

Strengthening Early Childhood in Kansas

WEBINAR JUNE 14, 2023



WELCOME

- Welcome everyone!
- Quick Updates
 - Don't forget our new monthly webinar schedule
 - Sign up to receive our All In For Kansas Kids e-Newsletter on the Children's Cabinet website – www.kschildrenscabinet.org
- Needs Assessment update from Chris Tilden of KU-CPPR and Developmental Health Family Engagement Sessions overview from Rachel Gardner and Meghan Kluth of KU-CPPR
- Early Childhood Systems Updates

Agenda



2023 Webinar Schedule

January 11

February 8

March 8

April 19

May 17

June 14

July 12

August 9

September 20

October 18

November 15

December 13



Needs Assessment Overview

CHRIS TILDEN



EARLY CHILDHOOD SYSTEMS BUILDING

Purpose - to document the challenges that those in the early childhood system (providers, the children and families they serve, and many other system partners) face to inform work to improve the system.

The assessment will inform the development of a new *All In For Kansas Kids* Early Childhood System Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

Needs Assessment



"ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS" TIMELINE

- Preschool Development Grant (PDG)-Planning (2019)
 - Kansas Early Childhood Systems Building Needs Assessment (January 2020)
 - All in For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan 2020-2024
- PDG Implementation Grant (2020-2023)
 - Needs Assessment Updates (2020, 2021)
- Second PDG Planning Grant (2023)
 - 2023: New Early Childhood Needs Assessment & Strategic Plan

Needs Assessment



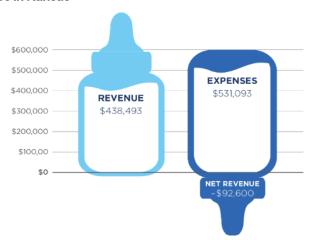
In what ways is the 2023 process different?

- ·Less meetings/surveys/etc.
- In a different place than 2019:
 - Lots of data (much resulting from assessment of COVID-19)
 - Childhood Governance Structure, Data Governance Board, etc.
 - Systemic, ongoing community sensemaking
 - Early Childhood Transition Taskforce and other partnerships

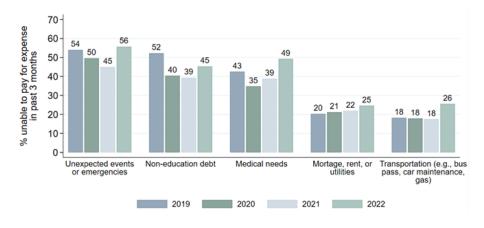
Needs Assessment



Estimated annual revenue/expense for medium child care centers in Kansas*



Child care providers unable to afford essential expenses: 2019-2022.



Extensive data!



POVERTY

In 2021, almost one-third of Kansas families with children under 18 reported difficulty paying household expenses*. There are significant racial/ethnic disparities, with children of color much more likely to live in poverty.



