

## **KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES**

The **December 2, 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. Quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kim Moore, Chair, Senator Renee Erickson, LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Deliece Hofen, Monica Murnan, Dr. Tyler Smith-Howell, John Wilson, Secretary Janet Stanek, (KDHE), Ashley Goss and Alyson Dalrymple (KDHE), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Tanya Keys (DCF), Matthew Billinger (DOC), Justice Keynen Walls (Supreme Court). Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Hannah White, and Dyogga Adegboro.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting. Chairman Moore asked for a motion on the minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 7, 2022 MINUTES**

Deliece Hofen moved the minutes of October 7, 2022 meeting be approved as written. Motion seconded by LeEtta Felter. Members voted by voice vote in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY GROUP CORE COMPETENCIES**

Chairman Moore remarked that the board would be hearing about recommendations from the Workforce Development Advisory Group. He welcomed Linda Logan.

Linda Logan, Program Coordinator/Training & Technical Assistant Specialist with Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO) lead a discussion on core competencies. She also chairs the Workforce Development Advisory Group, a subcommittee of the Early Childhood Advisory Council. The Core Competencies Subgroup is one of the subcommittees under the Workforce Development Advisory Group. The core competencies are essential for Early Childhood and Youth Development Professionals.

Ms. Logan said the Workforce Development Advisory Group is a committee of early childhood partners collaborating to coordinate a comprehensive systematic approach to workforce development across Kansas. The group has been in operation since 2019 and focuses on Goal 6 of the All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan aligning core competencies and developing credentials across all the early childhood care and education positions based on national evidence-based practices and standards.

Linda discussed the steps taken in review of the Kansas and Missouri Core Competencies involving national core competencies and standards from various national organizations. Competencies

Crosswalk with other states such as Iowa, Texas, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Discussion of the Kansas and Missouri Core Competency Review was shared. Ms. Logan discussed the Core Competency Subgroup goals.

Linda presented a five-point slate of recommendations.

1. Adaptation of the Nebraska Core Competencies for Early Childhood Professional to the Kansas Early Childhood Core Competencies for use by Kansas early childhood workforce, professional development organizations, and higher education.
2. Joint statement from Kansas and Missouri representatives announcing the end of the KS/MO Core Competency partnership,
3. Adaptation will be supervised by the Workforce Development Advisory Group, Core Competencies Subgroup,
4. Funding is requested to support the adaptation work,
5. Funding requested to work with a marketing agency to:
  - a) Create a user friendly and inviting format
  - b) Awareness campaign
  - c) Distribution and printing

Monica Murnan commended Linda for the hard work invested by the Workforce Advisory Group. John Wilson remarked that he, too, appreciated the finished product and supported the recommendations.

Chairman Moore asked Linda to elaborate on the “Bloom’s Taxonomy” referenced under the Core Competency Subgroup goals. Linda responded it referred to the hierarchy for learning levels, i.e., beginner up to advanced skills of professional progression for early childhood workforce professionals.

Melissa Rooker commented the recommendations were presented for Cabinet consideration and approval. She noted Preschool Development Grant federal funding and DCF’s Child Care Development Funding are underwriting this project, therefore the funding piece is not a part of the recommendations.

After further discussion, Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

**MOTION:**

Monica Murnan moved the Kansas Children’s Cabinet, in its role as the Early Childhood Advisory Council, recommends Kansas adopt the Nebraska Core Competencies for use by the Kansas early childhood workforce, professional development organizations, and higher education.

Motion seconded by Deliece Hofen.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call vote:

Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes

Monica Murnan	Yes
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
John Wilson	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

## **2022 CHILDREN’S CABINET ANNUAL REPORT**

Dr. Jessica Sprague Jones, Assistant Director at The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research (CPPR) and Executive Director Melissa Rooker gave an overview of the annual report. Board members received an electronic draft copy of the report prior to the meeting. The final report can be found here: <https://kschildrencabinet.org/project/annual-report-2022/>

Dr. Sprague-Jones discussed the vision and goals, progress made through workforce elevation including recruitment and retention and professional development, community focus such as Kansas Communities in Action, Integrated Referral and Intake System, PDG Quality subgrants to name a few. Other progress involved alignment that included the Kansas Early Childhood Governance Summit, Governor’s Council on Education, Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust, Home Visiting Leadership Team Initiatives, Fingerprinting, and SNAP Changes. Progress in the program profiles continues under the Children’s Initiatives Fund, Early Childhood Block Grant, and the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention grants. The Annual Report spotlights new programs such as the Kansas Futures Forum, Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library expansion, Sunflower Summer, Thriving Families-Safer Children Accountability Cohort and the Prevention Projects of the Kansas Future Fellows. The data impact of those programs along with *Our Tomorrows* are captured and displayed in the Report along with the Accountability Process. A section on Children’s Future focuses on ways the Kansas Children’s Cabinet has been working to prioritize early childhood investments. Those include partnership with Commerce, gaining understanding from other states, and the early childhood and literacy focus.

