

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Resource Directory
March 2021



This resource directory, compiled by The Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Early Childhood Recommendations Panel, is for early childhood professionals. The directory is comprised of councils, committees, and workgroups in our state’s mixed-delivery system. The directory is a fluid document, updated regularly, with overview and contact information.

The aim of this resource is to strengthen relationships among state agencies that implement early childhood care and education programs and those that implement critical components of the infrastructure, including workforce development, higher education, and economic development. (All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan: Goal 1; Strategy 1.2.3)

WORKFORCE ADVISORY WORK GROUP

Purpose

Advocate for interests of the early childhood workforce through conversations surrounding quality, continuing education, industry culture, and workforce equity.

Current Priorities

- Research and development of a state-wide Professional Development Registry for Early Childhood shareholders
- Evaluate current Kansas career pathways and core competencies
- Continue to address issues of equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Early Childhood Workforce

Members

Elizabeth Toland, Teresa Thompson, Gayla Randal, Judy Golden, Rachel Anno, Patty Peschel, Linda Logan, Peggy Kelly, Nichelle Adams, Michelle Gilbert, Travis Rickford, Kimberly Kennedy, David Lindeman, Kris Nicholson, Kim Hawkins, Christi Smith, Emily Walker, Jennifer Bruning, Leadell Ediger, Jennifer Forker, Diana Hurst, Amber Sellers, Joan Robison

Learn more

Contact Linda Logan, Chair of Workforce Development Advisory Group, lindalogan@ksu.edu or 800-227-3578.

KANSAS POWER OF THE POSITIVE (KPOP)

Purpose

The Kansas Power of the Positive is a statewide coalition that is committed to all Kansas children growing up in safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments. The coalition focuses on societal interventions to prevent adverse childhood experiences and believes the conditions in which families live, including influence of family friendly workplace policies and practices, are key.

Current Priorities

- Public Engagement and Education Campaign
- Business Employee Survey

Impact Team Members

Vicky Roper, Amanda Petersen, Amy Meek, Andrew Wiens, Ann Goodall, Anne Maack, Ave Stokes, Bassima Schbley, Bette Morris, Brenda Bandy, Cathy Harding, Cheryl Rathbun, Christen Robinson, Cindy Miles, Cristi Cain, Cyndi Chapman, Daina Zolck, Dale Walker, Dana Schoffelman, Danielle Isbell, Danielle Sass, David Love, Dawn Downes, Dawn Rouse, Debbie Ogle, Dena Hubbard, Emily Fetsch, Gail Cozadd, Ghazala Perveen, Gina Frack, Gina Meier-Hummel, Heather Smith, Heather Staab, Jackie Counts, Jane Mosley, Jayne Fry, Jillian Fisher, Jim McHenry, John Vandewalle, John Wilson, Jolee Eckert, Joyce Grover, Katherine Melhorn, Katie Mahuron, Katie Schoenhoff, Kayla Savage, Keith Lawing, Kelli Mark, Kelly Davydov, Kelly Hayes, Kelly Hopkins, Kelsee Torrez, Kendra Baldrige, Kent Reed, Kerri Weeks, Kim Brabits, Kristalle Hedrick, Kristina Scott, Leadell Ediger, LeAnn Woods, Lee Anne Mullen, Lucy Petroucheva, Lynda Miller, Mary Moffatt, Maureen Ostmeyer, Meghan Cizek, Melissa Rooker, Michelle McCormick, Myron Melton, Nis Wilbur, Pam Shaw, Patricia Houston, Paula Neth, Peggy Kelly, Rachel Marsh, Rachel Sisson, Rebekah Gaston, Ryan Lester, Shantel Wetsbrook, SuEllen Fried, Tanya Bulluck, Tanya Keys, Tara Gregory, Tara Vance, Torree Pederson, Yidan Pei

Implementation Team

- Daina Zolck, Section Director, Injury and Violence Prevention, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Anne Maack, Early Childhood Initiatives Coordinator, Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute
- Vicky Roper, Prevent Child Abuse Kansas Director, Kansas Children's Service League
- Patricia Houston, Prevention Initiatives Specialist, Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute
- Danielle Sass, Senior Epidemiologist, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Yidan Pei, Epidemiologist, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment

