

Early Childhood Meeting Notes

6.3.22

Hannah McGahey opened the meeting welcoming attendees, and explaining how we will be moving away from the Stakeholder verbiage. For now, we will be the Kansas Early Childhood Meeting.

Hannah provided several updates in the early childhood system including the Kansas Children's Cabinet recommendations, Early Childhood Advisory Council membership, Navigate EC – KU CPPR, Career Pathway – KCCTF.

- **Kansas Children's Cabinet Recommendations FY 24'**
 - The accountability process takes place at the June Children's Cabinet meeting to align with the legislative process. This means service provision findings are reported on the previous state fiscal year. Current fiscal year findings re updated and included as part of the Children's cabinet Annual Report released in December.
 - Data Collection: FY 2021 program reports collected from all CIF funded programs. Fiscal information from the Governor's budget report. CIF accountability process survey and program overviews.
 - Key Takeaways: CIF programs continue to provide critical services and support fir the healthy development of Kansas children and families. CIF served families continue to report resiliency, but basic needs remain. Continued collaboration across sectors and agencies is key to understanding both the benefits of and challenges in early childhood care and education.
 - CIF Funding Recommendations include child acre services, family preservation, healthy start/home visitor, infants & toddler program, smoking prevention grants, SIDS network grant, Children's Cabinet accountability fund, CIF Grant, Parent education, Pre-K Pilot Program, Early Childhood Infrastructure, Imagination Library (DPIL), State Employee Pay Plan. Total Expenditures for FY23 Actual: \$52,474,070 and FY24 Cabinet Recommendations: \$53,785,921
 - Dolly Parton Imagination Library Advisory Committee Recommendation includes Map of coverage (14 counties without ANY program of 105. Many counties aren't fully covered) Number of eligible children = 194,344 Number of current children enrolled in program = 42,372. 22% of eligible children. Targeted goal of 65% (approximately 126,323 children); targeted goal for this year of 43% (approximately 83,567 children) We need to create a Dolly Parton Imagination Library committee to assist the Children's Cabinet in its role as the state lead for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library (DPIL) by adopting this recommendation, the Executive Director shall be charged with bringing a slate of members to the Children's Cabinet at the August meeting for approval. The purpose of the DPIL Advisory Committee will be to assist the Cabinet in activities related to promoting, growing and sustaining the Imagination Library Program.
 - 501 C3 to Support DPIL will be recommendation 3. The Kansas Children's Cabinet request statutory authority to create a 501 c3 nonprofit "Dolly Parton's Imagination

Library of Kansas” in order to meet the requirements set forth by the Dollywood Foundation.

- The Foundation framework requires all state and local partners to be organized as a 501 c3 nonprofit. This is both to ensure the most favorable postage rates for mailing of the books each month to contain costs, and to allow for private sector donors to receive the tax benefit of a charitable contribution for any financial contributions made to support the program in Kansas. The Children’s Cabinet needs legislative approval to proceed with the formation of a 501 c3 entity.
- **Recommendations Panel Membership, 2022-2023**
 - Executive Order 20-02 is to establish the Children’s Cabinet as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, a requirement of federal Head State legislation.
 - Establish a volunteer Early Childhood Recommendations Panel to offer guidance to the Children’s Cabinet in its roles as State Early Childhood Advisory Council.
 - Outlines required membership.
 - Panel Service Term: July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
 - Panel Membership includes representatives of State Agencies, of local school districts, from Head Start agencies located in Kansas, institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas, Parents of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the State of Kansas, local providers of early childhood education
- **Navigate EC**
 - Agenda: Introduction, Research Insights, Brand Messaging & Framework, Site Map and Design, Next Steps
 - Project Objectives: Build one website to connect all early childhood resources for Kansas families, providers and communities. Promote the Navigate EC brand and website to broaden awareness and usage of the site. “Future proof” the website for additional resources.
 - Project Deliverables: Research and input on early childhood resources, website priorities and key features to include. Site audits and user behavior to guide site mapping. Brand strategy and messaging to position the website to its multiple target audiences. Website content, design, development, testing and launch. Development and execution of a marketing communications plan for the new Navigate EC website.
 - Digital Analysis Activities: Integrated Lucky Orange to see user and click activity through heat mapping. Audited Google Analytics setting and reviewed top content, landing pages and how KQN users traverse the website. Compared digital audit findings to what we heard in the individual and group interviews. Reviewing which linked resource an PDFs should move into the new Navigate EC website.

- Work Completed in Spring 2021: Conducted interviews with community partners, state directors and coordinators from other states regarding resources for early childhood. Researched how other states branded and messaged their early childhood resources. Mapped out a brand framework, messaging and visual identity for Kansas early childhood resources.
- Brand Message: **Supporting parents, providers and communities so that every Kansas child thrives.**
- Brand Strategy: Navigate EC is your connection point and guide for all early childhood resources. Navigating early Childhood Success, Connections to Early Childhood Success. Guide families to resources and services. Support Providers with tools and education. Help communities chart a course.
- Next Steps: Develop site layouts and design templates. Finalize site design templates with Lead Team input. Develop page content and write website copy. Begin build-out of website pages.
- **Child Care Career Pathway**
 - Process: There will be barriers that can be difficult to navigate to stay licensed. Being a child care provider can feel isolating. Professional relationships are typically local, driven by connections with supportive services like licensing, consultants, professional development professionals, etc.
 - Bank Street College Education: Graduate School is a national leader in early childhood education and teacher preparation. Direct service programs including the Family Center, a mixed-age child care center serving 6 months – 5 years. They focus on systems change work centering equity. Partners with school districts and states across the country to support critical system, program, and policy changes.
 - Introduction to Bank Street: “investing in the Birth to Three Workforce: A New Vision for the Foundation for All Learning,” in January 2020, a white paper which makes four key recommendations to improve early care and education. We support partners, like Kansas, in related work that seeks to advance this vision for reform.
 - Purpose: to accelerate the work of developing a comprehensive and holistic professional development system for early childhood educators in the State of Kansas.
 - Vision & Alignment: *All in for Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan, 2019 Comprehensive B-5 Needs Assessment, Preschool Development B-5 Renewal Grant, Child Care Development Fund Plan
 - Design Principles: Progression is unique to the user. Value experience through mastery-based approaches. Strengthen foundation supports like job embedded coaching and mentoring. Recognize the importance of all professional learning experiences.

- Immediate Considerations: Registry development alignment, funding decisions, existing landscape(professional learning experiences, professional development specialists, mentors & coaches)
- Current Work & Next Steps: Complete second round of feedback sessions. Digest results of collaboration. Develop Implementation team(curriculum, core competencies alignment, continued collaboration with partners)
- **Questions?**
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Hannah McGahey wrapped the meeting up with the schedule of upcoming meetings:

- **Biweekly Webinars**
 - Will resume July 13
 - [Register on the Children's Cabinet website](#)
- **Recommendations Panel: June 17 – via Zoom (third Friday of the month from 9:00-11:30 a.m.)**
- **Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund:**
 - August 5, 9am – 12pm / Stakeholders Group 1:30 – 3:00pm
 - All meetings will be held virtually until further notice.