

Early Childhood Stakeholder Meeting Notes

4.9.21

Hannah McGahey opened the meeting welcoming attendees, and showcasing the most current Kansas COVID-19 Vaccination Data as the bright spot.

- **Kansas COVID-19 Data**
 - <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/158/Data>
 - **Results as of 4/7/2021 at 11:00am**
- **People Vaccinated with One Dose:**
 - 931,653
- **Total Doses Reported as Administered:**
 - 1,435,128
- **Percent of Kansans Vaccinated with One Dose:**
 - 32.0%
 - <https://www.kansasvaccine.gov/160/Find-My-Vaccine>

Hannah provided several updates in the early childhood system including April being Child Abuse Prevention Month, Funding Opportunities available, Follow-up on the Our Tomorrows Rural Sensemaking Session, Anti-Bias Resources available for Early Childhood, and the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) :

- **April is Child Abuse Prevention Month**
 - Since 1983 – April has been recognized as National Child Abuse Prevention Month.
 - This month, and throughout the year, we will work to raise awareness and increase community supports for children and families.
 - Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL) offers [pinwheels and pinwheel](#) pins for purchase.
 - Plant a pinwheel! Go to <https://pinwheels.preventchildabuse.org/> to plant your virtual pinwheel. Customize it with a dedication, personal message, or a variety of colors. Select "Prevent Child Abuse Kansas to donate to KCSL.
 - <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/preventing/preventionmonth/>
- **Funding Opportunities!**
 - **2021 Breastfeeding Capacity Grants**

- [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) due by 5:00 p.m., May 3, 2021
 - Contact the KBC at info@breastfeeding.org with questions
- **Child Care Impact Grants**
 - Established by Child Care Aware of Kansas in partnership with Kansas Departments of Health and Environment and Children and Families
 - Intended to provide financial support for eligible child care programs to address facility and other demonstrated needs related to COVID-19 mitigation, health, and safety.
 - Funds may be used for minor renovations or other provided activities/expenses.
 - For more information, please visit the [Child Care Aware of Kansas website](#).
- **Our Tomorrows Rural SenseMaking Session**
 - Over 60 individuals attended
 - Representation from child-care providers, home visiting, economic development, breastfeeding coalitions, and others
 - 27 Action Lab Applications were submitted
 - KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research are reviewing applications
 - *Always feel free to share stories at <https://ourtomorro.ws/CPPR>*
- **Anti-Bias Resource for Early Childhood**
 - ***Reflecting on Anti-bias Education in Action: The Early Years*** film is available now to support staff and children.
 - Features vignettes of anti-bias strategies in early childhood classrooms interspersed with teachers reflecting on their practice.
 - Seeks to demonstrate the importance of teacher reflection on identity, context, and practice in anti-bias education.
 - **Free, 48 minutes, and available to stream online.**
 - Visit the film's site: <https://www.antibiasleadersece.com/> and view the Official Trailer: <https://player.vimeo.com/video/521574776>.
- **Share Your Opinion!**

- **Ages and Stages Questionnaire(ASQ)** is an important screening tool to support children’s developmental health, and we want to help our practitioners better understand and access the tool.
- Share your thoughts and tell us about your interest in obtaining continuing education credits (CEUs) through ASQ trainings.
- Survey link: <https://us20.list-manage.com/survey?u=cddd4c0e3c98108578414822f&id=7ea1af1ff7&tribution=false&e=6d7bf41d6c>
- Feedback is anonymous.

Carla Whiteside-Hicks, from the Kansas Department for Children and Families, spoke on the highlights from the Child Care Development Fund State Plan feedback sessions, as well as gave an update on the plan moving forward.