15.1% of Kansas children are living below the poverty line



White children 10.6%

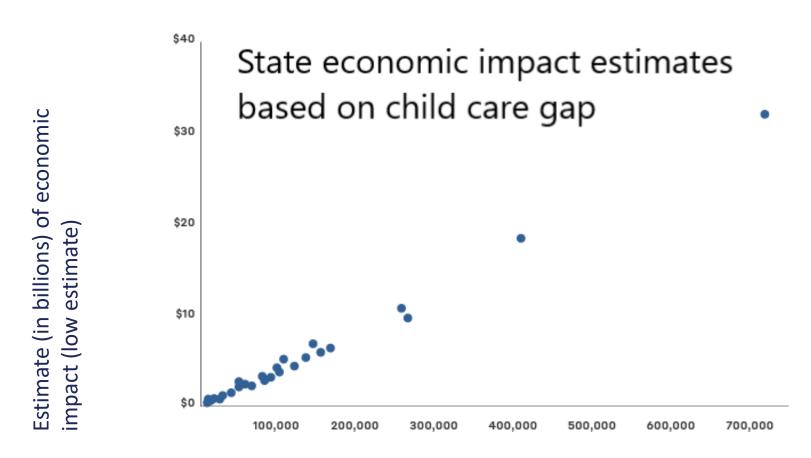


Latino/Hispanic children 21.4%



Black/African American children

32.2%



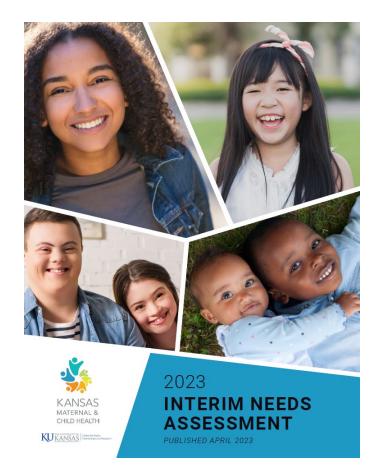
Estimated economic impact in KS: \$2.16 - \$3.32 billion

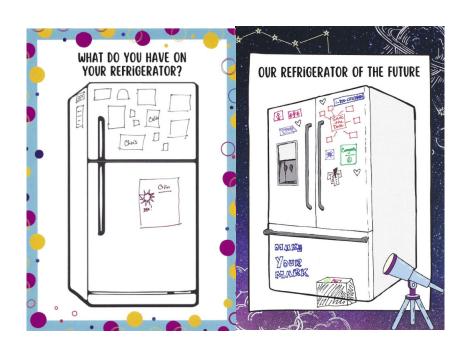
CHILD CARE GAP (estimated number of children under 6 without access to care)

Public and family engagement (examples):



Spring 2023 Virtual Family Engagement Sessions

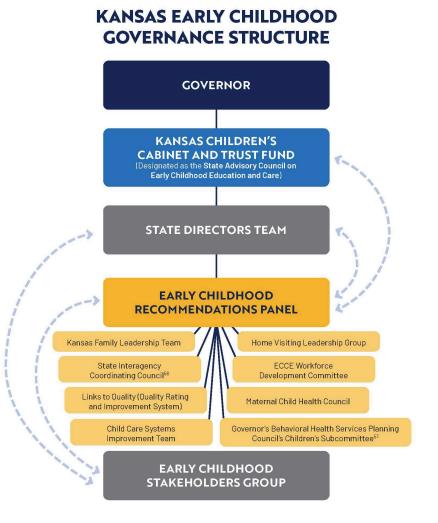




Kansas Association of Infant Mental Health (April 2023)



Existing infrastructure





Establishing the Early Childhood Transition Task Force

WHEREAS, the earliest years of a child's life are most critical in preparation for lifelong academic, health, and social success because of the

WHEREAS, constant exposure to safe and supportive environments strengthen the development of those neural connections—determining the child's sensory, language, and cognitive functions upon which all subsequent brain development is built;

WHEREAS, investments in early childhood care and education pay dividends for the state by lowering costs down the line and creating our greatest return on investment through improving future educational, health, and economic outcomes;

WHEREAS, Kansas is committed to ensuring that all children have access to the critical services and programs needed for healthy

WHEREAS, to improve access and increase the quantity of high-quality early childhood services, Kansas must center the needs of children

and families while moving at the speed of business through its efforts to deliver these services; WHEREAS, Kansas currently utilizes an inadequately-coordinated system of governance to deliver early childhood services—resulting in inefficiencies, redundancies, and structural barriers for families, communities, and businesses that obstruct access to state-level support;

WHEREAS, to improve access to high-quality services and streamline regulatory, procedural, and fiscal management of programs, the Kelly Administration is committed to ensuring all Kansas children—especially those between zero and five years of age—have healthy childhoods that are supported by a robust early childhood system which improves outcomes and effectively provides high-quality early care and education, adapts to the needs of families and communities, and is equitably accessible to all communities across the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby establish the Early Childhood Transition Task Force ("Task Force") and order the following:



KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD TRANSITION TASK FORCE

- Data collection (Spring/Summer 2023)
- Synthesis (Summer/Fall 2023)
- Report Draft (Fall 2023)
- Needs Assessment Adoption (Late 2023)
 - 2024-2028 Early Childhood Systems Building Strategic Plan

