

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **August 7, 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 with a quorum. Proper notice was published in the *Kansas Register*.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kim Moore (Chair), Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, John Wilson, Senator Dinah Sykes, Rep. Monica Murnan, LeEtta Felter, Rebekah Gaston (DCF), Hope Cooper (DOC), Rachel Sisson (KDHE), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Karla Wiscombe (KBOR), Amy Raymond (Kansas Supreme Court) and
Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegbore

WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting and recognized three new board members appointed to the Children's Cabinet. He asked new members Deliece Hofen and Monica Murnan to introduce themselves.

Deliece Hofen is the appointee of the Speaker of the House to the Children's Cabinet. She lives in Olathe, originally is from western Kansas and grew up in Oakley, Kansas. Monica Murnan is the House Minority Leader appointee to the Children's Cabinet. Monica Murnan lives in Pittsburg and is the State Representative for the Third District. Rep. Murnan just completed her fourth year in the Kansas Legislature.

Chairman Moore remarked Keynen J. Wall, newly sworn in Kansas Supreme Court Justice was not able to join the meeting. Justice Wall replaced Justice Lee A. Johnson as Ex Officio Supreme Courts appointee. The Cabinet will be welcoming Justice Wall at a future meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cabinet board members received copies of the June minutes prior to the meeting. Chairman Moore asked if there were additions or corrections to the June minutes and if not, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Wilson and seconded by Dinah Sykes that the Kansas Children's Cabinet board approve the minutes of June 5, 2020, as written. Motion carried. The minutes were adopted.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Chairman Moore introduced Tabatha Rosproy, an early childhood educator at Winfield Learning Center, as the 2020 National Teacher of the Year. Tabatha is the first preschool teacher to be named National Teacher of the Year. She is a graduate of both, Southwestern College, Winfield and Fort Hays State University.

Tabatha discussed her platforms as the 2020 National Teacher of the Year for early childhood:

1. Making Early Childhood Education a part of every child's story.
2. Providing Social-Emotional Education and Fostering Community Connections with every student at every age.
3. Elevating the Teacher's Voice.

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Chairman Moore asked Tabatha how many days in a month is she on the road. Tabatha responded due to the pandemic she does not travel much. However, she is planning for 150+ speaking engagements throughout this year in Kansas and around the nation, when it is safe to do so.

DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director, thanked Tabatha for joining the meeting and sharing about the work she has been doing for Kansas kids.

She welcomed new members Monica Murnan and Deliece Hofen. Melissa added they both have tremendous experience to offer in the work that the Cabinet carries out.

Melissa expressed appreciation for out-going members Rep. Valdenia Winn and Ms. Shari Weber for the work they did on the Children's Cabinet board. Rep. Winn served a nine-year tenure on the Cabinet. Dr. Winn continues to serve in the Kansas Legislature and focuses on the many issues that the Cabinet cares about. We will welcome ways that we can continue to collaborate with her. Ms. Shari Weber was first appointed to the Cabinet in 2001 and served until 2020. With Shari's departure, we have lost a lot of institutional knowledge. We appreciate both Shari and Valdenia serving on behalf of Kansas kids.

Melissa discussed the CARES Act federal funding granted by the State Finance Council and the SPARK Task Force in the amount of \$9.9 million dollars. Funding will help:

- 1) Early childhood services and providers respond to the COVID-19 crisis,
- 2) Early childhood uninsured workers with medical expenses attributed to COVID-19, and
- 3) Funding transferred to the Children's Cabinet will be used for the Technology for Families Support (SPARK project). This funding will provide access to equipment and devices to support virtual access for families served by early childhood care and education providers. This is a \$1.5 million grant program. The application process will be up and running in a couple weeks.

Melissa discussed the *All In For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan and the Preschool Development Birth to Five Renewal Grant updates.

She hired three new staff to support the work of the PDG project for the next three years and paid for by the federal grant. She was pleased to announce the appointments of Debbie Deere, Early Childhood Systems Coordinator, providing support to the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel; Hannah McGahey, Early Childhood Workforce Coordinator, she will be assisting with the workforce registry, and Brea Cudney, Administrative Specialist will be working as a support team member supporting the two coordinators.

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CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

Melissa remarked that Cabinet member LeEtta Felter brought to her attention concerns and suggested the Cabinet should show support for working families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Melissa presented a list of recommendations for the full Cabinet's endorsement.

