

## **KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES**

The **December 4, 2020** regular meeting of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board was called to order by Chairman Kim Moore at 9:00 a.m. with a quorum. This was a virtual meeting. Proper notice was published in the *Kansas Register*.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kim Moore (Chair), LeEtta Felter, Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, John Wilson, Rep. Monica Murnan, Senator Dinah Sykes, Tyler Smith, M.D., Ex Officio members: Secretary Laura Howard, Rebekah Gaston and Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hicks (DCF), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Dr. Karla Wiscombe (KBOR), Rachel Sisson (KDHE), Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Debbie Deere, and Dyogga Adegbore

### **WELCOME AND CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **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 DiAnne Graham and seconded by LeEtta Felter that the Kansas Children's Cabinet board approve the minutes of October 2, 2020, as written. Motion carried. The minutes were adopted.

### **BRIGHT SPOTS**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director reported the bright spots feature the State Agency Director' team. Along with regular duties, this year each agency representative was called to the frontlines and responded to the emergency management center response to the pandemic.

#### **Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE):**

- Responded to the demands of rolling out COVID testing,
- Provided guidance to childcare providers to support them through the process,
- Relaxed and provided flexibility for childcare licensing timelines and requirements

#### **Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE):**

- Created and refined remote and hybrid learning guidelines for school districts in a short timeframe,
- Leveraged the federal school lunch program for children and families

#### **Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF):**

- Created the HERO Relief program to support families and providers with direct assistance,
- Strategized ways to make best use of the CCDF funding for families and providers

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### **Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF):**

- Cabinet staff, WSU, KU CPPR, and early childhood partners have worked hard to make the resources available. Kansas is faring quite well in comparison to other states. Everyone here is a bright spot!

Chairman Moore commended Melissa for her work and service. She has been key to coordination of activities. He added that the report shows that government can work.

### **DIRECTOR'S UPDATES**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director reported on the PDG-Renewal Grant, All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan. As recommended by the SPARK committee and the State Financial Council, the Children's Cabinet has been managing two groups of CARES Act grants.

- Technology for Families Fund provided funding for home visiting providers to equip families with technology to facilitate virtual home visits. Approximately \$800,000 was granted.
- Remote Learning Grants offered grant funding for providers to set up sites for supervision of school age children to log in to school with their regular teachers and classmates when their public school district shifted to hybrid or remote learning modes. If Congress acts to extend the deadline beyond 12/30/2020, existing programs can continue invoicing for payment or there will be a new stimulus to fund a new round of grants. This is a program that the Governor's Office of Recovery has made a commitment to continue if Congress approves an extension. Awards totaled approximately \$9 million dollars.
- Hunt Institute Early Childhood Leadership Summit Panel Presentation – Melissa will participate on the panel later today and will be joining future series on racial identity in young children and how it impacts programs, classrooms and the way funding is dispersed, The Kansas team includes Melissa, Cornelia Stevens, Executive Director, Wichita TOP Learning Center and a parent selected by Ms. Stevens,
- Thriving Families, Safer Children Round Two Learning Cohort includes a team from DCF, KCSL, and the Children's Cabinet with support from KU CPPR.
- Office of Rural Prosperity Report – Early Childhood will be included in the annual report as it relates to early childhood work in rural communities.
- Education Council of the States Policy Academy- a team participated in the Academy and it was a great experience.

Melissa talked about the Quality Enhancement subgrants, Kansas Common Application Pilot, ECIDS Update, 1-800-Children line, Workforce Registry and Supports, and Links to Quality, and the PDG Renewal Grant All Grantee Meeting on December 7-11. See, <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/all-in-for-Kansas-kids-subgrants>

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### **CHILDREN'S CABINET 2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

Melissa Rooker and Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones presented highlights from the 2020 Annual Report. The book can be found on the Cabinet website and hard copies will be made available. It includes information on the Work of the Children's Cabinet, All In for Kansas Kids, Strategic Plan, Governance, Accountability and Evaluation work, recommendations and conclusion. Chairman Moore asked if the data sharing information will be available to the public and not just among government agencies. Melissa replied that is correct.

