

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **December 11, 2020 special session** of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board was called to order by Chairman Kim Moore at 2:00 p.m. with a quorum. This was a virtual meeting.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kim Moore (Chair), LeEtta Felter, Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, John Wilson, Rep. Monica Murnan, Senator Dinah Sykes, Terri Rice, Ex Officio members: Dr. Carla Whitehead-Hick (DCF), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Justice Keynen J. Wall, (Supreme Courts), Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker and Dyogga Adegboire

Chairman Kim Moore asked Melissa Rooker, Executive Director to present the new information and background on the SENT Prep Academy, Topeka proposal that was briefly discussed the Dec 4 meeting.

Melissa Rooker provided the board with copies of the SENT Prep Academy proposal which included the work plan and budget and had followed up on members' questions.

SENT Prep Academy intends to:

- Provide a child care project in the Hi-Crest neighborhood in Topeka.
- Purchase a recently closed child care facility and use multiple strategies for strengthening that community's early childhood system;
- Increase availability and affordability of quality child care during traditional hours and on a drop-in basis in this high-need neighborhood;
- Develop and strengthen the local child care workforce through apprenticeships, wage supplements, and partnerships with higher education; and
- Establish the new child care center as family engagement hub.

The proposal aligns with the All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan and responds to prevalent community needs worsened by the COVID-19 crisis.

A one-time investment of \$250,000 from the Kansas Children's Cabinet would allow SENT, which stands for Strengthening and Equipping Neighborhoods Together, a local 501c3 to purchase a child care facility that closed in March due to COVID-19, now up for sale by the owners.

There was considerable discussion about the proposal and continued concerns raised by Rep. Monica Murnan and Ms. LeEtta Felter about setting a precedent in funding a proposal that had not been vetted through the State Procurement competitive bid process. After further discussion about the information and disclaimers to include in the agreement, all members were on board with the proposal.

Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

MOTION:

Dinah Sykes moved the Children's Cabinet board approve a one-time grant in the amount of \$250,000 with requirements relating to restrictions with a 5 year period be included in the agreement. Motion seconded by Deliece Hofen.

Chairman Moore called for a Roll Call vote.

LeEtta Felter - Yes
DiAnne Graham – Yes
Deliece Hofen – Yes
Rep. Monica Murnan – Yes
Terri Rice – Yes
Sen. Dinah Sykes -Yes
John Wilson - Yes
Kim Moore – Yes

Motion carried.

Melissa thanked the board for their thoughtful consideration of this proposal. She will provide future reporting on the project.

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.