- **COVID-19 amplified Needs Assessment findings, and opportunities**
 - Increased wages, compensation tied to recognition, career pathways and advancement opportunities
 - Access, capacity-building needs at individual provider *and* community-level
 - Providers are a primary trusted source of information for families during pandemic
- **Explore/expand/build upon models that are working**
 - Professional networks and peer support models
 - Start-up and licensing incentives
 - Shared service models, TEACH, WAGE\$, home-grown grassroots solutions
- **Streamline, simplify processes, and expand child care assistance awareness**
- **Elevate/expand anti-bias education, diversity needs**
- **Next Steps:**
 - Finalize CCDF plan for formal public hearing, submit plan
 - Continue to research requests, solutions
 - Apply feedback, ideas to ongoing planning
 - Assess feedback process for ongoing planning needs

Meghan Kluth, from The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR), provided an overview, and introduced four All In For Kansas Kids Quality Subgrant recipients who spoke on their current work with their award funding.

- **In November 2020, 62 Quality Subgrants were awarded across five categories, totaling \$2.2 million**
 - Child Care Access – 12
 - Rural Child Care – 13
 - Connect Families to Services – 12
 - Kindergarten Readiness – 1
 - Improve Quality of Care – 24
- **Common Themes and Activities Funded**
 - Increasing capacity and quality of child care services by expanding service hours, providing culturally responsive materials, and increasing accessibility for children with special health care needs
 - Increasing awareness of available community resources through community outreach and new and expanded collaborations
 - Addressing child care provider turnover and recruitment by offering bonus stipends and/or professional development opportunities

Ellsworth Childcare and Learning Center (Ellsworth, KS)

- Through their Improve Quality of Care Subgrant, the Center trained staff on the FLIP IT strategy that is used to address challenging behaviors.
- “The current training our staff is taking has made such a difference in classroom behaviors already. Each teacher has been using the skills and children are responding so great! This has absolutely increased emotional awareness and the quality of care being provided.” – Meghan Goding, Executive Director

Child Care Access grant awarded to Child Care Aware® of Eastern Kansas.

- Focus is to add infant and toddler capacity in 3 communities: Chanute, Ottawa, and the Hi-Crest area of Topeka.
- In year 1, Chanute and Ottawa concentrated on the retention of current programs serving infants and toddlers, and designed a local grant program for needed equipment and materials. Local leadership teams were formed to design the process, score applications and make funding decisions. Hi-Crest Topeka focused on adding new infant and toddler slots as they launched a new licensed child care center, the SENT Prep Academy.
- In year 2, Chanute and Ottawa will focus on adding new infant and toddler slots. Hi-Crest will be conducting some employer surveys to assess the need of expanded hours of care to serve families working non-traditional hours.
- One exciting aspect of the work is the launch of an Early Childhood Workforce Center at the SENT Prep Academy site, which will recruit and

provide training people interested in a career in child care. The scheduled launch of this effort is September 2021.

- **Reva Wywadis**
 - **E-mail:** reva@east.ks.childcareaware.org
 - **Phone:** 785-357-5171
 - **Website:** east.ks.childcareaware.org

KC Healthy Kids

- KC Healthy Kids advances the health and well-being of children and families through community-driven initiatives and advocacy where they live, learn, work and play.
- Trauma Informed Care for Early Childhood Educators
 - 6 hours or 3 2-hour presentations
- Deep Dive Into the Impact of Trauma
 - 3 hours
- Deep Dive Into the Importance of Self-care
 - 3 hours
- Early Childhood Educators' Questions Answered
 - 3 hours
- Past History
 - *We carry our histories with us and how we have interpreted that history determines how we are going to perceive the events in our lives.*
 - *Our behaviors are the result of what has happened to us. Behaviors are adaptations we have made to get our needs met.*
 - *Children's challenging behaviors, which can include behavioral or emotional dysregulation, learning problems and difficulty with relationships, are very likely reactions to trauma. Using a trauma informed lens, the best approach to use is being compassionate and providing sensitive care.*
- Trauma Awareness Principles
 - Safety
 - Trustworthiness through transparency
 - Choice and voice
 - Collaboration
 - Empowerment
- Additional Topics
 - Trauma Reactions
 - Attachment