### **ECBG RECOMMENDATION**

Melissa Rooker presented on a proposal from the SENT Prep Academy located in the Topeka Hi-Crest neighborhood. SENT seeks to support a child care demonstration project. Provided funding, they desire to purchase a recently-closed child care facility in Topeka and begin strengthening the community's early childhood. She consulted with Kansas Department of Administration legal counsel and was given the "go ahead" to pursue awarding State funds to the entity for the purpose outlined in its proposal. The legal agreement will include a provision to receive repayment of the initial award amount if the program ceases to operate within the first 5 years.

The Children's Cabinet board had consideration discussion about the proposal. Rep. Monica Murnan and LeEtta Felter expressed concerns about the Cabinet setting a precedent in funding a plan that had not been vetted through the State Procurement competitive bid Request For Proposals (RFP) process. However, board members liked the idea of the entity's plan. Senator Dinah Sykes, John Wilson, and DiAnne Graham asked for additional information or presentation before the Cabinet board took action.

#### **MOTION:**

It was moved by DiAnne Graham the Cabinet board review additional materials such as the business plan and budget and meet in a week. Motion seconded by Monica Murnan.

After further discussion, Chairman Moore suggested the Cabinet meet about this topic at 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 11.

#### **AMENDED MOTION:**

It was moved by LeEtta Felter and seconded by Deliece Hofen the Cabinet table acting on the proposal until its 2:00 p.m. Friday, December 11, 2020 virtual meeting.

Chairman Moore called for a Roll Call vote.

LeEtta Felter – Yes

DiAnne Graham – Yes

Deliece Hofen – Yes

Rep. Monica Murnan – Yes

Tyler Smith, M.D. - Yes

Sen. Dinah Sykes – Yes

John Wilson – Yes

Kim Moore – Yes

Motion carried.

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### **EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL UPDATES**

Amanda Petersen, Chair introduced Peggy Kelly, Executive Director, Kansas Head Start Association and Debbie Deere, KCCTF Early Childhood Systems Coordinator. Both Debbie and Peggy are members of the ECRP.

Amanda reiterated the purpose of the Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel was created to support the work of the Kansas Children's Cabinet in meeting the expectations of their role as a state advisory council. The ECRP conveyed their recommendation for a Kindergarten Transitions Memorandum of Understanding template be made available to foster community level collaboration between the various providers and organizations involved with preparing children to enter kindergarten. The purpose is to ensure coordinated effort, while still allowing community level decision-making to ensure the needs of all children can be met.

After discussion, the Cabinet accepted the recommendation through unanimous consent.

December meeting will focus on continued discussion about considerations for the Kansas COVID-19 response such as vaccine distribution planning and strategies to target critical child care needs.

January's meeting, Panel members will reflect on the Role, Norms and Procedures of the Panel and review what is working well after six months after its inception.

Peggy Kelly and Debbie Deere discussed the Kindergarten Transitions Work Plan Template and Memorandum of Understanding and discussed the background of the development of the work, description of the work group and explained how the work was developed, description of how considerations of equity have informed this recommendation, and description of how Kansas families have shaped this recommendation. Next steps include sharing those documents to the Early Childhood Stakeholders Group at this afternoon's meeting for discussion on dissemination concepts. Then, a formal and final Dissemination Plan will be created for statewide distribution to be using in communities through Kansas to support a positive Kindergarten Transition.

