

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **October 2, 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), LeEtta Felter, Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, John Wilson, Senator Dinah Sykes, Rep. Monica Murnan, Tyler Smith, M.D., Ex Officio members: Rebekah Gaston (DCF), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Dr. Karla Wiscombe (KBOR), Justice Keynen J. Walls (Supreme Court) and Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Debbie Deere, Hannah McGahey, Brea Cudney, and Dyogga Adegboro

WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting and then introduced newest board member Justice Keynen J. Wall. Justice Wall is the Ex Officio Supreme Courts appointee to the Kansas Children's Cabinet. Justice Wall resides in Lawrence and originally is from Scott City, Kansas.

Chairman Moore remarked several board members indicated they would need to depart early or be on and off the virtual meeting. In an effort to accommodate them, he announced that Agenda Items #9 *Schedule of 2021 Cabinet Meeting Dates* and #10 *Upcoming Meeting Date* would be moved up on the agenda to follow the Agenda Item #3 *Bright Spots* presentation. Following those discussions, Chairman Moore added he wanted to discuss selecting a temporary Chair for Cabinet meetings when he could not join.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairman Moore asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes and if not, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

MOTION:

It was moved by LeEtta Felter and seconded by Monica Murnan that the Kansas Children's Cabinet board approve the minutes of August 7, 2020, as written. Motion carried. The minutes were adopted.

BRIGHT SPOTS

Chairman Moore introduced Greg Kindle, President of the Wyandotte Economic Development Council (WYEDC). The organization is a non-profit economic development council with the mission to promote and strengthen Wyandotte County's economy through innovative approaches to programs, in partnership with other businesses in the community. Mr. Kindle reported on how his organization collaborates to provide quality early childhood childcare services to families in Wyandotte County.

- Thirty-four percent of the "need" can be met through childcare spots in Wyandotte County.
- Project "URBAN" is committed to hiring 35 percent of its employees from Wyandotte County
- Approximately \$400 million project will be hiring 1,000 people for good paying jobs in next five years
- There is a community focus with commitment to provide childcare services in the county.
- The project was worked out by state and local economic development officials and announced by Governor Laura Kelly.

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2021 CABINET MEETING SCHEDULE:

Melissa Rooker presented a slate of dates for the 2021 meetings. The scheduled dates are the first Friday of every other month:

- February 5, 2021
- April 9, (*instead of Friday, April 2nd which is Good Friday*)
- June 4,
- August 6,
- October 1,
- December 3

Chairman Moore asked for a motion to adopt the meeting schedule followed by a roll call vote.

MOTION:

It was moved by DiAnne Graham and seconded by John Wilson that the Kansas Children's Cabinet board accept the presented list of meeting dates for 2021.

Roll Call Vote:

- LeEtta Felter - Yes
- DiAnne Graham -Yes
- Deliece Hofen – Yes
- Rep. Monica Murnan – Yes
- Tyler Smith, MD – Yes
- Sen. Dinah Sykes -Yes
- John Wilson - Yes
- Kim Moore - Yes

Motion carried. The 2021 Meeting Schedule was adopted.

UPCOMING CABINET MEETING

The next and final meeting of the year is scheduled 9:00 a.m., Friday, December 4. The meeting will be hosted as a virtual meeting.

CHAIRING MEETINGS

Chairman Moore commented that due to some health issues, he had been considering the idea of selecting a temporary chair to preside at the Cabinet meetings whenever he is absent. Melissa remarked she consulted with State legal staff about the protocol and was advised the chair does not have to be present at every meeting, however, the only requirement to adhere to is there must always be a quorum to carry on meeting business. A quorum can choose someone to lead the meeting in the Chair's absence. Chairman Moore and members were satisfied with that advice.

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DIRECTOR'S UPDATES

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director reported on:

- Her role in the Office of Rural Prosperity statewide virtual meetings as a panelist. Seven virtual meetings held. See, <https://www.ruralkanprosper.ks.gov>.
- Work with the Governor's Council on Education, along with Cabinet member John Wilson
- Participation on advisory board on Families First
- Participation in the Hunt Institute & Bezos Family Foundation national consortium of early childhood
- Along with Dr. Jackie Counts, will be participating in a "Think Tank" organized by the Observatory of Public Sector Innovation on the topic of anticipatory governance. Kansas joined Finland to compare work.
- Update on CARES Act coronavirus relief funds, which include \$1.5 million dollars awarded for Technology for Families grants and \$40 million dollars awarded for Remote Learning grants.

