

Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Minutes

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June 5, 2020

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The June 5, 2020 meeting of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board was called to order by Chairman Kim Moore at 9:00 a.m. This was a virtual meeting, there was a quorum, and proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kim Moore, Chair, LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Shari Weber, John Wilson, Senator Dinah Sykes, Terri Rice, Rebekah Gaston, DCF, Amanda Petersen, KSDE, Rachel Sisson, KDHE, and Hope Cooper, DOC
Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegbore

WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone joining the meeting. There were 112 participants joining online. Chairman Moore remarked he continues to be astounded about the good early childhood work that takes place in Kansas during these difficult conditions. Early childhood is important in the economic recovery of the country.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cabinet members received copies of the April minutes before the meeting. Chairman Moore entertained a motion on the April minutes.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Wilson and seconded by LeEtta Felter that the Cabinet board approve the minutes of April 24, 2020. Motion carried. The minutes were approved as written.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Chairman Moore introduced Dr. Duane Whitbeck, Chairman of Family and Consumer Sciences Department at Pittsburg State University. Dr. Karla Wiscombe, KBOR invited Dr. Whitbeck to talk to the Children's Cabinet about the new program at PSU in Early Childhood Unified Program and Licensure.

Dr. Whitbeck discussed his background and talked about the Early Childhood Unified (ECU) birth to kindergarten program and ECU key faculty at PSU.

- PSU has had a Preschool laboratory in conjunction with its Early Childhood Development program since 1965.
- PSU enhanced its curriculum and expanded courses offered to be equal to best practices for preparing Early Childhood Education Professionals in 1997
- Family and Consumer Sciences Early Childhood Development graduates have applied for Four-Year Old At-Risk Preschool positions and have been found to be the most qualified for the positions.

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- Over 450 students graduated from the program and approximately 80 percent graduated with a major in Early Childhood Education and minor in Early Childhood Special Education.
- The ECU Birth to Kindergarten program is also offered in conjunction with a program in China.

Melissa thanked Dr. Whitbeck for his work in obtaining articulation agreements with the community colleges for this program and appreciated seeing how the program fits with the *All In For Kansas Kids* philosophy.

LeEtta Felter asked Dr. Whitbeck if he was seeing much diversity for the students going through this program and was there anything that could be done to intentionally recruit for a diverse workforce in this area. Dr. Whitbeck responded he was not seeing a lot of diversity. PSU has been recruiting from Kansas City Kansas Community College and various other places. In terms of diversity, they are able to recruit only a half of dozen students per year to enroll into the program. LeEtta encouraged the Cabinet to seek out ways to encourage and inspire students of color to pursue a major in Education so that we see more diversity in our teaching staff.

John Wilson asked whether students are learning about state or federal advocacy and how federal advocacy impacts the classes that they will be teaching in. Dr. Whitbeck replied yes, he teaches graduate level advocacy courses. Although the program fuses some advocacy coursework at the undergraduate level, it is not done as a central piece of their curriculum. John remarked that KAC would be happy to partner with the PSU program to help provide advocacy training to students and faculty.

Senator Dinah Sykes remarked about recently reading an article that encouraged diversity in curriculum and literature written for children. She wanted to see more diversity in kids' books. Dr. Whitbeck responded absolutely. There has been a big shift in showing more diversity in children's literature in recent years.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director thanked everyone for being flexible to make themselves available to join this meeting.

Melissa reported:

- Kansas Children's Cabinet has the role of fiscal agent for the *Preschool Development Grant Birth to Five renewal grant*. This is a three-year grant in the amount of \$8,943,000.
- Year 1 and 2 funding are secure with Year 3 to be appropriated in a future budget. The grant term is from 4/29/2020 to 4/30/2023.
- KCCTF will be recruiting for three positions to provide support for the work and move it along.
- KCCTF had relaxed the common measures requirements for all ECBG and CBCAP grantees due to the economic turn and COVID-19. Grantees continue to work with EC Director Amy Meek on their common measures' initiative. A lot of data collected will be reported under the CIF Accountability item of the agenda.

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- KCCTF website continues to be a “hub” of information with the goal to improve navigation, better integrate the *All In For Kansas Kids* brand and the PDG work, and address accessibility for all populations.

CHILDREN'S INITIATIVES FUND ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS AND RESULTS

Jessica Sprague-Jones and Owen Cox, KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research

Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones provided an overview of the CIF accountability process, what it is, why we perform it, findings, and discussed changes to this year's process.

Changes to the process include addressing needs assessed and re-aligning process timeline to start in the late spring in order to align with legislative process. KCCTF has the responsibility to assess, review and evaluate the uses of CIF monies. The CIF accountability process was created to collect critical information to support Children's Cabinet board in making recommendations to the governor and legislature.

This year, the accountability process includes collecting data from the CIF programs, *Our Tomorrows*, the *All In For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan, Early Childhood Systems Building Needs Assessment, and the Comparison Report.

Mr. Owen Cox presented information categorized by funding by agency, programs profiles and primary populations. He talked about the *Our Tomorrows* COVID-19 analysis.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director read an equity statement, called the Children's Cabinet Commitment to Equity.

