

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

MEETING DECEMBER 18, 2020



WELCOME

Thank you for serving Kansas children, their families, and our state's early childhood care and education professionals!

This is a remote meeting.

- Today's meeting materials are posted on the [Panel Meetings webpage](#) on the Children's Cabinet site.
- Panel members will clearly identify themselves when they begin speaking.
- Panel members can use the "raise hand" feature to show they are ready to share.



TODAY'S AGENDA

- Approval of agenda and November 20, 2020 meeting minutes
- Kansans' Open Forum
- Follow-up from previous meetings
- Kansas' Child Care Development Fund State Plan
- Discuss the [Kansas Beats the Virus](#) initiative
- Overview of Kansas' COVID-19 Vaccine Plan
- *10:15 – Break (10 minutes)*
- Kansas COVID-19 response
- Discussion of next steps
- Requests for future agenda items, upcoming meetings



ACTION ITEMS:

Panel members - please clearly identify yourself when you begin speaking to make and second a motion.

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of November 20, 2020 meeting minutes



KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

Kansans may email Debbie Deere (ddeere@ksde.org) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, December 17, to share written comments or to sign up to share verbal comments with the Panel during this portion of the meeting.



KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

Mitch Rucker, Kansas Action for Children, regarding child care needs.

Connie Larcom, Early Childhood Educator and Provider





FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS



FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Resource Directory of Councils, Committees, and Workgroups

- Directory of mixed-delivery groups who address early childhood issues – fluid document being updated as needed
- Overview of each group to better understand their work
- Information made available to better assist the Panel, allowing them to engage with these groups – as individual members, as a whole, and with Panel staff
- The Directory is will be posted under “[All in for Kansas Kids – Resources and Reports](#)” on the Children’s Cabinet site
- Please contact Debbie Deere, ddeere@ksde.org, if you have additional groups/information to add to the Directory.



FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Kindergarten Transitions Recommendation and Memorandum of Understanding Toolkit Update:

- Nov. 10: Panel finalized and made recommendation
- Dec. 4: Accepted by the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
- Dec. 4: The Early Childhood Stakeholders Group shares feedback on dissemination plan ideas
- Jan. 6: Kindergarten Transitions Workgroup will meet to finalize a dissemination plan
 - Dissemination of the toolkit will begin immediately
 - The toolkit and other resources are posted on the [Kindergarten Readiness Summit webpage](#) on the Children's Cabinet site



FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

September minutes from the Panel's COVID-19 Response discussion:

- Child care providers need support in empowering themselves to take sick days to care for their health. Providers frequently work while they are sick because they either cannot afford to take an unpaid sick day or because they do not feel like they can ask families to not have child care that day. Providers need to be empowered to tell families that they need to take a sick day to protect their families' health, and have financial support to do that whether it is through subsidies or their own program's policies.



FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Follow up for Panel staff: Research policy options in this area. How do we do this in a way that allows families and providers to succeed?

- I used the following resources:
 - Home-Based Child Care Emergency Fund: Sustaining our nation's diverse home-based child care community, Home Grown and Reinvestment Fund, March 2020
 - COVID-19 Resources & Policy Considerations, The Hunt Institute, 2020
 - COVID-19 Resources for Policymakers, Child Care Aware of America, 2020



RESEARCH ON POLICIES TO SUPPORT PAID LEAVE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS

- Many states have laws in place requiring employers to pay their employees paid leave. However, most of these are unfunded mandates, leaving the employers to find the sources of revenue to pay these extra wages.
- Currently many states have temporarily broadened access to paid sick leave in response to the impact of the coronavirus, but no permanent, broad paid sick leave measures have been adopted. ([Paid Sick Leave](#), National Conference of State Legislatures, 2020)
- I was not able to find any policies or initiatives that support paid sick leave specifically for home-based providers
- CARES Act language explicitly says that states are “encouraged to place conditions on payments to childcare providers that ensure that they use a portion of funds received to continue to pay the salaries and wages of staff” - Up to discretion of the finance manager to allocate these funds to staff if absent



RESEARCH ON POLICIES TO SUPPORT PAID LEAVE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS

Providers' options to secure revenue are:

- Subsidy Payments
- Grants
- Government funding
- Parent Pay – **Most common**
 - National average cost of annual child care is 10% of a married household's income and 34% of a single household income



RESEARCH ON POLICIES TO SUPPORT PAID LEAVE FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD PROVIDERS

According to [Picking up the Pieces: Building a Better Child Care System Post COVID-19](#) (Child Care Aware of America, Fall 2020), building a better system will require three things:

- public investment
- a solid data foundation
- resources and supports for families, children, and providers



FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

What questions do Panel members have?

If Panel members are aware of ideas and policy proposals from other states, or national organizations' proposals and research in this area, please share with Debbie (ddeere@ksde.org).