Leadership Team

- Ryan Lester, Principal Investigator, Bureau of Health Promotion Director, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Daina Zolck, Section Director, Injury and Violence Prevention, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Rachel Sisson, Bureau of Family Health Director, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Kendra Baldrige, Bureau of Community Health Systems Director, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Cristi Cain, Local Public Health Program Accreditation Coordinator, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment

- Danielle Sass, Senior Epidemiologist, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Yidan Pei, Epidemiologist, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment
- Gail Cozadd, Chief Executive Officer, Kansas Children’s Service League
- Vicky Roper, Prevent Child Abuse Kansas Director, Kansas Children’s Service League
- Anne Maack, Early Childhood Initiatives Coordinator, Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute
- Tara Gregory, Director of the Center for Applied Research and Evaluation, Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute
- Patricia Houston, Prevention Initiatives Specialist

Sponsoring Agency

Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Learn more

kansaspowerofthepositive.org

CHILD CARE SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS TEAM (CC-SIT)

Purpose

The Systems Improvement Team serves in an advisory capacity to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Care Licensing Program. The team is a diverse group including parents, child care providers, business and community partners, child care partners and agency partners.

We are confident that the work of the Team will lead to outcomes that increase the effectiveness of the Child Care Licensing Program and increase the availability of quality child care to meet the needs of Kansas families.

Priorities

- Efforts to increase availability of licensed child care for working families
- Support the regulatory community

Members

Terria Ashby, Mary Baskett, Amanda Billings, Tanya Bulluck, Angie Carnes, Corinne Carr, Deb Cowl, Rhea Daise, Kelly Davydov, Debbie Deere, Tiffany Denton, Elaine Edwards, Lorna Ford, Mary Martha Good, Berni Howe, Olliea Jarrett, Lisa Jeanneret, Paige Jones, Christin Jones, Peggy Kelly, Robyn Kelton, Meghan Kluth, Lori Kravitz, Adrienne Ladd, Mary Murphy, Lindsay Orion, Melissa Patterson, Marci Penner, Patty Peschel, Amanda Petersen, Jennifer Pishny, Heather Ritchey, Mitch Rucker, Tracy Salyer, Brett, Schmidt, Melissa Schoenberger, Amber Sellers, Rachel Sisson, Aleese Stone, Kelly Trussell, Nis Wilbur, Reva Wywadis, Roxanne Zillinger

Learn more

kdheks.gov/bcclr/index.html

FAMILY ADVISORY COUNCIL

Purpose

The Family Advisory Council aims to achieve satisfaction of special health care services for families of infants, children and youth with special health care needs by advising and promoting opportunities for individuals with health care needs/disabilities to exercise self-determination.

Supporting Staff

Kansas Department of Health and Environment Special Health Services

Priorities

The Family Advisory Council launched Supporting You in October of 2018. Sign up at www.SupportingYouKansas.org to become a Support Peer or learn more!

Members

Thelma Adape, Joe Caldwell, Debbie King, Karey Ann Padding, Kacy Seitz, Donna Yadrach, Stephanie Banks, Deanna Gaumer, Cyndy Lenk, Melissa Rodriguez, Cassandra Sines

Sponsoring Agency/Staff

Kansas Department of Health and Environment / Heather Smith, Kayzy Bigler, Genoveva Fernandez

Learn more

kdheks.gov/fac

STATE INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCIL (SICC)

Purpose

The mission of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services is to ensure that a comprehensive service delivery system of integrated services is available in Kansas to all children with, or at risk of, developmental delays from birth through age five and their families.

Priorities

- Address social-emotional development in children with disabilities.
- Explore funding issues and address personnel challenges.
- Support Local Interagency Coordinating Councils.

