

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 15, 2022



Visit the [Children's Cabinet website](#) for meeting materials and the [YouTube recording](#).

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, Department for Children and Families
Jennifer Adhima, Kansas Head Start Association
Marites Altuna, Kansas Deaf-Blind Project/Kansas State School for the Blind
Mallory Arellano, Newman University School of Education
Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Emily Barnes, Barnes Childcare
Tiffany Bartley, Kansas Children's Service League
Tanya Bulluck, Child Start
Eldonna Chesnut, JoCo CC Licensing
Kelly Davydov, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Tabitha Ewing, YMCA Early Learning Center
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
Asia Foster, Mid-America Regional Council
Amy Gottscahmer, Googols of Learning
Crystal Henry, Family Conservancy
Callie Hoffman, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Kim Kennedy, KS HSCO
Dominique Lewis, Director Guidepost Montessori
David Lindeman, University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons
Amy Meek, KCCTF
Pam Noble, KCSL
Stephanie Parks, KU Special Education
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Logan Stenseng, Zero to Thrive Kansas Coalition
Tara Taylor, Head Start and Local Education Agency
Tricia Waggoner, KDHE
Jennifer Whiteford Houk,

Minutes

Welcome

Hannah McGahey called the meeting to order with a quorum present, described processes for a remote meeting, and directed participants to **the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website](#)** for meeting materials.

Meeting Agenda

Callie Hoffman moved to approve the agenda and Amy Meek seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented

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Marites Altuna moved to approve the February minutes and Jennifer Forker seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

No comments submitted.

Welcome/Panel Overview

Hannah introduces Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. Melissa gives an overview of the work and history of the Panel including how the 2019 Kansas Statewide Early Childhood Care and Education Needs Assessment and the *All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan* will continue to inform the work. The work of the panel should be structured and aligned for maximum impact, as articulated in **GOAL 1: State-Level Coordination**, of the *All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan*.

Melissa also provides an overview of Kansas Executive Order 20-02 which designates the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund as the states advisory council on early childhood education and care. Returning Panel members were encouraged to provide reflections about last year, specifically what went well or what the member appreciated about the Panel.

Tanya Bulluck is a returning panel member and one of her biggest takeaways from Panel membership is the amount of support and opportunities for networking.

Emily Barnes is a returning panel member and family child care provider as well as owner/operator. Emily's experience on the Panel has been that membership creates autonomy and representation. She also appreciates the larger clarity of what's happening in the system. Emily encouraged new panel members to ask hard questions and work together.

Amy Gottschamer is a returning panel member who really enjoys how action oriented the Panel has been. She advises it was a source of pride to come up with and executive a plan.

Crystal Henry is a returning panel member and this was her first year serving. The value she sees is in being able to bring the work back to her home organization and provide rich updates on what is happening in the larger system. She also sees the value of being a Panel member as a parent.

Meeting Procedures

Hannah McGahey provides an overview of the Kansas open Meetings Act and open forum procedures. She articulates that the Panel intends to keep meetings virtual for the foreseeable future therefore open forum comments will need to continue to be submitted in writing.

The Panel is then provided an overview of voting procedures and how to create formal Panel recommendations. Finally, members are provided guidance on how to collaborate with existing work groups and committees within the governance structure to ensure alignment and efficiency across the system. Panel members are reminded they may request information, presentations, or feedback at any point during the year from existing groups by communicating with Panel support staff.

Bright Spots:

- A member shares she was awarded their Ruby Brunson Advocate Award
- A member shares the work of various state agencies as they collaborate to roll out child care workforce appreciation bonuses.
- A member shares that she wanted to highlight that the Kansas breastfeeding friendly childcare provider designation has been featured in an international study comparing this designation to 11 other state designations and Kansas received 10 of the 11 standards.
- A member shared that they are in phase two of a project to bring their community together and tackle the lack of quality and affordable child care in their community. This led to the creation of a video and further conversation with employers and employees about barriers related to childcare.
- A member shares that a public health leadership council was created in Johnson county to bring together 29 community members. The goal of this work is to improve the overall health of Johnson county including issues related to childcare. This member is making strides to ensure there is always childcare representation working with the council.
- A member shares that they had their first rural child success road trip event in Canton, KS. They also had a listening session and collaborated with providers and educators. Following the listening session we discussed the importance of storytelling and building relationships with legislators as well as community members.
- A member shares that she is really excited for this panel and how it has helped their program increase their visibility. She is exciting for the networking and connection that they are building with colleagues from the Panel.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, August 19, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. (schedule changed)
- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, August 5, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Stakeholders Group Meeting – Friday, August 5, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:48am.