KANSAS' CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT FUND STATE PLAN





DISCUSS THE “KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS” INITIATIVE



“KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS”

- To combat the spread of COVID-19, the Kansas Leadership Center has launched “Kansas Beats the Virus,” a bi-partisan public health partnership with the State of Kansas.
- The Kansas Leadership Center is calling on its partners and alumni to hold 1,000 community meetings across the state by December 31. Out of those meetings will come a dramatic increase in the number of locally-generated efforts and initiatives to reduce the spread of this deadly virus.
- The goal is to inspire local solutions that keep Kansans healthy, schools and businesses open and our economy strong amidst the pandemic.
- Learn more on the [Kansas Beats the Virus webpage](#) on the Kansas Leadership Center site.

Background



“KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS”

Dec. 14: Melissa Rooker coordinated a meeting comprised of 10 Recommendations Panel Kansas Leadership Center alumni members. Kansas Leadership Center staff facilitated the meeting. Goals:

- Coordinate with Panel to form an action plan to combat the pandemic
- Group commits to carrying out determined action plan in a time-sensitive manner
- Grant funding (up to \$3,000) available for this project – December 21 application deadline

Background



“KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS”

ACTION PLAN DISCUSSION AT MEETING: Create a social media campaign throughout the early childhood network:

- Twitter, Cabinet website, Panel member agency/organization websites
- Identify specific talking points for practicing continued safety measures with a commitment to help create positive messages about mask-wearing, social distancing, and avoiding large gatherings
- Create a slogan and hashtag to brand the messaging
- Use [#KSBeatsTheVirus](#) on all messaging
- Use pictures of children to message safety measures being practiced

Action Plan



“KANSAS BEATS THE VIRUS”

- Tweet will go out from the Children’s Cabinet, [@KCCTF](#), this week
 - Focus will be on credible information from [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention COVID-19 webpage](#)
 - Group discussion regarding messaging of tweet
- Form a workgroup comprised of Panel members
- Workgroup meets to develop a final “action plan”
- Workgroup will decide the need for grant application
- Action Plan will be implemented in January

Proposed Next Steps



DISCUSSION

Questions, ideas, and further Panel discussion on the “Kansas Beats the Virus” plan

The vision: Recommendations Panel members go back to their organizations and create grassroots PSAs involving kids asking people to follow safe COVID-19 practices.





OVERVIEW OF KANSAS' COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN



KANSAS COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN

- Visit [the COVID-19 Vaccine webpage](#) on the Kansas Department of Health and Environment site for the Kansas COVID-19 Vaccine Plan and weekly updates.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) met December 1 and voted on recommendations for allocation of COVID-19 vaccine to be used in the initial phase.
 - Their recommendations are for states to target health care personnel and residents of long-term care facilities initially.
 - View the [federal Advisory Committee recommendations online](#).



KANSAS COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN

- The initial vaccine distribution in Kansas will be geared towards health care associated workers and long-term care residents and staff, in line with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommendations.
- As vaccine supplies increase, additional populations will be targeted, with the general population expected by late spring/early summer.
- The vaccine is not yet approved for individuals younger than 16 years of age.



KANSAS COVID-19 VACCINE PLAN

The **COVID-19 Vaccination Program Implementation Committee** is in place to advocate for and develop strategies that will ensure equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination services. The committee will:

- Inform decision related to the distribution of COVID-19 vaccine based upon the guidance of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment.
- Develop communications that support the distribution and delivery of COVID-19 vaccine in a timely manner.

Melissa Rooker serves on this Committee.



DISCUSS

What questions do Panel members have regarding Kansas' COVID-19 vaccination strategy?





BREAK



*The Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations
Panel will return following a ten minute break.*





KANSAS COVID-19 RESPONSE



KANSAS COVID-19 RESPONSE

In September, the Panel took time to reflect on lessons learned and considerations moving forward as the state continues to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

- [September minutes](#)
- Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund [October meeting materials](#)

Since September, the state has implemented several initiatives funded by federal CARES Act funding, many of which are scheduled to conclude at the end of this month.



DISCUSS

- What were the gaps between community needs and state programs to address the pandemic in 2020?
- What is needed moving forward?
- What additional lessons can we learn from our experience this fall, or what lessons learned should we underscore from our conversation in September?





DISCUSSION OF NEXT STEPS



NEXT STEPS DISCUSSION

What are our next steps?

Is there a need to form any working groups or subcommittees to advance the work of the Panel?



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Requests for future agenda items

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

Upcoming Meetings (all via Zoom):

- Kindergarten Transitions Workgroup: January 6, 11:00 a.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel: January 15, 9:00 a.m.
(Third Fridays of the month, 9:00-11:30 a.m.)
- Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund: February 5, 9:00 a.m.
- Kansas Early Childhood Stakeholders Group: February 5, 1:30-3:00 p.m.





Adjournment