2019-2020 Members

David Lindeman/Chair, Matthew Connell, Melissa Rooker, Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Laci Reamer, Kate Walter, Laura Smith-Everett, Ann Elliott, Alix Kumer, Karen Pahls, Susan Bowles, Liz Long, Heather Staab, Gary Henault, Nichelle Adams, Natalie McClane, Lisa Collette, Kim Kennedy, Lesli Girard, Laurie Schmitt

Learn more

kansasicc.org

LOCAL INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COUNCILS (LICC)

Purpose

Local Interagency Coordinating Councils, or LICCs, are comprised of community members with a vested interest in an interagency system of service provision for children aged birth to five and their families. LICCs, in their role of advice and assist, are responsible for many things, from child find activities to communication and collaboration among community partners on issues pertinent to young children and their families. LICCs can also help with activities involving public awareness and professional development, in addition to advising the lead agency with matters of policy, resource development, and much more.

To find the LICC in your area, visit: kansasicc.org

STATE HOME VISITING LEADERSHIP TEAM

Purpose

To elevate and sustain the early childhood home visitation system assuring lifelong benefits and values for all Kansas children and families.

Priorities

- Evaluate universal home visitation model
- 2020 Kansas Virtual Home Visiting Summit

Members

Nichelle Adams, Peggy Kelly, Heather Staab, Carrie Akin, Jacki Hempel, JoAnn Henry, Amy Meek, Kelly Hayes, Nis Wilbur, Callie Peace, Brooke Sisson, Leslie Warlen, Shelly Crawford

Partners

University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Kansas Department of Education, Kansas Department of Children and Families, Kansas Head Start Association, Kansas Children's Service League, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, Project Eagle

Learn more

kshomevisiting.org

KANSAS MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH COUNCIL

Purpose

To advise the Secretary of Health and Environment and others on ways to improve the health of families in Kansas, focusing on maternal child health. We envision a state where all are healthy and thriving.

Priorities

- Encourage information exchange and advice on progress of women, infants, children and adolescents
- Create private and public-sector support for improving Maternal Child Health outcomes in Kansas
- Submit an annual report summarizing the Council's work and making recommendations to the Secretary of Health and Environment each year.

Council Members

Kari Harris, Rebecca Adamson, Brenda Bandy, Kourtney Bettinger, Joe Caldwell, Lisa Chaney, Stephanie Coleman, Julia Connellis, Dennis Cooley, Mary Delgado, Stephen Fawcett, Beth Fisher, Peggy Kelly, Scott Latimer, Steve Lauer, Melody McCray-Miller, Patricia McNamar, Brian Pate, Susan Pence, Sharla Smith, Julier Swedlund, Alice Weingarnter, John Wilson, Donna Yadrich, Taryn Zweygardt, Rachel Sisson, Terrie Garrison, Cory Gibson, Phil Griffin, Sara Hortenstine, Charles Hunt, Elain Johannes, Kimber Kasitz, Kasey Sorell, Lori Steelman-Kravitz, David Thomason, Kelsee Torrez, Lisa Williams, Stephainie Wolf, Daina Zolck, Carrie Akin, Taylor Atwood, Kayzy Bigler, Greg Crawford, Geno Fernandez, Jessica Grubbs, Jamie Kim, Cherie Sage, Cari Schmidt, Katie Schoenhoff, Christy Schunn, Pam Shaw, Sookyung Shin, Cassandra Sines

Learn more

mch.org

LINKS TO QUALITY ADVISORY GROUP

Purpose

To assist the Links to Quality program staff in the development and implementation of the quality recognition and improvement statewide system.

Priorities

Transition from pilot to implementation – In July 2021 to bring services into 21 Kansas counties.

Members

Nichelle Adams, Rachel Anno, Michelle Allen, Lori Steelman-Kravitz, Patty Peschel, Leadell Ediger, Heather Staab, Kelli Roehr, Amy Meek, Jackie Counts, Nis Wilbur, Hope Adame, Deb Crawl, Staci Ogle, Corrine Carr, Rebecca Clancy

Sponsoring Agency

Kansas Department for Children and Families

Learn More

[dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Kansas-Quality-Rating-Improvement-System-\(QRIS\).aspx](http://dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Kansas-Quality-Rating-Improvement-System-(QRIS).aspx)

GOVERNOR’S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES PLANNING COUNCIL’S CHILDREN’S SUBCOMMITTEE

Established by [Kansas Statue 39-1605](#)

Purpose

The Children’s Subcommittee is dedicated to maintaining the community-based family driven values of the Kansas children’s public mental health system of care. The subcommittee makes recommendations to improve the Kansas public mental health system and ensure the needs of children and families are met.