- Emotional/Social Development
- How the Brain Works when Overwhelmed
- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Agency
- **Nancy C. Osborn, Ph.D.**
 - **Psychologist/Trainer**
 - **KC Healthy Kids.**
 - ncosborn@kchealthykids.org
 - **913 449 4941**

LiveWell Northwest Kansas

- Rural Child Care Subgrant
- Build community-based model to address childcare
- Partnership with Child Care Aware of Kansas
- Creation of county stakeholder group
- Community Participation and Feedback
- **Travis Rickford**
 - **E-mail:** travisr@nwksprevention.com
 - **Phone:** 785-460-8177
 - **Website:** www.livewellnwks.org

Debbie Deere presented on the completion and request for dissemination of the Kindergarten Transitions Toolkit. An overview was provided detailing the progress to date with the project:

- **December 2020:**
 - Children’s Cabinet accepted this toolkit to be used in communities throughout Kansas to support successful Kindergarten Transitions
 - At the Early Childhood Stakeholder’s Group Meeting, feedback was collected to be used in developing a formal and final dissemination plan for the statewide distribution of this toolkit.
- **January/February/March :**
 - Kindergarten Transitions Workgroup members met to design a “Benefits” page, and an introductory email template to be included for consistent messaging.
 - Design for final toolkit to live on the Cabinet's website took place.
 - April 2021:
 - Promotion/Dissemination of this Toolkit is implemented.
- **Toolkit:**
 - The final toolkit is now available and living on the Children’s Cabinet website.
 - <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/project/mou-toolkit/>
 - Please reference this toolkit and share out, as needed, to any of your early childhood partners.
- **This toolkit is available for dissemination and use by the following:**

- Early childhood service providers, local and state partners, and all stakeholders for use of the Kindergarten Transitions toolkit in their communities.
- Early childhood stakeholders, to include state partners, organizations, and initiatives, in the Kansas mixed-delivery early childhood system, for the purpose of disseminating the toolkit for use throughout Kansas communities.

Debbie informed attendees that the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel applications were opening, and detailed the process of which to apply. An overview was provided giving attendees background information on the Panel, and its role in the early childhood system:

- **BACKGROUND/HISTORY**

- In early 2020, by Executive Order 20-02, Governor Laura Kelly designated the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund as the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council. The Children's Cabinet provides oversight for early childhood systems building, and the implementation of the currently ongoing 5-year All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan.
- Executive Order 20-02, also states that "the Cabinet shall convene and maintain a panel of volunteers ("the Panel") with demonstrable early childhood expertise to operate at the pleasure of the Cabinet in an advisory role". The Cabinet annually appoints members to a one-year term of service, with the option to re-appoint or replace members.
- The Children's Cabinet accepted applications, appointed members, and the first Recommendations Panel meeting was held in July 2020.
- The application process takes place annually, beginning in April each year, with the final slate of applicants presented to the Children's Cabinet for approval at their June meeting.
- The Panel meets monthly on the **3rd Friday of each month from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

- **Application Process**

- Early Childhood Recommendation Panel 2021-22 membership applications will be accepted from April 10 - May 1, 2021 on the Children's Cabinet website:
 - Any Kansan interested in applying is welcome.
 - All applications will be reviewed, and membership recommendations will be presented to the Children's Cabinet for approval at the June 4, 2021 meeting.
- The membership year will extend from July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022.
- Apply: <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/apply-for-the-early-childhood-recommendations-panel/>
- Questions? Contact Debbie Deere: ddeere@ksde.org

Hannah McGahey wrapped the meeting up with the schedule of upcoming meetings:

- **Biweekly Webinars**
 - Every other Wednesday at noon.
 - Register on the Children's Cabinet website.
- **Recommendations Panel: April 16 – 9:00 a.m. via Zoom (third Friday of the month beginning at 9:00 a.m.)**
- **Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund:**
 - June 4, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. / Stakeholders Group 1:30 – 3 p.m.
 - All meetings will be held virtually until further notice.