

# KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Friday, May 20, 2022



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

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## Members Present

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Nichelle Adams, Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Jennifer Adhima, Kansas Head Start Association  
Marites Altuna, Kansas Deaf-Blind Project  
Rachel Anno, Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Emily Barnes, Barnes Child Care  
Tanya Bulluck, Child Start Inc.  
Kelly Davydov, Child Care Aware of Kansas  
Tabitha Ewing, YWCA Northeast Kansas  
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, The Family Conservancy  
Callie Hoffman, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association  
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families  
Esther Kottwitz, Lawrence Public Schools USD 497  
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  
Amy Meek, Kansas Children's Cabinet & Trust Fund  
Lucas Neece, City of Lindsborg  
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 Child Development Center  
Cassandra Sines, Parent Leader  
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning Centers  
Jenny Welch-Buller, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research  
Reva Wywadis, Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

## Minutes

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### Welcome

Amy Meek 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

Reva Wywadis noted a correction on the time for item 10. *Adjourn* to 11:30 a.m. and then Reva Wywadis moved to approve the agenda with this correction and Natalie McClane seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda.

### April 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Callie Hoffman moved to approve the April minutes and Jennifer Adhima seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

### Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

No comments submitted.

### Work Groups went into their breakout sessions

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

### Work Group Reports:

- **Child Care Recruitment & Retention and Quality & Environments –**

Simon Workman shared a presentation with the two groups. He went over the difference between price, cost and true cost. **Price** reflects what the market can bear; what families can actually pay. **Cost** reflects the actual expense a program incurs in order to operate. **True cost** reflects the estimated cost to operating a program at high-quality with increased workforce compensation. Simon presented cost estimation modeling which uses a cost calculator to examine the impact of program size, ages in children served, geographic region, enrollment, etc. and demonstrates the impact of funding from multiple sources. The calculator identifies the gap between the costs and the revenue sources which could be used to help policymakers and other interested parties understand the cost associated with delivering care in different settings, to different age groups, at different levels of quality. The group discussed using the calculator to stress test some scenarios and how this information could be used to educate and support the field.

- **Family Navigation –**

The group discussed ways that other organizations are sharing information well and examples of what they are doing. They mentioned the need to promote 1-800-CHILDREN on social media campaign. Will continue to work on ways for sharing the resource and how agencies could help out and post to their own social media accounts. The discussion shifted to the *All In For Kansas Kids* Quality Subgrant awarded to DCCCA to develop an awareness campaign to connect Kansas families to home visiting services. The Family Navigation workgroup would like an update in the future on how this campaign is going as a follow up to a past presentation. How are home visitors supporting friends, families, and neighbors caring for children? How are home visitors supporting friends, families, and neighbors in becoming licensed child care providers, and helping them connect the dots to resources available to them? What's the understanding of safety and the laws for providing care? What messages are important to families around child care? The main topics were about messaging of the types of child care, the importance of early childhood education and knowledge of eligibility for state assistance.

### Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Pandemic Relief Response

Michelle Allen and Megan Smith introduce themselves as part of the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) staff. They explained how DCF is the state's recipient of federal Child Care and Development Funds and the lead administrator of those funds, meaning they are responsible for distributing those funds and making sure the federal requirements for the use of those funds are met. There are several key goals for those funds:

1. Provide leadership & coordination
2. Provide family engagement & consumer education
3. Provide stable child care financial assistance
4. Ensure equal access to child care
5. Establish standards to ensure health & safety
6. Recruit and retain a qualified workforce
7. Support continuous quality Improvement
8. Ensure grantee accountability

CCDF is the regular funding source but relief funding initiatives must also align with the goals and guidance from the federal Office of Child Care. As part of the CCDF goal to provide leadership and coordination, there are a lot of different entities that DCF maintains relationships with and collaborates with on a regular basis. Obviously, child care providers are a key component of the CCDF work but others are child care resource & referral agencies, Part B/Part C services, child care licensing, Head Start, Links to Quality and other state agencies.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, DCF has allocated over \$265 million dollars in direct support to child care providers with the support of their partners. Hero Relief Provider

funding was inclusive of relative providers and represents several different grant opportunities. Assisting child care providers in achieving or recovering financial and operational viability is one of the highest priorities during these trying times. The Child Care Appreciation Bonus, which will be coming in the future, has been a challenging process but as a result of voices from the field they knew they needed to pursue this initiative and are hoping to make the application process as easy and quick as possible for all child care providers in Kansas.

Child Care Sustainability Grants aid in continuing operations of child care programs through the pandemic. Child care facilities who maintain an active permanent KDHE license, whether remaining open or temporarily closed are considered eligible. Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from March 1 – November 30, 2022. Programs may apply at any point during this time. After this time, remaining funds will be evaluated by DCF and Child Care Aware of Kansas, and there will be 5 additional payments for applicants who apply by November 30, 2022. Amounts are to be determined. Visit [Child Care Aware of Kansas's Grant Opportunities website](#) for more information and to apply.

The Child Care Health Consultant Network is a free service available through Child Care Aware of Kansas to all licensed child care providers in the state. Their services are focused on promoting health, safety, and wellness in child care environments. They offer one-on-one coaching and planning sessions, wherever and whenever providers need it.

Licensing fees and background check fees are funded through the American Rescue Plan stabilization funds so they will end September 2023.

We recognize the important role that communities can plan in the future of child care so we will continue to support those efforts with the addition of community level grants for those who may need it to implement their plans.

Program Administration Support is a free service available through Child Care Aware of Kansas to all child care providers in the state. They focus on promoting solid business practices in child care environments. They offer one-on-one coaching and planning sessions that are provider and program driven.

Workforce supports are focused on recruiting, professional development through education, training, and/or technical assistance, as well as retaining a stable and knowledgeable workforce.

In addition to provider supports, DCF also heard a loud outcry to support families who utilize child care. Hero Relief Program raised income limit for the child care assistance program to 250% of the Federal Poverty Level. DCF removed family share deduction for essential workers.

DCF will be conducting a survey of families and child care providers to provide understanding of the drivers behind low participation in DCF child care assistance. DCF

highlighted some general subsidy changes, such as raising the income limit, switching to blocks of time, removing the family shared deduction for many families, and increasing the maximum rates to the 85<sup>th</sup> percentile. This means that 85% of child care providers charge rates that are less than or equal to the maximum rates allowed by the state based on the annual market rate survey.

Discussion from Panel members included sharing feedback from providers on how much the additional funding is helping, looking at what the data is saying about subsidy participation, how programs are encouraging providers to become subsidy participants and the need for more communication to providers as changes are made which could increase participation.

### Bright Spots:

- Sprout House will be hosting an open house on Sunday from 3-7pm in Lindsborg.
- A documentary will be having a Kansas showing in June. It highlights caring for a child with special needs and how it affects a family. Will be sending out invitations to people in Topeka for a showing with a panel discussion. There will be an opportunity for individuals to view it across the state and share it with their families, friends, coworkers, employers so they can get the word out on what special need families go through.
- Free summer meals for kids: Kansas families can save time and money with free summer meals for kids this summer! No application or registration needed, just stop by and enjoy. To find meal sites near you, visit [www.kn-eat.org](http://www.kn-eat.org) or text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304.

### Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- 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.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, June 17, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:16am