Our mission is to promote integrative, strength based, culturally competent, community based, family driven systems of care, which will result in child and family well-being. Vision Our vision is that all Kansas children and their families will have access to essential, high-quality mental health services.

Priorities

- Identify challenges and barriers in the structure and implementation of mental health services for Kansas children, youth, and their families.
- Reduction of fragmentation within children’s mental health system and across providers of children’s mental health services.
- To promote Best Practices, Emerging Practices, and Evidence Based Practices in Children’s Mental Health.

Membership

Each of the Council's Subcommittees includes at least one member of the council and various other interested stakeholders, including consumers and family members. Behavioral Health Services staff serve as liaisons and support to the subcommittees.

The Subcommittees generate recommendations for the Council, the Secretary of KDADS, and the Governor regarding the Mental Health System of Kansas. Once a year, they report these recommendations to the Council body, as well as the Secretaries of relevant state agencies.

Subcommittee Chair

Elizabeth Guhman

Learn more

ks.gov/commissions/behavioral-health/gbhspc

FAMILY FIRST/KANSAS STRONG STATEWIDE INTERAGENCY ADVISORY BOARD

Purpose

Kansas Strong for Children and Families aims to establish a collaborative and effective initiative that develops, implements, and evaluates strategies that will improve safety, permanency, and well-being outcomes, by enhancing agency and court/legal practices, and reducing systemic barriers.

The Kansas Statewide Interagency Advisory Board for Family First Prevention Services and Kansas Strong was formed to achieve better outcomes for Kansas children and families involved with, or at risk of involvement with, the child welfare system. The Committee achieves this goal by overseeing program implementation and addressing systemic factors impacting the state’s prevention service array. Committee membership is comprised of state-level leaders across service sectors impacting safety, permanency, and well-being of children and families

Priorities

- Safety: Ensuring families stay together when safe & appropriate
- Permanency: Ensuring children have timely & permanent families

Partners

KU School of Social Welfare; the Kansas Department for Children and Families; the Kansas Court Improvement Program, Office of Judicial Administration and the Supreme Court Task Force on Permanency Planning; the state’s network of private providers of family preservation and foster care - Cornerstones of Care, DCCCA, KVC Kansas, Saint Francis Ministries, and TFI; the Kansas Family Advisory Network and the Kansas Youth Advisory Council.

Advisory Board Members

Becci Akin, Michelle Allen, SueZanne Bishop, Allison Bowling, Douglas Bowman, Melissa Briggs, Andy Brown, Robert Butcher, Kaela Byers, Meghan Cizek, Amy Campbell, Chad Childs, Mark Dupree, Ariele Erwine, Teri Garstka, Morgan Hall, Kellie Hans Reid, Caroline Hastings, Kelly Hayes, Kristalle Hedrick, Gary Henault, Kellie Hogan, Kyle Kessler, Emily Killough, Kerrie Lonard, Kelli Mark, Amy Mendenhall, Megan Milner, Rany Murray, Cristin Oswald, Callie Peace, Becky Peters, Kathy Ray, Melissa Rooker, Kristina Scott, Nina Shaw-Woody, Sandra Shopteese, Jonathan Smith, Brenda Soto, Kimberly Spearman, Lana Walsh, Nis Wilbur

Learn more

socwel.ku.edu/ksstrong

dcf.ks.gov/services/PPS/Documents/Other/IVE_Prevention_Plan.pdf

GOVERNOR’S COUNCIL ON EDUCATION EARLY CHILDHOOD SUBCOMMITTEE

Established by [Kansas Executive Order 19-03](#)

Purpose

The Governor's Council on Education brings together stakeholders in the education, child welfare, labor, advocacy, and the businesses community to improve our schools, enhance workforce development, and stimulate economic growth in Kansas.

