

Early Childhood Stakeholder Meeting Notes

6.4.21

Hannah McGahey opened the meeting welcoming attendees, and highlighting the passing of the [Kansas Promise Scholarship Act 2021 HB 2064](#).

- Scholarship opportunity for eligible students pursuing a two-year degree in one of four fields of study including **Early childhood education and development**
- Eligible programs include public community colleges, public technical colleges, and other institutions that offer eligible programs
- Scholarship includes amount of tuition, required fees, books, and required materials

Hannah provided several updates in the early childhood system including the release of the 2020 Child Care Supply Demand Report, ASQ Training Sessions, Free Child Abuse Prevention Trainings, Kindergarten Transitions Toolkit, and Hunter & Scout's Poison Patrol:

- **2020 Child Care Supply Demand Report**
 - **Challenges of Child Care in a Pandemic**
 - Illustrated the difficulty of navigating decisions around closure
 - Impact of closures on Family Child Care and overall capacity within the state of Kansas
 - Articulates public conversations about ECCE as a critical component of the workforce infrastructure
 - Additional demand stressors on an already taxed system
 - [Full report](#)
- **ASQ Training Sessions**
 - **ASQ[®]-3**
 - June 22, 2021
 - 5-8 pm
 - [Registration link](#)
 - **ASQ[®]: SE-2**
 - June 24, 2021
 - 5-8 pm
 - [Registration link](#)
- **Free Child Abuse Prevention Trainings**
 - **Examples of free child abuse prevention trainings for the month of June**
 - **Adverse Childhood Experiences**
 - Friday, June 18, 2021 – 11:00am – 12:00pm

- **Child Abuse and Neglect Recognition and Reporting** (Mandated Reporter Training)
 - Wednesday, June 23, 2021 – 11:00am – 12:00pm
- For a current schedule of all trainings through July and descriptions, and to register, please find the listing at this [Kansas Children's Service League webpage](#). These trainings are all KDHE approved for child care licensing hours, and all participants will receive certificates of attendance.
- **Kindergarten Transitions Toolkit**
 - We continue to ask for your help in using and/or disseminating this toolkit throughout your early childhood networks in Kansas
 - Visit [the kit and MOUs](#).
 - Use this [email template](#) to share widely!
- **Hunter & Scout's Poison Patrol**
 - **Collaboration between Poison Control and KDHE Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program**
 - Free [educational video](#) to teach children about the lead poisoning prevention

Debbie Deere provided an overview and update on the status of the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel applications for the 2021-2022 year.

- Applications were accepted from April 10 – May 1 of this year for a one-year term beginning on July 1, 2021.
- The Children's Cabinet was presented with a slate of appointees to consider for approval at their meeting this morning. Those appointees were approved.
- The new appointees represent:
 - State agencies serving families & children in Kansas
 - Center based and family home childcare providers
 - Local school districts and higher education institutions
 - Kansas Head Start
 - Organizations that provide early childhood services, education, and training
 - Community leaders
 - Parents of young children currently receiving early childhood services in Kansas
- **State Agency Appointees**
 - Amanda Petersen, *KSDE*, **Panel Chair**
 - Nichelle Adams, *DCF*
 - Rachel Anno, *DCF*

- Amy Meek, *Children's Cabinet*
- Kim Kennedy, *DCF*
- Lorrena (Lori) Kravitz, *KDHE*
- Kelli Mark, *KDHE*
- Natalie McClane, *KSDE*
- Heather Staab, *KDHE*
- **General Appointees**
 - Jennifer Adhima, *Project Eagle*
 - Marites Altuna, *Kansas State School for the Blind*
 - Mallory Arellano, *Newman University*
 - Emily Barnes, *Barnes Childcare*
 - Amanda Billings, *Child Care Provider*
 - Tanya Bulluck, *Child Start, Inc.*
 - Shelly Crome, *Community in Schools Mid-America*
 - Gail Cozadd, *Kansas Children's Service League*
 - Kelly Davydov, *Child Care Aware of Kansas*
 - Rachele FioRito, *United Way of the Plains*
 - Jeremy Fite, *Hilltop CDC*
 - Jennifer Forker, *Hutchinson CC*
 - Jennifer Francois, *Kansas Institute of Early Childhood Education*
 - Tabitha Franklin, *Mid-America*
 - Amy Gottschamer, *Googols of Learning Child Development Center*
 - Crystal Henry, *The Family Conservancy*
 - Sheila Hermocillo, *USD 443*
 - Eva Horn, *KU*
 - Audra Kenneson, *Rainbows United*
 - Esther Kottwitz, *USD 497*
 - David Lindeman, *KU Life Span Institute*
 - Malissa Martin, *Community in Schools Mid-America*