After discussions, it was moved by Monica Murnan and seconded by LeEtta Felter the Children's Cabinet adopt the recommendations as amended. The board accepted the recommendations by unanimous consent. Motion carried.

WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY – ECBG EVALUATION PRESENTATION

Dr. Lynn Schrepferman presented information on the ECBG Evaluation and longitudinal information with data on screenings, data, demographics of the children and families served.

ECBG Evaluation Beginning and Pilot Phase, August 2013 to July 2014.

- WSU team made initial contact with the ECBGs through site visits,
- Developed the Common Measures Initiative (CMI),
- Provided CMI training to the grantees, and finalized Pilot Phase analysis and reports for the grantees and Children's Cabinet. There were 4,882 families served.

LIVE Phase, August 2015 to July 2016.

- Annual site visits, ongoing measures training and capacity building/technical support to grantees.
- Mid-year reports were provided to grantees and Cabinet January 2016, Live Phase ended July 2016
- School Readiness website launched in July 2016 and Live Phase data analysis and reports provided to the grantees and the Cabinet. There were 9,114 families that had been served.

Evaluation Year 2016-2017 August 2016 to July 2017

- ECBGs were impacted by State budget cuts.
- Annual site visits took place August to October 2016,
- Creation of the Early Childhood.Caretools.org website and interactive ECBG map launched along with completion of mid-year reports in January 2016.
- Regional evidence-based trainings along with analysis and annual reports provided to grantees and the Cabinet. There were 7,546 families served in this timeframe.

Dr. Schrepferman discussed ECBG Longitudinal data for the period 2016 to 2020 and data from 2018 to 2020 for the CAEDE/Start Young program in Wyandotte County. She reported on the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Early Childhood Families services. As a result of the pandemic, there were 1,607 family services that continued to serve families while 253 suspended services. There were 75 percent of the ECBG Child Care and PreK environments closed due to the pandemic, 65% closed for 10 weeks or more due to their relationship to public school programs.

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Dr. Schreferman summarized and concluded

- ECBGs served relatively high-risk populations.
- Outcomes improved in all services areas.
- Progress occurred in early literacy and numeracy skills seen across time.
- Families engaged in Home Visiting and Parent Education improved in positive parenting and quality home environments.
- Level of risks for Start Young families increased
- Positive changes in made in Language Comprehension and Numeracy
- Negative changes in Phonemic Awareness and Early Communication skills

EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL UPDATES

Amanda Petersen, Chair discussed the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel and reported from the July 17th meeting. The panel discussed, amended and adopted, “Role, Norms, and Procedures.” They had discussed panel actions, meeting procedures, and future work of the panel.

Amanda announced the departure of two members on the panel. Debbie Deere was recently hired at the Children’s Cabinet as the Early Childhood Systems Coordinator so resigned her seat on the panel. Another member departed for personal reasons. Amanda presented two names for consideration by the Cabinet as replacements on the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Cornelia Stevens, Executive Director at The Opportunity Project Learning Centers in Wichita and Tanya Bullock, CCR&R Program Director at Child Start, Inc. in Wichita, with term expirations of June 30,2021.

Chairman Moore asked for a motion from the Cabinet.

MOTION:

It moved by Monica Murnan and seconded by John Wilson that the Kansas Children’s Cabinet board appoint Cornelia Stevens (TOP Early Learning Centers) and Tanya Bullock (Child Start, Inc.) to Early Childhood Recommendations Panel for terms expiring June 30, 2021.

Chairman Kim Moore called for a roll call vote.

LeEtta Felter – Yes
DiAnne Graham – Yes
Deliece Hofen - Yes
Rep. Monica Murnan – Yes
Senator Dinah Sykes – Yes
John Wilson – Yes
Chairman Kim Moore– Yes

Motion carried.

EX OFFICIO REPORTS

Kansas State Department of Education

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood reported:

- Encouraged everyone to view the “Navigating Change Guidance” concerning COVID-19 link on the KSDE website, <https://www.ksde.org>.
- KSDE supports USDs planning in the implementation of the Governor’s Executive Order 20-59, requiring COVID-19 mitigation procedures in K-12 schools.