Priorities

- Work together to develop plans to improve the education outcomes in Kansas

- Look for ways to improve early childhood opportunities, create productive relationship between the education and business communities, promote an entrepreneurial economy and develop partnerships to address the workforce needs of Kansas businesses

Members

This Education Council consists of a slate of members who serve on various working groups. The Early Childhood Subcommittee currently has the following members: Melissa Rooker, John Wilson, Dr. Mary Sinclair, Mark Desetti, Jim Porter, Rebekah Gaston (staff), Amanda Petersen (staff)

Learn More

kansasregents.org/about/governors-education-council

KANSAS DIVISION FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD

Kris Ketterl, President

Purpose

The Kansas Division for Early Childhood promotes the education of young children with exceptional needs and encourages and promotes professional growth and research as a means of better understanding the unique needs related to young exceptional children.

Priorities

- Opportunities to interact, collaborate and communicate with others in the field
- Up-to-date information on new findings in research, policy, current issues and best practices
- Reduced rates for the KDEC annual conference

Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member, you may e-mail Cristina Hargitt, KDEC chair, hargittc@usd320.com. To become a member, individuals first need to become a member of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) and the Division for Early Childhood (DEC). Once the individual has joined CEC and DEC, they will automatically become a member of KDEC

Appointed Board Members

Katrina Edgerton, Augusta Browning, Tammy Wallin, Kris Pedersen, Jennifer Oborny

Ex-Officio Board Members

David Lindeman, Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Jordan Christian, Heather Staab, Julie Rand, Peggy Kemp

Learn more

kdec.org

KANSAS ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG CHILDREN (KSAEYC)

Berni Howe, President

Purpose

The Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children is a non-profit association whose members represent a diverse range of services for children. KSAEYC is affiliated with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), which provides educational resources for adults committed to improving the quality and availability of services for children from birth through age 8.... the critical years of development.

Priorities

- Bringing together all persons interested in young children
- Encouraging professional development of all persons employed in the care and education of young children
- Providing continuing professional development opportunities for early childhood education professionals
- Making the public aware of the needs of young children
- Collaborating with other agencies on behalf of young children

Membership

http://www.kdec.org/documents/CEC_XceptionalMembershipOptions.pdf

Executive Officers

Berni Howe, Michelle Gilbert, Jennifer Oborny, Dawn Brown, Tristen Cope, Shanna Todd

Member-at-Large Positions

Amy Cochran, Caroline Teter, Laney Roghs, Megan Smith, Sarah Goertz, Deb Cowl, Melissa Mosher, Cheryl Peters, Keeleigh Smith, Cecelia Courter

Chapter Representatives

Amy Gottschamer, Sam Schissler, Christina Turner, Angela Hagan, Ann Gascon, Brett Schmidt

Student Representative

Janelle Dean

Administrator

Kelsey Trower

Learn More

kaeyc.net

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF MENTAL HEALTH (KAIMH)

KAIMH is a 501C3 non-profit and is an affiliate of the World Association for Infant Mental Health.

Purpose

It is KAIMH's mission to advance the field of infant and early childhood mental health. This is accomplished through professional recognition and connection, providing education opportunities, and promoting and advocating for public policies that advance the importance of social and emotional development of infants and young children.

Priorities

- To encourage the realization that infancy is a critical period in the psychosocial/emotional development of individuals
- To disseminate knowledge to its members as well as to combat the sense of isolation of those disciplines working in the infancy field
- To provide information to the general public, which will enhance awareness and bring to public attention the psychosocial/emotional needs of children in the first years of life.

Membership

kaimh.org/membership

cdn.kaimh.org/uploads/2020/04/KAIMH_Brochure.pdf

At Large Directors

Tracie Lansing, Suzanne Chapel-Miller, Rich Minder, Rick Gaskill, Theresa Hitt

Board Members Serving as Committee Chairpersons

Linda Logan, Peggy Kemp, Lana Messner, Tammy Wallin, Ammittia Parker

Learn more

kaimh.org

KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS ASSOCIATION (KPATA)

Callie Peace – Executive Director

Purpose

To be a leading force in the support, education and expansion of Kansas Parents as Teachers (PAT) model affiliate programs so that all Kansas children will develop to their fullest potential.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA) advocates for policies that support parents with young children. We help national, state and local decision-makers understand the important role parent education and family support play in a child's development.

