

KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **October 7, 2022**, regular session of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board virtual meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Kim Moore presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kim Moore, Chair, Senator Renee Erickson, LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Deliece Hofen, Terri Rice, John Wilson, and Tanya Keys, (DCF), Drew Duncan, (KDHE), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Hope Cooper, (DOC/Juvenile Justice), Justice Keynen Walls, (Supreme Court).
Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegboro.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AUGUST 5, 2022 MINUTES

Deliece Hofen moved the minutes of August 5, 2022 meeting be approved. Motion seconded by LeEtta Felter. Members voted by voice vote in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

COMMUNITIES IN ACTION

Melissa Rooker remarked that Communities in Action is a PDG-funded project she felt would be of interest to the board and the public. Funding through the KCCTF’s Preschool Development Grant and DCF’s CCDF Coronavirus Pandemic dollars have supported the efforts of Communities In Action activities. She introduced Kelly Davydov, Executive Director at Child Care Aware of Kansas. Ms. Davydov was invited to talk about services provided statewide through this project. She invited Ms. Sarah Wasinger, President and CEO at the Hays Chamber of Commerce to share information on how services impacted the Hays community and the work taking place in that area.

Kelly Davydov discussed the four phases of community childcare capacity-building, which include:

- 1) Pre-Planning which involved deciding level of readiness, putting together a coalition of partners, determining how to get a return on investment, and establishing the needs assessments.
- 2) Communities in Action Workshop includes team planning, hearing from experts from Kansas early childhood system, and then identifying short-term and long-term goals.
- 3) Funding decisions revolve around inquiring about grant opportunities. The initial grant was \$2,000 and then obtaining an implementation grant of \$45,000.
- 4) Follow-up Support – This is ongoing support for planning and implementing the project and its services.

Ms. Davydov shared community success stories from Marion, Edwards, and Stafford counties and talked about challenges across Kansas. A Part II Summit is scheduled for November for various communities and reaching out to communities that are not currently served.

Ms. Sarah Wasinger talked about how the Hays Chamber of Commerce supports entities providing childcare services in Hays community. The partners include KDHE, Child Care Aware of Kansas, local home-based and center providers, Ellis County school districts, Fort Hays State University, elected officials, area businesses and the Hays Chamber. Through the work of K-State Extension and Research community surveys of employers and families, data was collected to help as a starting point of assessing needs in the community. Hays CC helped with setting up workshops to gather local childcare providers and in helping individuals launch childcare businesses.

Chairman Moore thanked the presenters for sharing very relevant information.

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT B05 RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE

Melissa Rooker reported:

- The federal Administration for Children, Health and Human Services Department announced another PDG funding opportunity in late September as another one-year planning grant. Kansas is eligible to apply for this opportunity as a renewal grant applicant. Although all states, whether renewing or new to the PDG are eligible to apply this time around, it will be a highly competitive grant. The grant awards range from \$500,000 to \$4 million dollars awarded to ten states with priority given to states that have never had the PDG. The deadline is November 7, 2022. A needs assessment, strategic plan, and maximizing parent engagement are the key components of the application.
- All In For Kansas Kids <https://allinforkansaskids.org/> is a new website developed using PDG funds to serve as a hub for families, providers and communities where resources pertaining to the early childhood care and education system can be linked for easy access. This website is not meant to replace existing websites but will serve as a central connection point. The website was previewed for the Cabinet.

Melissa Schoenberger, KDHE Child Care Licensing discussed licensing requirements and the work of the Child Care Systems Improvement Team which has been supported by PDG funds. The team has worked to improve clarity of regulations, increase resources and supports for childcare providers, and increase public awareness.

AGENCY UPDATES

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood, Kansas State Department of Education

- Appreciated collaboration work on early childhood initiatives in Kansas, particularly in reference to helping children transition into kindergarten. She appreciated the collaboration with the DCF Kansas Head Start Collaboration and with Kansas Head Start Association in supporting this work. Amanda shared a link for the “Great Ideas in Education” conference scheduled October 19-21, 2022 in Wichita. See <https://events.ksde.org/default.aspx?tabid=771>. There will be a segment where presenters will be discussing the importance of helping transition children into kindergarten.

- Visited with the State Inter-Agency Coordinating Council on data collected for the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) reporting tool. This is information the Cabinet reviews annually for the Common Measures Initiative (CMI) from the Cabinet grantees. There were great conversations taking place as a result of reviewing the aggregate results and looking at areas where children might need additional support particularly for Fine Motor Skills.
- KSDE anticipates the USD enrollment headcounts later this fall. The official count day was September 20 for USDs to finalize their headcount of children enrolled in school. Amanda looked forward to the preschool and kindergarten data.