PDG-RENEWAL GRANT/ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS UPDATES

Melissa Rooker's report included the following topics:

- Quality Enhancement subgrants totals \$1.7 million dollars for five areas focused on childcare access for targeted populations; rural childcare; connecting families to services; kindergarten readiness; and quality improvements
- Kansas Common Application Pilot
- ECIDs Update
- 1-800-Children line
- Workforce Registry and Supports
- Links to Quality
- See, <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-Kansas-kids-subgrants>

EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL UPDATES

Amanda Petersen, Chair discussed:

- Recap on Panel's role as advisory group to the Children's Cabinet.
- Meeting materials are posted on the Children's Cabinet website at: [Panel Meetings | Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund \(kschildrenscabinet.org\)](https://kschildrenscabinet.org/panel-meetings)
- Provided report from the September 18 meeting, specifically considerations for the Kansas COVID-19 Response as it relates to early childhood.
- Licensed childcare providers are key partners as schools operate in remote or hybrid learning environments.
- Policy responses have provided critical relief, however, soon to expire while the need continues
- Access to health care and providers and families supports health and safety in early childhood settings

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Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Update (Contin.)

- Pandemic will elevate importance of early childhood for society and improve public, private investments
- Coordination and collaboration are essential at the state and local levels
- Medicaid expanded use of reimbursement codes to include telemedicine; increased ability of Part C providers to claim reimbursement for services in virtual environment in response to pandemic, which has increased access to care during quarantine and social distancing.
- Supply chain challenges for childcare providers remain a concern, especially in rural parts of Kansas.
- Next meeting is scheduled October 16. The meeting focus will be on kindergarten readiness workgroup. A list of Kansas Councils, committees and workgroups with early childhood focus were provided in the power point slide presentation.

Chairman Moore expressed concern about seeing a long list of groups with narrow mandates and wondered whether they were duplicating efforts and making good use of participants' time and energy.

Amanda provided clarification that it was not the Panel's intention to recommend consolidating other groups' work and services, however, there was value in discussing how to best connect families to where the resources can be found. She added that early childhood touches many sectors so there are multiple services that can be accessed through different sources.

EX OFFICIO REPORTS

Kansas State Department of Education

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood reported:

- KSDE surveying districts on whether the new operating model they have in place is sustainable for their kids, families and staff through the end of school year;
- Kansas Board of Education meeting is scheduled October 13-14. Discussion will focus on granting regulatory flexibility around accreditation activities and requirements for substitute teacher eligibility.
- Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot is underway

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Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director reported:

- Existing Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grantees were awarded one-year renewals effective Oct 1. In order to have a smooth transition into the new federal fiscal year, plans for technical assistance activities are scheduled in October;
- Conducting virtual meetings with the Early Childhood Block Grantees to discuss their individual data reports from last year; discuss how things are going and how the Cabinet and KU/WSU evaluation team members can provide support;
- Presenting as a keynote speaker at the Home Visitation Prevention Summit

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Kansas Supreme Courts

Hon. Justice Keynen J. Walls, reported:

- In his earlier introduction, he meant to mention prior to taking the bench, he was in private practice representing county hospitals, rural health care providers, and community health care centers across Kansas. He added that today's discussions about telemedicine and the benefits ring true;
- Judicial Branch has been focusing on how to administer justice in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic. Chief Judges in all of the districts are preparing jury trial plans, trying to re-open jury trials with appropriate precautions in place.

Melissa Rooker provided several updates on behalf of Rachel Sisson, Director, Bureau of Family Health, KDHE:

- 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 is working on survey on facility closures
- Universal Maternal Child Home Visiting training will be provided November 4th on postpartum depression and behavioral health
- KDHE announced the Maternal Child Health Public Grant for \$4.7 million dollars. Information can be found on the KDHE website at [Kansas Department of Health & Environment: Home \(kdheks.gov\)](https://www.kdheks.gov)

Kansas Board of Regents

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs reported:

- Higher education enrollment numbers were announced, and it reflected a 10 percent decline
- Institutions are facing economic impact with use of bigger spaces for smaller classes while social distancing.
- One of the Board of Regents goals is to come up with a Common General Education package for 104 system-wide transfer courses
- Regents received a one-year Military Credential Grant for \$200,000. Regents universities will be aligning some of their programs with credentials that the military service members have received in their training in areas such as leadership and logistics, for example.

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EX OFFICIO REPORTS (Contin.)

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Rebekah Gaston, Director of Agency & Community Collaboration reported:

- Oct 1 was the one-year anniversary of the Family First Prevention Act
- Served 600 families in the first year through Family First Prevention
- As Sept 30, 2019, there were 7,569 kids in out-of-home care placement
- As of August 31, 2020, the number dropped to under 7,000 kids in out-of- home care placement.
- Currently, the number of kids in out-of-home care placement is 6,080.
- Kansas Legal Services is providing assistance to many families
- Funds from HERO Relief have been used to provide groceries for families

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, LeEtta Felter moved for adjournment followed by a second by Monica Murnan. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.