Priorities

- KPATA strives to heighten visibility of quality parent education in the state by partnering with policy leadership to ensure positive growth and development of children, support for parents and

- effective systems for equitable access to quality early childhood and parent education programs statewide.
- KPATA supports Parents as Teachers model affiliate programs with school districts and within other program delivery systems by facilitating trainings and continuing education opportunities. Additionally, the organization supports the development of quality supervisors and coordinators throughout the state providing opportunities for networking and training.
- KPATA supports the drive towards quality excellence for Parents as Teachers model affiliates in Kansas by supporting Quality Endorsement through Parents as Teachers National Center.

Membership

Open to anyone who believes in the Mission and Purposes of KPATA. <https://kpata.org/membership/>

Board of Directors

Michelle Kelly, Cammi Braden, Jacki Himpel, Rebecca Stewart, Kicia Wagner, Leslie Sissel, Lori Portelli, Tammy Jilka, Jennifer Bruns, Jennifer Whitney, Brittany Denson, Leslie Ewy, Nis Wilbur

Learn more

kpata.org

KANSAS HEAD START ASSOCIATION (KSHA)

Peggy Kelly – Executive Director

Purpose

Kansas leads the nation in early childhood learning for the success of every family.

Priorities

- To raise the advocacy voice of Head Start parents, programs and partners through professional development, collaboration and innovative leadership
- Collaboration among all partners is key to ensuring the systems that support children and families are caring, inclusive, responsive and efficient with limited resources.
- Breaking barriers for families
- Providing education to broaden understanding of the impact of Head Start in the local community
- Developing leadership among families and programs
- Creating and supporting a quality early childhood workforce

Partners

Kansas Department of Children and Families, Aetna, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas Foundation, Constructive Playthings, Discount School Supply, Learning Genie, Sunflower Health Plan, United Healthcare

Learn more

ksheadstart.org

THE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Rachel Marsh - Executive Director

Purpose

The Children's Alliance seeks to drive system-level change to strengthen children and families in Kansas through education, networking, and advocacy. Established in 1954, the association serves as a united voice for providing the highest quality care to children and families involved with child and family services across the state. We engage the experiences and expertise of our private, non-profit members to elevate the needs and voices of children and families in Kansas.

The Children's Alliance leads in training foster parents, kinship families, and biological families in understanding and navigating the child welfare system in Kansas and across the United States. Through the Model Approach to Partnerships in Parenting (MAPP) family of training curriculum, our current pilot with the National Training and Development Curriculum for foster and adoptive parents, and engagement with stakeholders in Kansas and around the country, the Children's Alliance is a leader in training and support for caregivers in the child welfare system.

Priorities

- Family Support & Preservation
- Foster Care
- Adoption & Permanency
- Mental Health
- Residential Housing & Treatment
- Prevention Programs
- Addiction Treatment
- Services to Victims of Human Trafficking

Membership

CALM Child Placing Agency, The Children's Shelter Inc., Cornerstones of Care, DCCA, Eckerd Connects, Ember Hope Youthville, Florence Crittenton, FosterAdopt Connect, Kansas Children's Service League, Kids TLC, KVC, Prairie Band Potawatomie Nation, Restoration Family Services, Saint Francis Family Ministries, Wichita Children's Home

Learn more

childally.org

KANSAS BREASTFEEDING COALITION

Treva Smith / Brenda Bandy – Co-Executive Directors

Purpose

The mission of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. is to improve the health and well-being of Kansans by working collaboratively to promote, protect and support breastfeeding. The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. envisions a time to come in which breastfeeding is normal and supported throughout Kansas.

Priorities

- Equity: Racial & Ethnic / Geographical / LGBTQIA
- Breastfeeding Education Courses
- Communities Supporting Breastfeeding
- Workplace & School: Support for Breastfeeding Employees & Students
- Public Breastfeeding
- Child Care Provider Education
- Prenatal Breastfeeding Education

Member Sections

To join, simply email info@ksbreastfeeding.org to be added to the Section roster. You will receive meeting agendas, reminders, and notes which include access to the meeting recordings.

