

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

MEETING MARCH 19, 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

- Welcome, approval of agenda and February 19, 2021 meeting minutes
- Kansans' Open Forum
- Follow-up from previous meetings
- Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
- Kansas COVID-19 Reflections
- 10:05 – Break (10 minutes)*
- Unheard Voices in the Our Tomorrows Story Bank
- Requests for future agenda items, bright spots and 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 February 19, 2021 meeting minutes



KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

Kansans may email Debbie Deere (ddeere@ksde.org) by 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 18, 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



FOLLOW-UP FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

- Strategies for Engaging Providers Workgroup Update
 - Recap on February 22 meeting by Emily Barnes
 - Next Steps



FOLLOW-UP FROM FEBRUARY MEETING

- Recap from February meeting
 - Child Care Development Fund State Plan facilitated discussions:
 - Section 6 – Workforce Recruitment and Retention
 - Section 7 – Continuous Quality Improvement
 - What is going well / Barriers and challenges / What is no longer needed / Possible changes for a successful 3-year plan / Most excited to see
 - Panel's feedback serves as a valuable resource in strengthening the Kansas early childhood system





And

Breastfeeding

[Alignment of breastfeeding with Early Childhood Strategic Plan:](https://ksbreastfeeding.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Breastfeeding-and-Early-Childhood-Strategic-Plan-2.0.pdf)

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Breastfeeding in Kansas

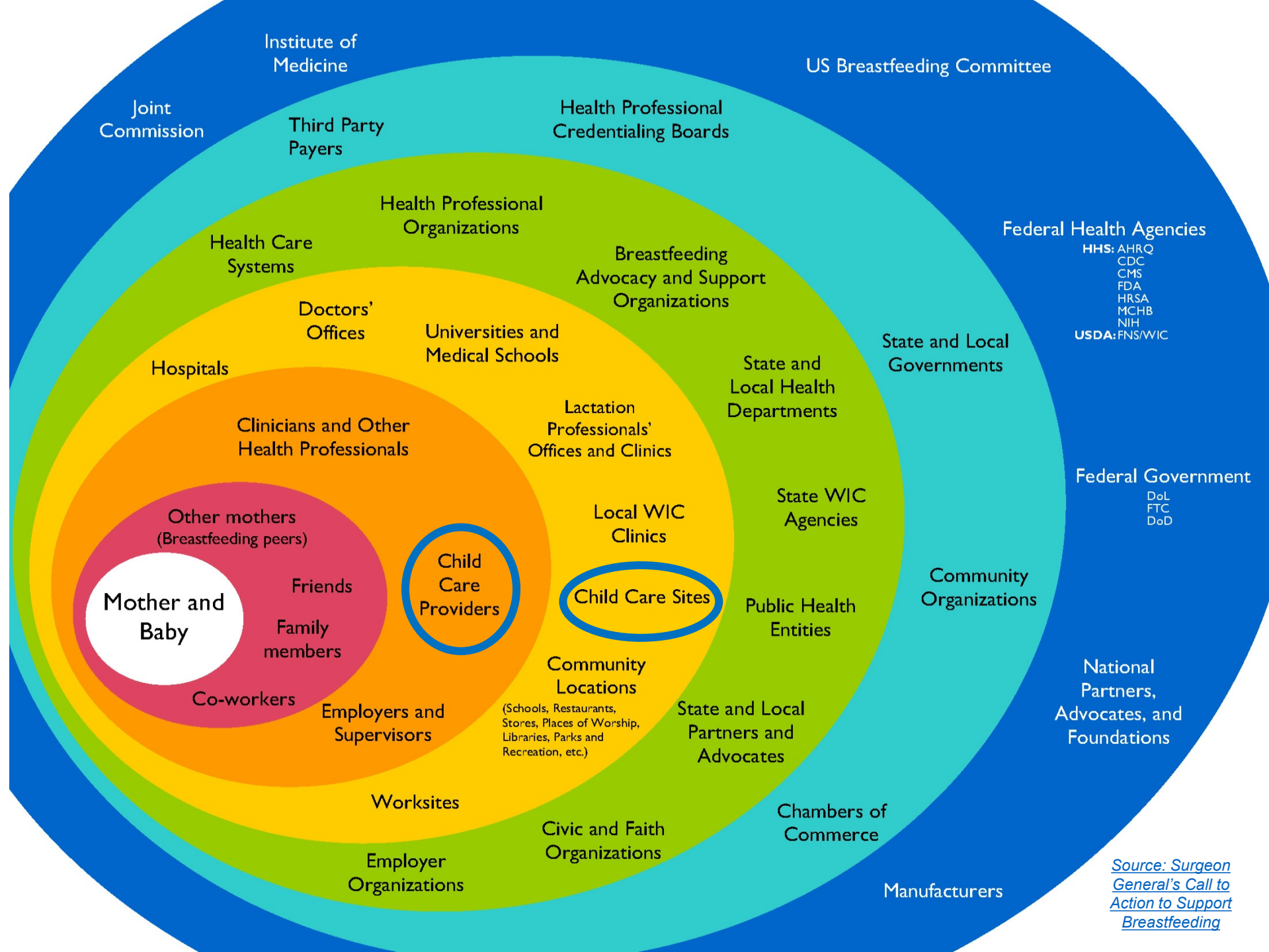
Examining breastfeeding rates at 8 weeks postpartum