Melissa requested the Cabinet's endorsement of the equity statement as part of the CIF Accountability Process recommendations. The statement reads as follows:

“The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund recognizes the equitable life outcomes start with an early childhood system that acknowledges children and families experience disproportionate access and opportunity across race, ethnicity, socio-economic status, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical and developmental abilities, home language, and geography. Equity is an organizing principle of the *All In For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan. The Cabinet is committed to meeting the diverse and unique needs of all Kansas families by integrating systems-wide appropriates to ensure basic needs are available and accessible, elevating family voice and choice, utilizing data in ethical, timely and responsive ways in partnership with communities and a broad array of experts, and equitably funding programs.” Cabinet members approved of the equity statement.

Melissa lead a discussion on CIF budget recommendations:

- In this time of crisis, the Cabinet recommended maintaining level funding

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- In future years or should the state budget outlook improve for SFY 22, the Cabinet recommended funding of CIF be increased to meet exacerbated need in the state.
- Data Collection – The Cabinet's Accountability Process should be aligned with the *All In For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan
- Data Collection should also include a pilot study should be initiated to link Early Childhood Block Grant data to Department for Children and Families data.

BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS (contin.)

- Crisis Management – The public health emergency created by COVID-19 added incredible stress to the early childhood care and education system. Initiatives must be in place to help child care providers access bulk purchases of food, PPE and cleaning items during times of scarcity.

After considerable discussion about the programs, LeEtta Felter asked if it was known which programs have Maintenance of Effort (MOE). Melissa responded yes, it known which CIF programs have MOEs, and that information would be noted in program materials to the Cabinet. There was further discussion. Chairman Moore entertained a motion.

MOTION:

It moved by LeEtta Felter and seconded by John Wilson that the Kansas Children's Cabinet approve the Budget Recommendations.

Chairman Kim Moore called for a roll call vote. LeEtta Felter – Yes

DiAnne Owen Graham – Yes Terri Rice -Yes Senator Dinah Sykes – Yes Shari Weber –Yes

John Wilson – Yes Chairman Kim Moore – Yes

Motion carried.

EX OFFICIO REPORTS

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Rachel Sisson, Director, Bureau of Family Health reported:

- Multiple groups are collaborating on providing school re-opening guidance due to COVID-19
- KDHE applied for competitive bid grant through CDC revolving around Adverse Childhood Experiences. Applications are due in July with only four awards for \$500,000 for three years will be given out. KDHE partnered with various state agencies including KU CPPR.
- Kansas Maternal and Child Health Block Grant - \$250,000 will be set aside for the Home Visiting program
- KDHE does not require masks be worn by children ages 2 and under.

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Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director reported:

- KCCTF sent award letters to 18 successful recipients of the ECBG RFP for SFY 2021. Grant agreements will be sent, signed and in place by July 1st.
- Two new grantees are Families and Communities Together, Inc. (FACT) serving Marion County and United Way of Reno County, a partner agency of current ECBG, Hutchinson Community Foundation will be the fiscal agent for the Reno County/Hutchinson area ECBG.
- KCCTF works around the COVID-19 restrictions by conducting virtual meetings and training on common measures for grantees.
- KCCTF submitted the federal CBCAP application to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families for continued federal funding beginning in October. Existing Child Abuse Prevention grantees will have opportunity to receive renewal grants for the upcoming federal fiscal year so that families and children have continuity of services.

Kansas Department of Corrections

Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary of Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services reported:

- Conducting grant process for juvenile services and local community corrections agencies will be receiving their grant allocations. Approximately \$1.6 million dollars of that allocation will be granted to local agencies for prevention services, mostly for truancy programs.
- This is the first year that grant funds are available to local community advisory boards for family and youth services in the amount of \$5,000,000. This funding is separate from funding to the local community correction agencies for prevention services.

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Rebekah Gaston, Director of Policy and Economic & Employment Services reported:

- DCF has been participating in several of the collaborative efforts with other state agencies.
- DCF Service Centers have been closed and individuals have been encouraged to go online to request assistance for food, cash assistance, HERO Relief, child care assistance and other services needed.

Kansas State Department of Education

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood reported:

- Acknowledge Kansas educators exercising leadership to advocate for justice in our communities and reflect on the special role of early childhood in advancing equity. Lawrence Parents as Teachers social media resources for families in supporting antiracist efforts for infants and toddlers and the Kansas Head Start Association's statement in support of racial equity are two good resources.
- Tabatha Rosproy, an early childhood educator at Winfield Unified School District 465, is the 2020 National Teacher of the Year. Tabatha is the first preschool teacher to be named National Teacher of the

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Year and will use her service to highlight the importance of social-emotional learning and early childhood education.

Kansas State Department of Education

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood reported (contin):

- KSDE has appointed a task force to develop guidance on competency-based learning and school safety operations for the 2020-2021 school year. The Kansas State Board of Education will receive that guidance for review at their July meeting.
- The virtual Kansas State Department of Education Technical Assistance System Network (KSDE TASN) Summer Leadership Conference will be July 27-30: <https://www.ksdetasn.org/events/1-mh4Q>
- The Kansas State Department of Education School Mental Health Initiative partnered with Little Flower Yoga to create these free Mindfulness + School-Based Yoga Tools. <https://ksdetasn.org/smhi/mindfulness-school-based-yoga-tools>
- The Kansas Health Foundation and Sunflower Foundation are offering a grant opportunity for programs providing summer meals with the application deadline extended to June 7.

CABINET MEETINGS:

Upcoming meetings are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on August 7, October 2, and December 4, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Kim Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:09 p.m.