

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 15, 2022



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Marites Altuna, Kansas Deaf-Blind Project
Rachel Anno, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Emily Barnes, Barnes Child Care
Amanda Billings, Stepping Stones Academy
Tanya Bulluck, Child Start Inc.
Gail Cozadd, Kansas Children's Service League
Kelly Davydov, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Tabitha Ewing, YMCA Early Learning Center
Jeremy Fite, hilltop Child Development Center
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
Jennifer Francois, Kansas Institute for Early Childhood Education and Research
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning Child Development Center
Crystal Henry, Family Conservancy
Sheila Hermocillo-Bertelsen, USD 443, Dodge City Public Schools
Callie Hoffman, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Audra Kenneson, Rainbows United
David Lindeman, University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons
Kelli Mark, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Malissa Martin, Community in Schools, Mid-America
Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education
Lucas Neece, Sprout House Learning
Amy Meek, Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund

Patty Peschel, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.
Amanda Petersen, Kansas State Department of Education
Kate Roggenbaum, Parent Leader
Dannah Schatz, Russell Child Development Center
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Cassandra Sines, Parent Leader
Heather Staab, Kansas Department of Health & Environment
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning Centers
Jenny Welch-Buller, Research Project Manager
Reva Wywadis, Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

Minutes

Welcome

Amanda Petersen 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

Gail Cozadd moved to approve the agenda and Amy Meek seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

March 11, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Natalie McClane moved to approve the February minutes and Gail Cozadd seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

No comments submitted.

Year-3 Panel Application Process/Timeline

Debbie Deere explained the Panel application process and timeline. Any current Panel members will need to re-apply to continue to serve another term. Any current Panel members who also represent a state agency will need to re-apply as well. Current members do not need to submit a new bio, picture, or resume, unless you want to update the current ones on file. Debbie will reach out to anyone who applies and will ask what their preference is for the meetings to be in person or virtual.

2022-2023 membership applications will be accepted from April 1 - May 1, 2022

- Any Kansas interested in applying is welcome
- All applications will be reviewed, and recommendations will be presented to the Children's Cabinet for approval at the June 3, 2022 meeting
- The membership year will extend from July 1, 2022 - June 30, 2023
- Contact Debbie Deere (ddeere@ksde.org) with questions.

Recap of the Children's Cabinet Approval of Recommendations

Debbie Deere provided the information that recommendations were presented to the Children's Cabinet for consideration on April 1, 2022. The two recommendations were approved. They were approved as presented, no changes made. Recognition of the process that took place and the hard work from all of the panel members and non-panel members that join in on the workgroups every month as content advisors was acknowledged by everyone and appreciation was expressed for all these accomplishments. We want to continue to mention and recognize the work that the Family Partnership Group did, to identify the need to collaborate within the system.

Amanda Peterson takes a virtual round of applause for all the great work done by the Panel members. She appreciates that it is hard work and all the work that went into the recommendations.

Debbie Deere shares that one of the comments from the Cabinet members was that they were very appreciative that we were able to bring attention to the connection of the recommendations to goals and strategies from the All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan. If anyone would like a hard copy of the All in for Kansas Kids strategic plan, please reach out to Debbie at ddeere@ksde.org.

Provider Appreciation Day

Kelli Mark presented information on the KDHE Child Care Provider Appreciation day. This day was started in 1996 from a group in New Jersey. Childcare Provider Appreciation Day is celebrated the Friday before Mother's Day, every year to recognize childcare providers, teachers, and other educators of children everywhere.

This year KDHE is celebrating in several different ways and would like you to join us. They have applied for a Governor's Proclamation to mark May 6th, 2022 as Childcare Provider Appreciation Day. KDHE is planning a media release and a social media campaign #Thankyouchildcare. Please use the hashtag on your social media post that you do at the local level. Child Care Aware of America on [providerappreciation.org](https://www.providerappreciation.org) has a video link that you can use to record videos of yourself, staff or family showing appreciation for childcare providers. They also have a link for testimonials, and have a self-care challenge for providers as well.

Debbie Deere wants to give thanks to all of the childcare providers that serve on the Panel. It is so important to have you join us every month and elevate your voices. It is definitely the purpose of having you with us. Thanks for everything you do!

Tanya Bulluck submitted a Governor's Proclamation as well for her local providers in her community. She will be receiving it on May 3, 2022, in time for May 6th, 2022. City hall will be presenting it and they will have a few providers and families standing with them.