Timeline



All In For Kansas Kids

Developmental Health Family Engagement Sessions

RACHEL GARDNER & MEGHAN KLUTH





Family Engagement Sessions

PURPOSE:

- Elevate parent voice
- •Increase parent knowledge
- •Generate small, actionable solutions to enhance Early Childhood Developmental Health experiences for all families in Kansas





Family Engagement Sessions

HIGHLIGHTS:

- All regions of Kansas were represented
- 6 sessions
- •93 family participants





Participant Survey

- Many ideas were generated
- Participants voted on most impactful to least impactful
- Participant comments were empowering
- Significant interest in continued involvement to elevate family voice

All In For Kids

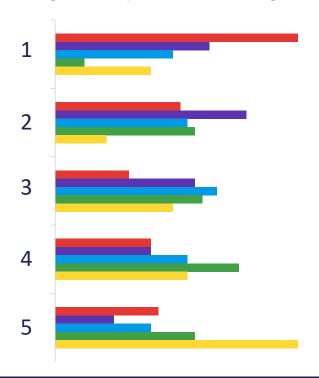
Theme One:

TECHNOLOGY



SURVEY SAYS...

Ranking: 1 being most impactful and 5 being least impactful)



- Centralized online website hub of developmental health information for Kansas families
- Centralized app of developmental health information for Kansas families
- Opt-in text chat line for families to ask questions about developmental health
- Opt-in text notifications for families to follow developmental health milestones
- Develop online or printed Frequently Asked Questions materials for families

- 1. Centralized online website hub
- 2. App
- 3. Opt-in texts
- 4. Online FAQ
- 5. Opt-in text chat line



All In For Kids

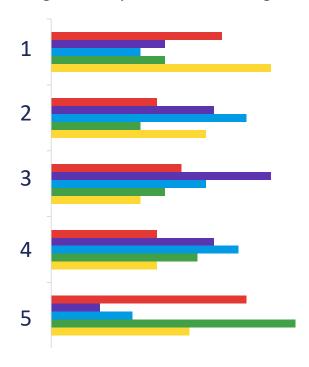
Theme Two:

PROCESS



SURVEY SAYS...

Ranking: 1 being most impactful and 5 being least impactful)



- Increase public awareness of developmental health screenings and resources
- Better coordinate information shared about developmental health in prenatal...
- Targeted awareness efforts for different populations such as first time parents, adoptive parents, noncustodial, ESL
- Distribute developmental health materials at local community events or spaces...
- Offer developmental health home resource kits for families within child's f...

- 1. Distribute home resource kits for families
- 2. Increase public awareness of screenings/resources
- 3. Coordinate prenatal/perinatal & PEDS
- 4. Distribute materials at local events
- 5. Target awareness for first-time parents



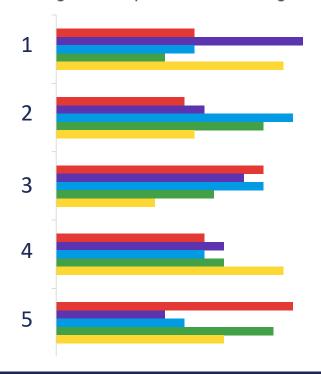
All In For Kids

Theme Three:



SURVEY SAYS...

Ranking: 1 being most impactful and 5 being least impactful)



- Virtual support options for families (e.g. support groups, online boards, etc)
- Local opportunities to talk with developmental health experts
- Virtual opportunities to talk with developmental health experts
- Materials and/or tools to help families advocate for developmental health needs
- Increase awareness for in-home supports for families with young children

- 1. Local opportunities to talk with experts
- 2. Increased awareness for in-home supports
- 3 & 4. Virtual support opportunities
- 5. Supportive materials/tools



WHAT PARENTS HAD TO SAY

I found it interesting to listen to families about their experiences with resources in their community. Some were unaware of what was there and they could have really benefited from it...I feel like a lot of the information and resources exist, just need a streamlined way of connecting people at the right time.

I appreciate being a part of this session and having my voice heard about these topics.