### **EX OFFICIO REPORTS**

#### **Kansas State Department of Education**

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood reported:

- Kansas State Board of Education meets next week.  
They will consider updates to the *Navigating Change 2020* guidance. As a reminder, this is **guidance** for local districts to consider as they implement plans for both operations and learning.  
They will also consider recommendations to provide limited relief to school districts concerned about meeting the required 1,116 hours of instruction for this school year. As a reminder, statute requires districts to provide 1,116 hours of instruction for students K-11; there's no corresponding statute for PreK students, but agency policy is that districts receiving state funding must provide a minimum of 465 hours of instruction. The Board asked Commissioner Randy Watson and KSDE staff to research ways to allow flexibility of school operations in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We anticipate that any adjustments made by the Board will apply to PreK as well.

**KSDE Ex Officio Report (contin.)**

- If you haven't already, I'd encourage you to visit the Kansas Teaching and Leading Project website. This is a partnership between the Kansas association of education service centers and KSDE, and is a really important vehicle to provide quality, on-demand professional learning in bite-sized chunks for school staff this school year. Unsurprisingly, topics related to social emotional well-being are the most in-demand, broadly applicable across age levels. If any partners see topics where you'd like to propose adding modules, there is a process to request to do that and I'd be happy to get that to you.
- Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot
  - Requirement; transition into kindergarten (Nov. 19 - 26,589 ASQ:3 (21,702 Kindergarten-age) ASQ:3 screenings and 24,812 ASQ:SE-2 screenings (21,195 kindergarten-age);
  - Next steps – analyze data
  - Working with KDHE to set up the framework to begin expanding the statewide system so that all children birth through kindergarten entry regardless of what program participating in can access screenings through the state account
- Important work underway with the State Interagency Coordinating Council, very much appreciate their work to form a committee to consider how we can increase opportunities for preschoolers with disabilities to learn in inclusive settings with their non-disabled peers.
- Busy time of year for our KSDE early childhood team, preparing to support funding opportunities for next school year. (all pending legislative approval)
  - For the 2021-2022 school year, in districts operating approved **Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs, (SGF, school finance formula)** all 4-year-old students who meet at least one at-risk criterion for Preschool-Aged At-Risk students and who are enrolled and attending on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district's enrollment and accompanying weightings. All districts wishing to access Preschool-Aged At-Risk funding are required to submit and have approved the Program Approval Form and Program Assurances.
  - **Kansas Preschool Pilot (mix of TANF and Children's Initiatives Fund)**
  - **Kansas Parents as Teachers (Children's Initiatives Fund)**

**Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund**

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director reported:

- KCCTF is working on the ECBG RFP and working with KSDE to ensure alignment of documentation, process, and requirements for ease to the grantees
- RFP will be posted in the Kansas Common App portal and rolling the guidance instructions on or around December 18, 2020.

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**Kansas Department of Health and Environment**

Rachel Sisson, Director, Bureau of Family Health reported:

- COVID-19 testing strategy and vaccine plan can be viewed at <https://www.kdheks.gov>.
- Weekly COVID-19 response updates are provided on the website.
- Emergency use authorization through the FDA through two manufacturers is forthcoming and it is expected there will be a two dosage series.

**Kansas Department for Children and Families**

Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hick, Director of TANF and Early Childhood Programs:  
Rebekah Gaston, Director of Agency & Community Collaboration

- Hero Relief expanded the Child Care Subsidies
- Noticeable increase in child care applications
- Updating the CCDF State Plan
- LIEAP information and application will be announced in January

**Kansas Board of Regents**

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs reported:

- Higher education enrollment numbers have declined due to COVID-19 with significant impact on community colleges and technical schools
- Pursuing establishing a common Spring Break among all of the K-12 school districts, community colleges, technical schools and the universities. They would have the same Spring Break as the child care centers.

**UPCOMING CABINET MEETING**

The Cabinet will be conducting a special session by virtual meeting at 2:00 p.m., Friday, December 11, 2020, to discuss additional background information and act on the ECBG recommendation briefly discussed today.

Future meetings are scheduled quarterly on Friday at 9:00 a.m.:

February 5, 2021

April 9

June 4,

August 6,

October 1,

December 3

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Kim Moore adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.