Among Kansas mothers who had a live birth during 2017 or 2018, **9 in 10 (90.6%)** reported **ever breastfeeding** their infants.*

However, only **72.0%** reported breastfeeding for **at least 8 weeks**.†

Breastfeeding is the norm in Kansas





Source: Surgeon
General's Call to
Action to Support
Breastfeeding

NEW Study: “Breast Is Best, But...” According to Childcare Administrators, Not Best for the Childcare Environment

Most administrators agreed “breastfeeding is best.” However, they expressed discomfort with mothers breastfeeding at the center and perceived risk with handling and feeding human milk.

These perceptions are illustrated through the theme “*Formula feeding is normative*” and four emergent subthemes: “*Human milk is potentially harmful*,” “*People are uncomfortable with breastfeeding in public*,” “*I’m not the expert*,” and “*Breastfeeding is best, in theory*.”

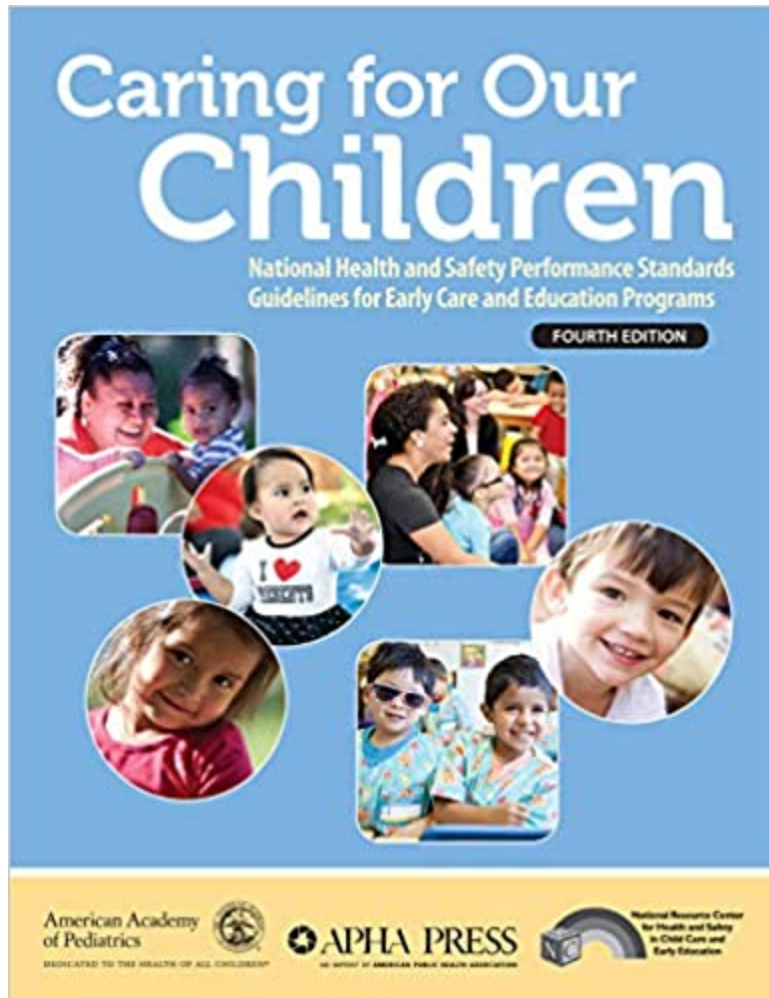
A cultural shift may be needed to change norms and perceptions in the childcare environment to support mothers in their effort to provide human milk. Perhaps it is time for a new message, such as –

“We can help you.”