Child Care Section Partners

Child Care Aware of Kansas: ks.childcareaware.org

Christ the King Early Childhood Education: facebook.com/CTKTopekaEEC

Envision Child Development Center: envisionus.com/How-We-Help/Child-Development

Kansas Association for the Education of Young Children: kaeyc.net

Kansas Department for Children and Families: dcf.ks.gov/Pages/default.aspx

Kansas Childcare Training Opportunities, Inc. (KCCTO): kccto.org/register/online-course-registration

Kansas Department of Education: kn-eat.org/CACFP/CACFP_Menu/CACFP_Home.htm

Kansas Head Start Association: ksheadstart.org

Wichita State University Child Development Center: wichita.edu/childdevelopmentcenter

Public Health Partners

Directory of programs across Kansas that support pregnant women, mothers and their children and how they integrate breastfeeding: ksbreastfeeding.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Inventory-of-KS-Public-Health-Programs-Serving-Families-8.9.2019.pdf

Local Breastfeeding Coalitions

Check out “Tools for Coalitions” for resources and tools for local breastfeeding coalitions: ksbreastfeeding.org/tools-for-coalitions

Hospitals

The Hospital Section meets online from 12-1 pm on the 4th Tuesday of odd number months. Email info@ksbreastfeeding.org to request to be added to the Hospital Section.

EARLY CHILDHOOD HIGHER-EDUCATION OPTIONS (ECHO)

Purpose

ECHO is a consortium of the 4-year teacher training programs in Kansas designed to collaboratively support and enhance the development and delivery of training programs to meet the standards of the Kansas early childhood unified license (ECU).

Current Priorities

- Promote individual levels of involvement and participation by colleges/universities for the delivery of professional development courses addressing the ECU teacher standards
- Address the need in Kansas for the demand of educators for young children
- Support the delivery of preservice programs by individual colleges/universities
- Provide a forum for scholarly discussion and collaborative work

Members

Mallory Arellano, Marc Daczewitz, Mary DeLuccie, Bronwyn Fees, Jennifer Francois, Amy Hogan, Eva Horn, Kim Kennedy, Jennie Lauber, David Lindeman, Nili Luo, Judith McConnell-Farmer, Stephanie Parks, Julie Rand, Laney Roths, Heather Staab, Jennifer Stone, Sara Stroup, Amber Tankersley, Duane Whitbeck, Marti York

Learn More

echo.lsi.ku.edu

EARLY CHILDHOOD QUALITY INSTRUCTION PARTNERS (EQIP)

Purpose

To provide a platform for collaboration among the early childhood community college programs across the state and the related state agencies.

Priorities

- Promote the advancement of the child care workforce by increasing participation and completion of certificate and associate degree programs which will strengthen the state's economy.
- Maintain collaborative community college programs that are connected to business and industry needs and priorities.

Membership

- Beth Toland, Allen Community College
- Roni Wertz, Barton Community College
- Teresa Thompson, Butler Community College
- Kris Nicholson, Child Care Aware of Kansas
- Joan Robison, Cloud Community College
- Janet Davison, Cowley Community College
- Judy Golden, Department of Children and Families, Child Care Development Funds
- Kim Kennedy, Department of Children and Families, Head Start Collaboration

- Megan Smith, Department of Children and Families, Links to Quality
- Lorna Ford, Dodge City Community College
- Courtney Morris, Garden City Community College
- Erin Shaw, Highland Community College
- Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
- Diana Hurst, Johnson County Community College
- Patty Peschel, KCCTO
- Dan Stluka, Kansas City Kansas Community College
- Mary Murphy, KDHE
- Regina Decker, Labette County Community College
- Cathy Mong, Wichita Public Schools

The **Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel** advises the Children's Cabinet as outlined in [Kansas Executive Order 20-02](#). Visit [the Children's Cabinet website](#) to learn more. Contact Debbie Deere ddeere@ksde.org if you have updates or additional groups/information to add to the directory.