shared that so far one member has resigned and another person representing that same region and sector has applied. The Children's Cabinet can appoint members at any point during the year, and membership may need to grow or shrink from its current size. Amy Gottschamer asked whether the Panel can recruit new members to improve representation? Amanda Petersen shared that the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund is currently hiring an Early Childhood Systems Coordinator. This person will support the Panel's work. Amanda agreed with Amy that building relationships and inviting applicants will be important work in the future.
 - Angie Saenger suggested that the Panel revisit the Role, Norms, and Procedures document later in the year - perhaps halfway through the year and again at the beginning of the fourth quarter. Debbie Deere agreed that revisiting after we've learned more about the work would be helpful.
- Chelsea Schulte raised an issue from her small group, highlighting opportunity to clarify the section outlining grounds for possible recommendation to the Children's Cabinet for termination of membership on the Panel. Many Panel members shared feedback on this topic.

By a unanimous show of hands, the Panel voted to edit the document to clarify this section. See the "*Draft Role, Norms, and Procedures - Track Changes*" document.

- Kris Pedersen reported out from her small group and asked how items would be added to the agenda. **By a unanimous show of hands, the Panel voted to edit the document to clarify this section.** See the "*Draft Role, Norms, and Procedures - Track Changes*" document.
- Kris Pedersen shared feedback about the norm that the Panel be data-driven. What different sources should we seek for data? Should we look at national standards and best practices? Members discussed that "evidence-based practices" might not include emerging practices or programs with an evidence base that addresses all populations. **By a unanimous show of hands, the Panel voted to edit the document to clarify this section.** See the "*Draft Role, Norms, and Procedures - Track Changes*" document.
- Rachel Anno reported out from her small group. She shared questions about membership and agreed that revisiting this document after the Panel has had some experience will be helpful.
- **By a show of hands, nearly every member of the Panel voted to adopt the "Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel" document with the edits made during the meeting.** Chelsea Schulte shared feedback about the Federal Plain Language Guidelines and the difference between the words "shall", "will", "must", and "can". Chelsea agreed to review where the document uses the word "shall" and suggest recommended changes when the Panel revisits this document in the future. Chelsea welcomes help from other members of the Panel.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written Comments

Kansans may email written comments to Amanda Petersen (apetersen@ksde.org) to be shared with the Panel during this portion of the meeting. One vendor reached out to Amanda to share comments and that written information will be included in the meeting materials.

Discuss future work of the Panel

Amanda Petersen will share panel members' answers to the question, "What one issue do you want to make progress on over the course of the next year?". These responses aligned with the goals outlined in the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan. Some issues that we know are on the horizon for the Panel's future work:

- Align funding streams.
- Statewide workforce registry

- Kindergarten readiness. If Panel members would like to work on a template agreement for school districts and early childhood programs to use to support transitions to kindergarten, they should email Amanda.
- Defining how the *All in for Kansas Kids* strategic plan measures success.

Upcoming Meetings

The next meeting will be on Friday, August 21, at 9:30am via Zoom. Meetings will be on the mornings of the third Friday of each month for the foreseeable future.

The Panel discussed requested future agenda items:

- Amy Gottschamer shared feedback from her small group about the norm that we are ALL early childhood stakeholders. Amy noted that Panel members don't all know one another. Amy suggested sharing information showing connections - both on the Panel and in the broader Kansas early childhood system.
- Dave Lindeman: Personnel development (pre-service programs, in-service development, technical assistance) - training the workforce is critical to systems development. Eva Horn noted that the National Association for the Education of Young Children's "Power to the Profession" work and how it connects with our work in Kansas will be important to this topic.

Amanda Petersen thanked Panel members and asked interested members to email her if they would like to help draft the template community level agreements for Kindergarten transitions. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.