State EC Strategic Plan	Breastfeeding
Goal 1: State-Level Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KBC Child Care Section • KBC Child Care webpage • Local Breastfeeding Coalitions • Training Child Care Health Care Consultants
Goal 2: Community-Level Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Breastfeeding Resource Directory • KBC Referral Forms
Goal 3: Family Knowledge and Choice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KBC Resource pages • Connections with local breastfeeding coalitions • Partnerships with WIC and other peer breastfeeding support

State EC Strategic Plan	Breastfeeding
Goal 4: Private Sector Collaboration	Support of breastfeeding employees using KBC's Workplace Support resources
Goal 5: Capacity and Access	Breastfeeding training for home visitors and child care providers
Goal 6: Workforce	KBC's child care provider training "How to Support the Breastfeeding Family"
Goal 7: Quality and Environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Care Aware of Kansas "Breastfeeding Friendly Child Care Provider Designation" • Toolkit for child care providers (<i>under development, have permission to adapt Alaska's toolkit</i>) • Go NAPSACC Breastfeeding & Infant Feeding Self-Assessment module

Standards addressing breastfeeding:



- 1.3.2.4 Additional Qualifications for Caregivers/Teachers
- 1.4.1.1 Pre-service Training
- 1.4.2.2 Orientation for Care of Children with Special Health Care Needs
- 1.6.0.1 Child Care Health Consultants
- 2.4.1.2 Staff Modeling of Healthy and Safe Behavior and Health & Safety Education Activities
- 2.4.1.2 Health & Safety Education Topics for Staff
- 2.4.3.2 Parent/Guardian Education Plan
- 3.1.4.1 Safe Sleep Practices & SUID Risk Reduction (breastfeeding reduces risk)
- 4.3.1.1 General Plan for Feeding Infants
- 4.3.1.3 Preparing, Feeding, and Storing Human Milk
- 4.3.1.8 Techniques for Bottle Feeding
- 4.2.0.4 Categories of Foods
- 4.2.0.5 Meal and Snack Patterns
- 4.3.1.11 Introduction of Age-Appropriate Solid Foods to Infants
- 9.2.3.11 Food & Nutrition Service Policies & Plans
- 9.4.1.6 Availability of Documents to Parents/Guardians
- 10.6.1.1 Regulatory Agency Provision of Caregiver/Teacher & Consumer Training & Support Services



For those programs that enroll pregnant women, infants and toddlers:

Performance Standards addressing breastfeeding:

1302.44 Child Nutrition (a)(2)(viii) - Promote breastfeeding, including providing facilities to properly store and handle breast milk and make accommodations, as necessary, for mothers who wish to breastfeed during program hours, and if necessary, provide referrals to lactation consultants or counselors

1302.46 Family Support - Learn about healthy pregnancy and postpartum care, as appropriate, including breastfeeding support...

1302.81 Prenatal & Postpartum information, education & support - A program must provide enrolled pregnant women, fathers, and partners or other relevant family members the prenatal and postpartum information, education and services that address [...] the benefits of breastfeeding.


Additional Standard: Achieving a State of Healthy Weight 2019 Report, National Resource Center for Health & Safety in Child Care and Early Education, measure IA1



**Think about a personal
breastfeeding experience
you've had**

**How could that experience
have been improved with
support?**

What barriers do child care providers face when supporting breastfeeding families, including their own employees?



How could breastfeeding
support be threaded through
the early childhood system in
Kansas?

Consider programs, state agencies,
education, etc.

Summary of Ideas

Thank You!

**Together, we can build a community that
supports breastfeeding families.**

Questions? Ideas?

