

# EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

FY22 Summary and Recommendation for Approval June 4, 2021



- **Panel Chair:** Amanda Petersen, Early Childhood Director, Kansas State Department of Education
- **Panel Term:** One-Year Term from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022
- **Meeting Details:** Monthly Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

## Overview of Review Process and Timeline

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- Feb 6, 2020**      Executive Order 20-02 from Governor Laura Kelly reorganizing the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council. This established the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund as the State Advisory Council on Children’s Education and Care (per federal Head Start legislation), and the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel as a volunteer group designated and determined by the Children’s Cabinet.
- Apr 10 – May 1, 2021**      Application period to apply for available Recommendations Panel positions. Application information was listed on the Children’s Cabinet website and promoted at the Early Childhood Recommendation Panel April 16 meeting, on biweekly webinars and in the *All In for Kansas Kids* weekly email update. Panel support staff outreach to fill identified gaps. Available positions included:
- Representative(s) of local school districts
  - Representative(s) of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas
  - Representative(s) of local providers of early childhood education and development services
  - Representative(s) from Head Start agencies located in the State of Kansas, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs
  - Parent(s) of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas
  - Other representatives determined to be relevant by the Cabinet and as determined by the Governor
- May 1 – 10**      Eligible applications reviewed by the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel support staff

- May 10 - 20** Proposed Recommendations Panel Slate reviewed by members of the Kansas Early Childhood State Directors Team.
- May 24** Final Selection of the Recommendations Panel Slate, including selection of Chair, to present to the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board for discussion and approval.
- Jun 4** Decision by Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board on proposed Recommendations Panel Slate.
- June 5 - 10** Pending Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board approval, Panel positions announced and communicated.
- July 1** New members begin their one-year term, July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.

## FY22 Recommendations Panel Slate

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Representative(s) of the Kansas Department for Children and Families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Nichelle Adams</b>, Kansas Department for Children and Families</li> <li><b>*Rachel Anno</b>, Kansas Department for Children and Families</li> </ul>
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Representative(s) of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Lorrena (Lori) Kravitz</b>, Kansas Department of Health and Environment</li> <li><b>*Heather Staab</b>, Kansas Department of Health and Environment</li> <li><b>*Kelli Mark</b>, Kansas Department of Health and Environment</li> </ul>
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Representative(s) of the Kansas State Department of Education, early childhood education and early childhood special education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Natalie McClane</b>, Kansas State Department of Education</li> <li><b>*Amanda Petersen - CHAIR</b>, Kansas State Department of Education</li> </ul>
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Representative(s) of local school districts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Sheila Hermocillo</b>, Special Education–Disability Specialist, USD 443 Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center</li> <li><b>Esther Kottwitz</b>, Early Childhood Coordinator, USD 497</li> </ul>
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Representative(s) of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>*Mallory Arellano</b>, Assistant Professor of Education / Early Childhood Unified Coordinator, Newman University</li> <li><b>*Jennifer Forker</b>, Early Childhood Education Instructor, Hutchinson Community College</li> <li><b>Jennifer Francois</b>, Assistant Professor / Director of Kansas Institute of Early Childhood Education</li> <li><b>*Eva Horn</b>, Professor of Special Education, University of Kansas</li> <li><b>*David Lindeman</b>, Director, KU Life Span Institute–Parsons</li> </ul>
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Representative(s) of local providers of early childhood education and development services

**\*Emily Barnes**, Self-employed In-home Family Child Care Provider, Barnes Childcare  
**Amanda Billings**, Group Daycare Home Provider, Mayor - Portis  
**\*Amy Gottschamer**, Executive Director, Googols of Learning Child Development Center  
**\*Gail Cozadd**, Chief Executive Officer, Kansas Children's Service League  
**Jeremy Fite**, Director, Hilltop Child Development Center **Tabitha Franklin**, Assistant Director, Pre-K Teacher, Mid-America, KDHE Advisory Board  
**Audra Kenneson**, Mental Health Coordinator, Rainbows United  
**Lisa Schmidt**, Early Childhood Center Director, Women's Community Y  
**\*Cornelia Stevens**, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers

Representative(s) from Head Start agencies located in Kansas

**\*Jennifer Adhima**, Associate Director, Project Eagle

State Director of Head Start Collaboration

**\*Kim Kennedy**, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Parent of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas

**\*Cassandra Sines**, Parent Leader  
**Crystal Henry**, Start Young Manager, The Family Conservancy

Other

**\*Marites Altuna**, Deaf-Blind Project Director, Kansas State School for the Blind  
**\*Tanya Bulluck**, Child Care and Referral Director, Child Start Inc.  
**Shelly Crome**, Communities in Schools Mid-America  
**Kelly Davydov**, Executive Director, Child Care Aware of Kansas  
**\*Rachele FioRito**, Collective Impact Manager, United Way of the Plains  
**Malissa Martin**, President-CEO, Community in Schools Mid-America  
**\*Amy Meek**, Early Childhood Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund  
**Lucas Neese**, Lindsborg Assistant City Administrator, Project Director - Sprout House Learning  
**Callie Peace**, Executive Director, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association  
**\*Patty Peschel**, Director, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities  
**Dannah Schatz**, Triple P Coordinator, Russell Child Development Center  
**\*Christi Smith**, Family Preservation Director, DCCCA  
**Jenny Welch Buller**, KU Center for Public Partnerships & Research  
**\*Reva Wywadis**, Executive Director, ERC Resource & Referral / Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

*\*2020-2021 Panel Member*