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Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director reported:

- Hosted webinar workshop for all Children’s Cabinet grantees presented by *KnowledgeWorks and Capita* that explored specific way social and economic shifts occur due to COVID-19, the impact and vulnerability of young children and their families; long-term effects of childhood trauma and instability caused by mass unemployment.
- Preparing to make modifications to common measures requirements of all Children’s Cabinet grantees due to the impact of COVID-19 on those organizations. Common Measures will not be suspended for the fall, but Dr. Schrepferman and Amy Meek will work with grantees to ensure the measures used are applicable in cases where programs are operating remotely.
- With Dr. Schrepferman, we will conduct virtual meetings with all Children’s Cabinet grantees this year.

Kansas Supreme Courts

Amy Raymond, Director of Trial Court Programs reported:

- As reported earlier, Justice Keynen Wall was recently sworn in to Kansas Supreme Court. Justice Wall is the official appointee to the Supreme Court Ex Officio post on the Cabinet. Although Justice Wall was planning to attend this meeting, he was attending a meeting of the Court as a whole.
- Court was busy issuing administrative orders about Court operations. Courts around Kansas are making their best efforts to navigate and conduct court business in the midst of the pandemic.

Kansas Department of Corrections

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

- Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee will be meeting next week. The Committee was created to oversee and monitor the progress of the Juvenile Justice Reform bill under Senate Bill 367.
- Encouraged everyone to view the Juvenile Services tab link out on the Kansas Department of Corrections website for interesting information and meetings. <https://doc.ks.gov/juvenile-services>.
- A subcommittee of the Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee is brainstorming ways to partner and collaborate with the Children’s Cabinet in its initiatives.

Melissa Rooker said she looked forward to the invitation from Committee and what the future holds with that collaboration.

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Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Rachel Sisson, Director, Bureau of Family Health reported:

- KDHE has been tracking licensed facilities for closures due to COVID-19. There are approximately 680 licensed facilities that remain temporarily closed and four that are closed permanently.
- KDHE stays in contact with Child Care Aware of Kansas to connect with child care facilities to ensure they are aware of availability of supplies.
- Three federal CARES Act assistance programs will be sub-granted in the next month to help licensed child care and home providers to serve children and families across Kansas.
- Child care providers will have access to free testing
- State Directors' Team is working on presenting a webinar to the Early Childhood Stakeholders on August 12. Dr. Lee Norman, KDHE Secretary and Mary Murphy, Deputy Bureau Director, KDHE will be addressing the group on CDC mitigation for licensed child care facilities for COVID-19. Information upcoming and past webinars can be found on the Children's Cabinet website, www.kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-KS kids.
- COVID-19 Positive Case Data is on the KDHE website. <https://www.kdheks.gov> under the Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response link.

Kansas Board of Regents

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs reported:

Kansas Board of Regents held annual retreat this week. One of the pillars under their new Building A Future Strategic Plan focuses on families and obtaining affordability, access and success in college. KBOR is looking at enrollment equity gaps for under-represented target populations at the universities.

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Rebekah Gaston, Director of Agency & Community Collaboration reported:

- Economic & Employment Services has observed a 50 percent increase of applications over the past year
- Seeking federal waivers for families
- Encouraging families to go online to apply for services
- Learned that the online EBT program was approved for families to receive SNAP benefits
- Discussions are taking place about the next Coronavirus Relief Bill including in SNAP benefits
- Secretary Laura Howard asked Rebekah to reach out to other state agencies to discuss possible gaps in service to families impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Ongoing discussions among State agencies such as DCF, KDHE, KSDE, KDADs and food banks such as Feeding, Harvesters, Kansas Food Bank have occurred identifying gaps in services and how to better serve families.
- SPARK Phase II grant approvals have been approved
- Economic Development group has a Food Assistance Grant for up to \$9 million dollars. Food pantries and food banks are eligible to apply.
- Karen Beckerman, Strengthening Family Services Director will be leaving the DCF to accept a position with a federal agency. She leaves the State of Kansas after providing 27 years of expertise and service.

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CABINET MEETINGS:

The upcoming meetings are scheduled at 9:00 a.m. on Fridays, October 2 and December 4, 2020 and will be hosted as virtual meetings.

Melissa Rooker announced she had been invited to be a panelist on Lieutenant Governor Lynn Rogers' Office of Rural Prosperity statewide virtual listening tour. Melissa will be presenting on the state of child care in rural Kansas. The first virtual meeting occurred last night and went smoothly. There will be six more opportunities. Upcoming events can be found on the Office of Rural Prosperity website at <https://www.ruralkanprosper.ks.gov>.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Kim Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:08 p.m.