Contact Brenda Bandy, IBCLC

bbandy@ksbreastfeeding.org



www.ksbreastfeeding.org



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.



Kansas COVID-19 Reflections



KANSAS COVID-19 REFLECTIONS

In September and December, 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](#)
- [December minutes](#)

Today we will discuss information related to temporary closures of licensed child care facilities, vaccinations and child care workers, and vaccination experiences from the Our Tomorrows Story Bank



COVID-19 and Temporary Closures of Licensed Child Care Facilities in Kansas

During the COVID-19 Pandemic child care providers have reported temporary closures and reopen statuses through surveys available on the [KDHE Child Care Licensing webpage](https://kdheks.gov/bccclr/). <https://kdheks.gov/bccclr/>

- On average no more than 16% of our total licensed facilities have reported closure at any period of time.
- Some of the closures were not due to a specific exposure or positive test results, but rather an overall concern for the health of self, family or staff.
- Many providers reported reopening after a short closure period.

Total Temporary Closure Data

	Total Facility Count	Center Based Programs	Home Based Programs	Total	Percentage Closed
3/31/2020	4739	444	277	721	15%
6/30/2020	4732	382	232	614	13%
9/30/2020	4740	304	220	524	11%
12/31/2020	4718	367	245	612	13%
3/12/2021	4719	315	246	561	12%

Phase 2 Vaccination and Child Care Workers

- Kansas is still focused on completing phase 2 in many counties.
- Child care workers (all individuals affiliated with facilities licensed by KDHE)
- CLARIS data reveals there are approximately 30,600 child care facility affiliates statewide. Local Health Departments (LHDs) have been provided with their total affiliates and list of facilities by county.
- Based on results from a survey KDHE issued to LHDs last week, as of Monday 3/8 the majority of counties are either done vaccinating or have enough allocation to finish. The vaccine need that remains for child care is not an issue.

Who Should Child Care Workers Contact

- Child care workers should contact their LHD if they have not received information and want the vaccine.
- NOTE: Preschool program staff working in school-based programs were vaccinated with the K-12 rollout. If anyone was missed, they should contact their administrator or LHD.

COVID-19 Vaccination Experiences from the Our Tomorrows Story Bank

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What is your COVID vaccination status?

In 2021, we added a question to the Our Tomorrows survey asking participants about their vaccination status. The following data is current as of March 15, 2021.

Status	% of responses
I do not plan to get vaccinated	21.2%
I am not vaccinated but plan to get it	42.4%
I have been vaccinated	36.4%



Vaccine Hesitancy



What we are learning from shared experiences

- ▶ **Of those story sharers who said they did not plan to get the COVID-19 vaccine:**
 - 42.9% were between the ages of 45 and 64
 - 71.4% said they were considered essential workers
 - 35.7% have annual family incomes between \$40,000 - \$59,999
 - 35.7% live in “frontier” counties

“We are living in trying times for a lot of individuals and families. In the past I have reached out to help community needs to friends and families when they are struggling with health, finances, everyday needs, etc. With Covid restrictions, it’s hard to know if all needs are being met due to not being able to visit them in their homes or take them to needed appointments. It’s truly sad that now that a porch drop off for food, groceries, supplies is the only contact we can provide. How I miss the one on one, the hugs and contact, and the feeling that people in our community are getting the help they need.”

More Voices from the Story Bank

"I'm waiting for the vaccine to be delivered and given to everyone. That way, the numbers of kids will increase at the center, and parents will feel comfortable to re-enroll their kids in the center, and then the result would be going back to work."

"I was finally able to get myself started with the covid vaccine. I have an elderly mother. She has many ailments including diabetes. I also have diabetes. I was able to sign up and get the vaccine within just a day of signing up. I have constant worry that I'm going to contract covid and then pass it along to my mom. It would almost certainly be a death sentence for her. At least now I can rest a little easier in knowing that I may be less prone to contract covid in the near future."



DISCUSS

What do we know so far and what do we still need to learn?

How can Panel members support the Kansas COVID-19 response?