Reva Wywadis says they will be having a provider appreciation event in Topeka, the evening of May 2, 2022. It will be a parking lot party where people can come and go. The Childcare Task Force in Manhattan, that is being coordinated by the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, is planning a provider appreciation event on Sunday, May 1, 2022 from 3-5pm. It will be at Meadowlark Hills, a local retirement community. They will be trying to recruit some retirees to help volunteer and get involved in childcare programs.

Emily Barnes says that the Child Care Providers Coalition (CCPC) is not hosting a specific provider appreciation event, however, members will receive a token of appreciation and a note. They send those out in the month of May. They will also recognize provider's efforts at their conference.

Work Groups went into their breakout sessions

- Child Care Recruitment & Retention
- Family Navigation
- Quality & Environments

Work Group Reports:

- **Child Care Recruitment & Retention –**

The group focused on wages and compensation for childcare professionals as it relates to continuing to recruit, and being one of the biggest favors in retaining childcare workers in the field. They touched on what would a wage scale look like, the desire for a calculator or some kind of tool to help center directors, family childcare providers, and understand what that looks like. They talked about the need to understand the cost of quality care and that being a driver of wages and compensation. Who was defining that cost of quality care, what other states might be doing this work? There is a national consultant, Simon Workman, who has been developing cost of care models around prenatal to 5 years of age services. He has been invited to the May Panel meeting to talk to the work group about what the cost of quality care calculators looks like, what they do, how you populate them, what informs them, and what factors go into that. The discussed that it would not only generate a salary schedule but it would work backwards as well as forwards. This could be printed out, so you can have something physical to take and show when you advocate about why you should be paid for this.

- **Family Navigation –**

The group had a few presentations by various groups working with family navigation. KCSL presented on their Family Resource Centers and the National Family Support Network and standards. The also heard a presentation from 1-800-Children and Help Me Grow and how they are working very closely with 1-800-Children. Also, how they are working around ASQs and trying to integrate that into 1-800-Children. The discussion was primarily focused on 1-800-Children. They had a lot of excitement around how that can continue to be utilized, be an access point for the communities, how they can incorporate funding requirements and sharing information into the database, and share that information with parents and partners. They are going to regroup on that and see if that develops into a recommendation.

- **Quality & Environments –**

The group talked a lot about capacity. How do we move a conversation forward on making investments in new centers? How do barriers around zoning and HOA regulations factor into that, and what kind of a recommendation could the group develop for that? As they gather data, they want to make sure it reflects the diversity of the work groups and families. They are recognizing some overlap with the Child Care Recruitment & Retention group on sustainable funding. Part of the ways we are able to make things happen is with

money, but that money has to be sustainable. It can't just be determined as "one time stop gap time stuff". They talked about the importance of involving the Chamber of Commerce into conversations to better represent child care providers and facilities as viable businesses in the community. Identifying ways to make our voices heard, and acknowledging that there are many obstacles, such as time and cost.

Bright Spots:

- A member shares that they will have an open house for their newly constructed community child care center on May 22, 2022 from 3-6pm. There will be coffee and cookies. Go to childcareforlindsborg.org if you would like more information.
- A member shares thanks to the Panel members and people of the community for attending the open house at the Kansas School for the Blind last week.
- A member shares information regarding the TOPS scholarship program. They started that several years ago, as her college education got her out of poverty and has helped get her to where she is today. They have had 43 parents graduate. These are people who are now living their dreams, taking better care of their families, and working their way out of poverty.
- A member says on April 23, 2022, the Child Care Providers Coalition (CCPC) will host a conference from April 23-28th. The goal for enrollment was 150 participants and they have hit 170. They are very proud of that and excited to give out awards to people.
- A member from DCF shares that next Thursday at 6:30 p.m. they will be hosting, in partnership with CCPC, a pandemic relief townhall. A registration link will be going out later today. You can submit questions that you hope to have answered about the pandemic relief spending.
- A member shares that the Early Childhood Family Resource Fair in Lawrence, KS, has been moved to April 30. It will be hosted at their new Kennedy Early Childhood Center. More than 40 organizations will be participating in the event, a playground and activities will be available for the kids, public health will be bringing their mobile vaccination unit so they can provide Covid vaccines for the kiddos, and the Lawrence bookmobile will be there as well with live music and food trucks!

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, May 20, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. (schedule changed)
- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, June 3, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Stakeholders Group Meeting – Friday, June 3, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.