- Lucas Neese, *Sprout House Learning*
- Callie Peace, *KPAT*
- Patty Peschel, *KCCTO*
- Dannah Schatz, *RCDC*
- Lisa Schmidt, *Women's Community Y*
- Cassandra Sines, *Parent Leader*
- Christi Smith, *DCCCA*
- Cornelia Stevens, *TOP Early Learning Centers*
- Reva Wywadis, *Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas*

Meg Fuehne, from the Family Conservancy, presented the Early Childhood Job Board that is now active for employers and job-seekers to utilize in finding quality jobs and employees. Fuehne shared her screen and showed attendees how to search postings and how to post their own openings.

Pamela Noble from Kansas Children's Service League reminded attendees of the upcoming Parent Leadership Conference that will be held virtually July 27-July 29. Starting July 1, watch recorded sessions, visit exhibit booths, learn from Advocacy in Action parents, and network with other parents. Don't miss special live evening sessions July 27-29 featuring keynote speakers, Q&A sessions with presenters, a Parent Café on Positive Childhood Experiences and Parent Testimony. Register now! Visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-virtual-parent-leadership-conference-tickets-154411162945> to sign up and see full conference details. Incentives provided for parents who attend all three live evening sessions July 27-29

Hannah provided stakeholders with updates regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, and the role of each in the *All In For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan, specifically in Goal 6: Workforce in Strategy 6.3 Support diversity, equity, and inclusion in the early childhood care and education workforce.

Hannah noted current initiatives to increase efforts of diversity, equity, and inclusion, including; bi-weekly webinars, weekly emails, social media, Our Tomorrows, Online Share Form, and subgrant funding opportunities.

Meghan Kluth from KU Center for Public Partnerships and Research introduced quality subgrant recipients who shared out initiatives they are working on in the areas of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Common themes and activities that were funding with the subgrants include:

- 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.

Amy Gottschamer, Executive Director of Googols of Learning Child Development Center, spoke on the Anti-Bias Education (ABA) Project that Googols is using the subgrant funds to promote. This project is designed to education staff and provide needed supports and materials to our program to deliver culturally appropriate services to children and families and bring an equity, diversity, and inclusivity lens to all that is done. Professional development training is provided through Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas, and ABE toys, books and materials are available for use. Outside coaching through Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas is given with goal-setting observations, feedback sessions, and administrative coaching is also available.

The main guide used for these initiatives was the Anti-Bias Education for Young Children and Ourselves, 2nd ed. by the National Association for the Education of Young Children. The goals of anti-bias education are, 1. Identity, 2. Diversity, 3. Justice, and 4. Activism. The strategies include:

- Resource books in all classrooms
- Formal professional development trainings
- Monthly meetings to introduce new content and strategies/activities
- Goal-setting, intentional lesson planning activities, observations, and feedback meetings
- Sharing of stories and evaluation of current status
- Creation of an Anti-Bias Team

In Year Two of the grant Googols of Learning plans to:

- Add ten more classrooms (5-6 programs), including materials
- Include centers and family-based child care
- Goal-setting, intentional lesson planning activities, observations, and feedback meetings
- Scheduling professional development for all participating providers (up to 50)
- Planning for sustainability and growth

Kim Polson, Executive Director of Community Children's Center, presented on the subgrant project related to the expansion of trauma informed education in the early childhood community. The project has been underway for six months with the development of the ASRI Trauma Series. The ASRI Trauma Series has three goal areas, which are:

- To develop and provide trauma informed training to early childhood care/education professionals and other service providers
- To equip participants to recognize, assess, and respond to trauma's impact on the social-emotional development and learning capabilities of young children
- To move these individuals and their organizations along the trauma informed continuum

Six key principles of a trauma informed approach include, Safety, Trustworthiness & Transparency, Peer Support, Collaboration & Mutuality, Empowerment, Voice & Choice, Cultural, Historical & Gender Issues

Equity has now become the center of the approach, where it is touching other key principle areas, being the glue to keep the other pieces together. We need to be looking at things with a Bifocal Trauma/Equity Lens, instead of just a Trauma Lens.

Hannah concluded the meeting with reminders of upcoming meetings.