BREAK



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



All In For Kansas Kids



Unheard Voices in the Our
Tomorrows Story Bank



Understanding & Elevating Unheard Voices in the Our Tomorrows Story Bank

Early Childhood Recommendations Panel
March 19, 2021

Jenny Flinders, MEd
Center for Public Partnerships & Research



OUR WHY: Our Tomorrows

Mission: Use lived-experiences to shape real-time, anticipatory policy and programming decisions at the local, state, and nation-wide levels to make ***OUR TOMORROWS brighter***

- ▶ Statewide Story Bank
- ▶ Community Sensemaking
- ▶ Community Action Labs





What does Our Tomorrows do?



EXPLORE STORIES

about real-life challenges, bright spots, and resiliency



LIFT UP

Parent Voice and Parent Choice



PINPOINT NEEDS

by identifying gaps and elevating what's working best



ENACT SYSTEMS CHANGE

by using stories to inform policies and programs

Voices in Action: CARES Act

Technology For Families & Remote Learning Grants

► **Our Tomorrows data analysis showed that:**

- 13.7% of respondents experienced a lack of access to technology and/or internet as a primary disruptor
- Families experiencing this disruptor were more likely to be from marginalized racial identities, and have annual household incomes under \$30,000

“One of the families that I provide services for found out they had to quarantine for 2 weeks. They have 6 kids with 2 in grade school. This has been a difficult time for the family as they do not have internet and the older children are doing remote learning. The mom explained that the older kids have been going to the neighbors to use the internet when they need to do homework. It has been hard for them to quarantine.”

Voices in Action: CARES Act

Technology For Families & Remote Learning Grants

- ▶ Our Tomorrows informed the allocation of CARES Act funds, and was included as a grantee requirement to support ongoing, rapid-cycle response to family needs
 - Families served by these programs who shared stories in the Our Tomorrows StoryBank were more likely to identify as being non-White, low-income, unemployed, single parents, and/or considered COVID-essential
 - Stories shared by these families also showed thematic patterns of themes of community help and pride, high rates of positive family outcomes, and a recognition of family strength.

“ Our family did not own a tablet, iPad or PC. We missed months of sessions with our therapist when they were restricted to only virtual home visits, and we didn't have the equipment to participate...With our new tablet and Wi-Fi we are now able to participate in classroom instruction, meet virtually with our son's therapists and teachers, and see our doctor virtually when necessary. It really has changed our lives for the better, and we'd like to thank you for helping us.. ”

Representation Matters

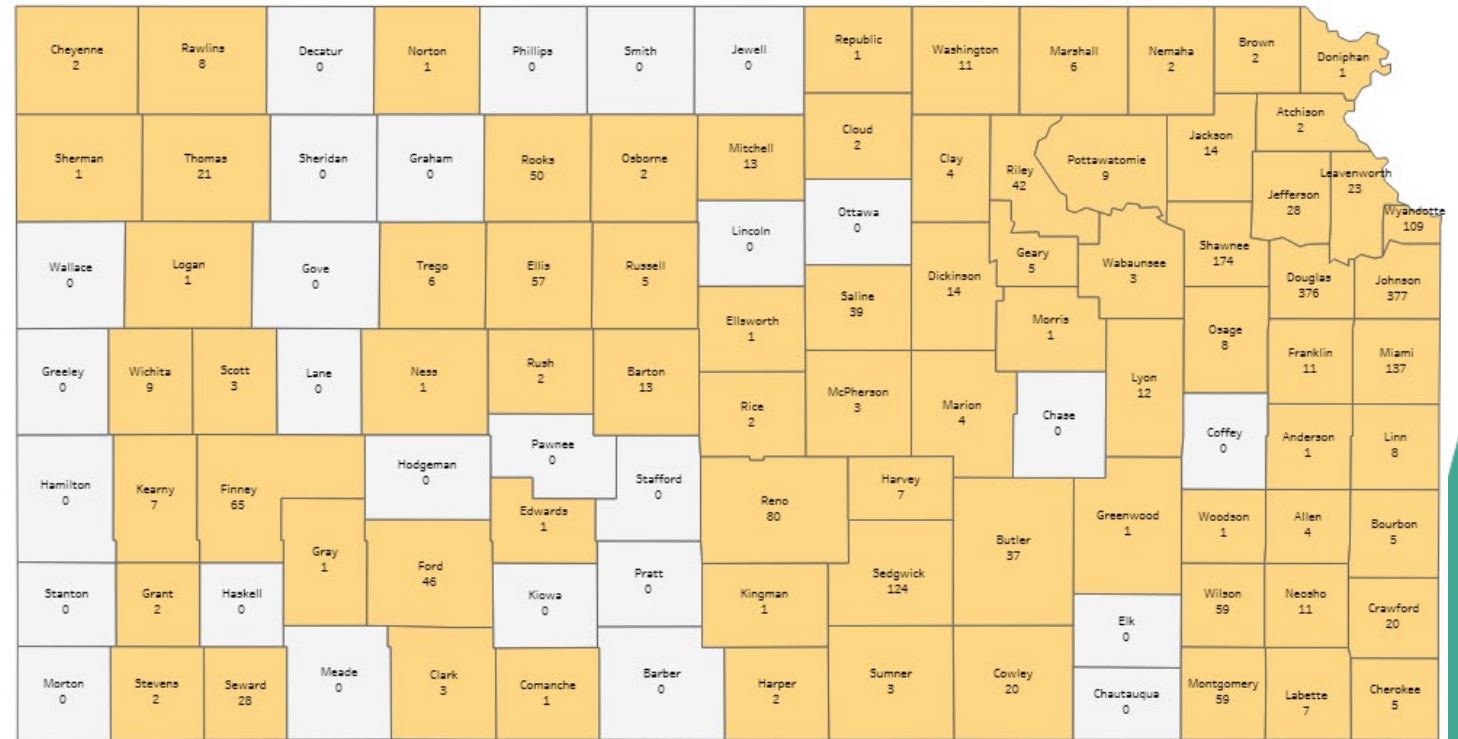
Why we focus on unheard voices in the Our Tomorrows Story Bank