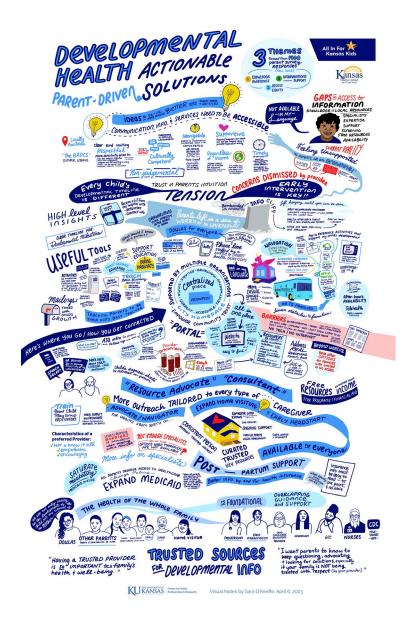
It was interesting to see different perspectives and how many families across the state felt similar.

I enjoyed being part of the panel and learning more about the efforts for improving early childhood outcomes. Thanks for all that you do!

I really enjoyed getting the chance to meet other parents. The facilitators were so personable and really made the space nonjudgmental so we could share concerns and challenges.

I see it a need to make sure all parents need to have information of ages 0-5 developmental milestones. I really enjoyed the breakout room discussions, and although I felt nervous about not being "smart enough as a parent" with some of my answers. I appreciated the safe space that was created.

It was a great experience, learning that I am not the only one with certain concerns and able to voice out my own concerns.



ENGLISH SESSIONS GRAPHIC RECORDING



SPANISH SESSION GRAPHIC RECORDING



ACTIONABLE ITEMS

CALL TO ACTION

 There are dozens of ideas and solutions generated by parents and caregivers

• If you would like to learn more or are interested in implementing any

of the ideas developed, please contact:

Rachel Gardner

rachelgardner@ku.edu





TASK FORCE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TOUR

Share your experience at a session near you!

- Governor Kelly's Early Childhood Transition Task Force announced plans this week to conduct a Community Engagement Tour to discuss the challenges communities face in supporting children through their earliest years.
- Expanding access to early childhood care and education is vital to the success of our cities, towns, and communities. We want to hear from you about how the state can be a better partner in your efforts to address child care issues. Join the Early Childhood Transition Task Force at an upcoming regional meeting to share your experience!
- For more information, including full location details, visit the Governor's website.

Community Engagement



SHARED SERVICES NETWORK HUBS

Did you know Child Care Aware of Kansas is working to establish a Shared Services Network for licensed Kansas child care programs?

Shared Services Networks offer child care providers the opportunity to strengthen their business practice while
focusing on what is most important – the children. This approach is flexible and customizable and it's most
successful when tailored to a provider's specific needs

It starts with a Hub! A hub is either a single organization or collaborating organizations that act as the hub of operations for one or more new early care and education shared service network(s) in Kansas

- Hubs will have the responsibility of managing provider-driven services to a group of child care programs. These
 entities are often based locally, serving a network of providers in the same community or region
- CCAKS anticipates funding awards of up to \$250,000 per organization. Learn more about this opportunity and the benefits of Shared Services at the <u>CCAKS website</u>. <u>Request for Applications</u> (RFA) are now available and are due June 23rd

Funding Opportunity



FAMILY FOCUS GROUP

Have you recently received healthcare coordination during pregnancy or after childbirth in Kansas? You are invited to participate in a virtual focus group to improve care coordination services.

- Focus group led by the Kansas Department of Health & Environment and Kansas Health Institute
- Register to provide feedback
- \$25 gift cards will be mailed to focus group participants
- If this opportunity does not apply to you personally, please share widely with your contacts!

Focus Group Opportunity



REMINDERS AND NEXT STEPS

Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Meeting

Friday, June 16th, 9-11:30 am

Children's Cabinet Meetings

Friday, June 23rd, 1-3 pm (special meeting to approve Child Care Capacity Accelerator grants)

Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar

Wednesday, July 12th, 12-1:00 pm

You can find **all** of these meetings and more on our Children's Cabinet **YouTube channel!**

Stay Connected!







Stay Up to Date



ALL IN FOR KANSAS KIDS NEWSLETTER



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