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director, Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund

- Performed site visits at the Early Childhood Block grantee organizations with Dr. Lynn Schrepferman, WSU. Discussions have been rich and informative on services provided by the various organizations. Following the site visits, Dr. Schrepferman’s team collects data and analyzes the information in preparation for the annual report presentation before this board.
- Anticipated announcing the ECBG Requests For Proposals (RFP) in early November. Existing grantees will be eligible for fast-track renewals and an open competitive RFP will be available to the public.
- Received the federal Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) award. Existing CBCAP grantees received renewal grants as approved by this board at the August meeting.

Drew Duncan, Interim Bureau Director for Family Health, Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment

- Drew replaced Kelli Mark as KDHE Ex Officio designee on the Cabinet board
- He is in Week 5 on the job,
- Proposed regulation amendment to K.A.R. 28-4-114 on applicant childcare licensees is open for public comment until October 28, 2022. Additional informational webinar scheduled October 24 for providers. Hearing will be held on October 28 and in-person testifying should include copies of written testimony. The main change is the infant to provider ratio of 1:3 going to 1:4 along with changes to the table in the regulation.
- October 3, KDHE went Live with digital fingerprint scanner waiver software. Partners and providers were notified by letter of the new technology.

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department for Children and Families

- RFPs under review include the Family First Prevention Grants and the Family Resource Center Grants. Parent skill-building and home visiting are incorporated into the grant outcomes. Plans are in the works to create common measures for the Family Resource Center grant recipients since the program will be following a federal model that requires organizations to be certified. Award decisions will be made in December 2022 for both grants.

- August 2022, DCF wrapped up eight community meetings with stakeholders that were required by proviso for DCF to conduct foster care prevention and early prevention performance-based contracts.

Melissa remarked Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Kansas Board of Regents was not available to join the meeting and sent a brief summary to be read. Kansas Board of Regents adopted a new Strategic Plan: Building A Future in June 2020.. Its focus is helping Kansas families and businesses improve Kansas prosperity and economic future. The goals cover 1) Access to early college programs, 2) Affordability and timely graduation, 3) System-wide mathematics and general education coursework, and META majors for math pathways, and 4) Statewide-transfer associate degree in Pre-education.

Justice Keynen Wall, Supreme Court

- Glad to be back at the Cabinet meeting.
- In the midst of Child In Need of Care nuts and bolts training for new judges to help in decision-making and ensuring federal funding remains in place. The training covers a variety of topics. The training has been well-attended by over 60 judges.
- Office of Judicial Administration will be hosting a series of juvenile justice trainings beginning November 30. Registration is open. The November 30 session will focus on Center for Disease Control (CDC) and children diagnosed with Toxic Stress and its impact on children falling into the juvenile justice system.
- Annual Best Practices In Child Welfare Law training will be held April 11 and August 22, 2023. Several early childhood stakeholders had attended in the past and can save the date for those two sessions.

Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary of Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services, Kansas Department of Corrections, reported:

- This is Hope's last day with DOC and participating on the Children's Cabinet board. She will be joining a firm, working as a criminal justice consultant on the national level.
- Hope has enjoyed her time on the Cabinet and recognizes the incredible work that has been done. Chairman Moore commended Hope for her service to the Cabinet.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director

- Reminder that at the June 24, 2022 special session meeting, the Cabinet adopted a request for initial proposals from the State Home Visiting Leadership Team for a more aligned approach to funding multiple home visiting models in Kansas. There are actually nine models used in Kansas currently. The work is underway and a final report to the Cabinet is expected at the April 7, 2023 meeting.
- Dolly Parton Imaginary Library coverage continues to expand in new areas since the July 1, 2022 CIF budget line item took effect. The Advisory Committee had it's first meeting and is focused on providing a recommendation to help inform the drafting of legislation to create a statewide 501c3 for the program.

FUTURE MEETINGS

All meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. as virtual meetings until further notice. The Cabinet agreed to conduct the December 2 meeting as a virtual meeting. The 2023 Schedule of Meeting dates are: February 3, April 14, June 3, August 4, October 6, and December 1, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore asked for a motion to adjourn. It was moved by Terri Rice and seconded by DiAnne Graham the meeting be adjourned at 11:15 a.m. Motion carried.