- ▶ **Our Tomorrows provides the unique opportunity for state, local, and community leaders to make informed policy and program decisions based on real, lived experiences of Kansans**
 - Diverse representation in the Story Bank means that decisions are made based on patterns of experiences, "outlier" or emerging signals from these experiences, and community-based sensemaking of these experiences
 - Significant representation in the stories from all unheard voices ensures all communities and groups have the ability to advocate for their collective needs to policymakers
 - Community sensemaking can occur once enough stories from any group or community are collected

Who are we hearing from?

2,432 stories (as of 3/18/21)

- ▶ 74.6% identified as female
- ▶ 24.1% identified as non-White
- ▶ 9.7% reported an annual family income under \$20,000
- ▶ 7.4% identified as single parents
- ▶ 7.3% aged 65 or older
- ▶ 48.6% reported being COVID-essential workers



What is an “unheard voice”?

Q: Which of the following best describes you in the experience you shared?


Unheard Voice category from Our Tomorrows	% of respondents
Working class families or individuals	28.6%
Those with special healthcare needs	3.9%
Single parents	7.4%
Once or currently incarcerated individuals	0.6%
Those who struggle with mental health	4.5%
Immigrants and/or those who speak a home language other than English	1.8%
Those from remote or rural communities	6.4%
Service providers	18.4%
Those with marginalized racial, gender, and/or sexual orientation identities	1.9%
Other voices that need to be heard	9.3%



What does it mean to be a Kansas family?



What “unheard voices” are we missing?



**What can you do to help increase and
elevate unheard voices in the Our
Tomorrows Story Bank?**

We need the Panel's help!

How can expand and elevate the voices of unheard Kansans in the Our Tomorrows Story Bank?

Encourage your networks to share stories at the link below

Connect your communities and organizations to sensemaking and citizen journalist opportunities

Our Tomorrows Link:

<http://ourtomorro.ws/ECRP>

Contact us at: ourtomorrows@ku.edu



UPCOMING MEETINGS AND BRIGHT SPOTS

Requests for future agenda items

****Bright Spots – Panel members are invited to share****

Upcoming Meetings (all via Zoom):

- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting – Friday, April 9 – 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Stakeholders Group meeting – Friday, April 9 – 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel: Friday, April 16 - 9:00-11:30 a.m. (Third Fridays of the month, 9:00-11:30 a.m.)





Adjournment

