

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

MEETING JANUARY 15, 2021



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 December 18, 2020 meeting minutes
- Kansans' Open Forum
- Follow-up from previous meetings
- Kansas child care tax credit policy
- Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel – proposed plain language changes

10:15 – Break (10 minutes)

- Reflections on Panel Work
- Discussion of Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel
- 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 December 18, 2020 meeting minutes



KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

Kansans may email Debbie Deere (ddeere@ksde.org) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 14, to share written comments or to sign up to share verbal comments with the Panel during this portion of the meeting.





FOLLOW-UP FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS



WORKGROUP UPDATES

- Kindergarten Transitions
- #KSBeatsTheVirus
- Engaging Providers



RECAP OF DECEMBER 2020 CONVERSATIONS

Panel's role in policy recommendations for early childhood in Kansas

Process to develop the Child Care Development Fund State Plan for 2022-2024





KANSAS CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT POLICY

MITCH RUCKER, KANSAS ACTION FOR CHILDREN



Employer Child Care Tax Credit

- Current makeup
 - Only available to C-Corporations and Privilege Tax payers (banks)
 - Capped at \$3 million in total credits
 - Covers 50% of net expenses in the first year, up to \$45,000 for employers that provide on-site care, drops to 30% up to \$30,000 in subsequent years
 - Covers 30% of net expenses up to \$30,000 for employers who pay for child care services in all years
 - Fully refundable

Employer Child Care Tax Credit

- Proposed changes
 - Expand eligibility to all types of businesses
 - Eliminate reduction in eligible expenses for on-site care
- Rationale for change
 - The credit is currently under-utilized, expanding eligibility should increase use, and help more Kansas families afford child care.
 - A bill provides a concrete issue to get lawmakers on board with investing funds in child care.
 - These changes will have no net impact on the state budget.

QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION

What questions or comments do Panel members have?

More information on Kansas Child Care Tax Credits can be found on the Kansas Department of Revenue website at:
<https://www.ksrevenue.org/prtaxcredits-daycare.html>





ROLE, NORMS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE PANEL

PROPOSED PLAIN LANGUAGE CHANGES



BACKGROUND

One of the norms listed in the “Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel” is **clarity**: *the Panel will use clear language to make it easier for all Kansans to understand and engage with its work.*

From www.plainlanguage.gov: “Plain language... is communication your audience can understand the first time they read or hear it.”



DISCUSSION

Overview of proposed changes:

- Replace “shall” with “must”, “should”, or “will”
- Simplify language and change passive voice to active voice
- Refer consistently to the “Children’s Cabinet”

Do Panel members have any questions or comments?



DRAFT MOTION

I move that the Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel adopt the proposed plain language changes to the “Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel” document shared with Panel members on December 23.



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES FOR PANEL MEMBERS

www.plainlanguage.gov

www.hemingwayapp.com





BREAK



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





REFLECTIONS ON PANEL WORK



TIMELINE

- February 2020: Governor Kelly signs [Executive Order 20-02](#), designating the Children's Cabinet as the state Early Childhood Advisory Council.
- April 2020: The Children's Cabinet appoints Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel members.
- July 2020: First Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting.
- October 2020: The Panel makes its first recommendation to the Children's Cabinet.
- December 2020: The Children's Cabinet accepts the Kindergarten Transitions Recommendation and the accompanying toolkit.



REFLECTION

Prior to the first meeting in July 2020, Panel members responded to the question, “What one issue do you want to make progress on over the course of the next year?”

- What did you hope to achieve when you applied to join the Panel?
Are we making progress?
- What has been your favorite Panel meeting, and why?



JULY RESPONSES – WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON?

- Development of **a more cohesive cross-agency "early childhood system"** at the state level with respect to roles, effectiveness, funding streams, common terminology and goal-setting.
- **Better understanding of the various organization and developing a shared understanding** of how to promote equitable access to high quality early childhood learning opportunities for each and every child and their family.
- **Connecting the early learning community** in a way that creates a strong altruistic community ready to activate opportunities and find unusual, positive solutions that lead to good public policy.



JULY RESPONSES – WHAT ONE ISSUE DO YOU WANT TO MAKE PROGRESS ON?

- Community empowerment for improved quality, easily accessible early childhood experiences for families and children.
- Collaborating to **fill the gap** between the services that are available to families and their actual needs
- **Improved access** to affordable early childhood educational programs.



DISCUSSION: WORK TO DATE

What did you hope to achieve when you applied to join the Panel? Are we making progress?

What has been your favorite Panel meeting, and why?

Do our procedures enable us to do meaningful work?



DISCUSSION: LOOKING AHEAD

- What would you recommend the Panel prioritize in 2021?
- As we think about Panel membership, who would we recommend do that work? Considering:
 - Balancing continuity and new ideas
 - Ensuring representation reflects our overall early childhood care and education system and the makeup of our state
 - Overall group size
 - Connections with other councils, committees, and workgroups
- Do we need to change our practices or formal procedures to work more effectively?





ROLE, NORMS, AND PROCEDURES OF THE PANEL

DISCUSSION



DISCUSSION

- Do we need to make changes to the “Role, Norms, and Procedures of the Panel” document?
- *The Panel will take action on any proposed amendments at its next meeting on February 19.*
- *Any Panel member can share any additional proposed changes with Debbie. Please share any proposed changes by February 3 if you would like the Panel to consider them in February.*



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 22, 11:00 a.m.
- Engaging Providers Workgroup: January 27, 6:00 p.m.
- #KSBeatsTheVirus Workgroup: January 22, 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel: February 19, 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