Monica Murnan asked who is involved with the data trust coordination. Melissa described an agreement framework between DCF, KDHE, KSDE, and DOC had been entered into with Children’s Cabinet approval in 2020 allowing the agencies to share data. A link to the Kansas Data Trust can be found at <https://kschildrencabinet.org/data-trust/>. Chairman Moore expressed appreciation of the work that went into the Report and thanked Dr. Sprague Jones for a great presentation. Chairman Moore asked if a shorter version of the Report would be made available. Melissa responded yes, and an executive summary would be created. Link for annual report is: <https://kschildrencabinet.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/Cabinet-Annual-Report-2022.pdf>.

Although Senator Renee Erickson was complimentary of the work involved in the creation of the annual report, she expressed strong concerns about language on page 81 under Item #2 relating to “meeting the statutory requirement to fund 92% of excess costs for special education, leaving more of school districts’ general operating budget available to support early childhood initiatives” under “Actions to Promote Childhood Literacy.” Since there are a lot of unknowns, the language in under Item #2 would tend to open negative political debate and confusion that the Cabinet would not want to create. Melissa Rooker clarified those were only discussion points and not formal Cabinet

recommendations. The language was taken from existing statutory language and approved by the Children’s Cabinet at the June 4, 2022 meeting. John Wilson and LeEtta Felter commended the KU CPPR team for design and content of the report. They were fine with the wording on page 81 under Item #2 being left unchanged and not retroactively altering existing documentation. Deliece Hofen commented she agreed to leave the wording the same since it was lifted from an existing federal statute. LeEtta Felter would be comfortable with language that was equitable for all children but the Cabinet could work on rewording later. Overall, she was supportive of the report and looked forward to receiving extra hard copies to share. Monica Murnan remarked she was comfortable with the language on page 81 remaining as written. On another point, Monica pointed out the significance of language on page 67, that read “parents enrolled in parent-centered services were 35% less likely to experience a removal of kids preventing foster care. She thought it was a significant statement to highlight.

John Wilson offered to make a motion to include language in the report relative to increasing access to work and family support programs using language from another recommendation from an earlier Cabinet meeting. Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

**MOTION:**

John Wilson moved the Cabinet recommends the Governor and the Kansas Legislature increase access to work and family support programs that help children and families meet their basic needs. Research clearly shows that children thrive when their basic needs are met, and that parents and caregivers are better able to support children when their own basic needs are met. The Cabinet believes current restrictions to childcare assistance, cash assistance, nutrition assistance and health insurance programs undercut the investments made through the CIF and blunt the efficacy of early childhood care and education programs. The 2019 comprehensive, statewide Needs Assessment and 2021 Needs Assessment update document these concerns. Motion seconded by Monica Murnan.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call vote:

Senator Renee Erickson	Yes	Monica Murnan	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes	Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes	John Wilson	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes	Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

John Wilson offered another motion relative to the Annual Report information and request for \$3.4 million dollars in SGF dollars to be used as match for CCDBG funds. Melissa clarified for the board that the feds do not do \$1 for \$1 match, but based on a formula. Tanya Keys clarified additional details about the child care subsidy program.

**MOTION:**

John Wilson moved the Cabinet recommends the Governor and the Kansas Legislature contribute State General Fund dollars to fully draw down matching Child Care & Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds from the federal level. Motion seconded by Deliece Hofen.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call vote:

Senator Renee Erickson	Abstained
LeEtta Felter	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Delice Hofen	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
John Wilson	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

Monica Murnan offered a motion relating to recommending the best available data for safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children be included in the Report.

**MOTION:**

Monica Murnan moved the Cabinet, representing the best interests of children, recommends that the best available data and research drive regulations safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children. Motion seconded by John Wilson. There was discussion.

Dr. Smith suggested that the wording “evidence-based” be inserted in front of the word data in that motion. Chairman Moore asked Monica and John if they agreed with amending their motion with the suggested edit. Both agreed.

**AMENDED MOTION:**

Monica Murnan moved the Cabinet, representing the best interests of children, recommends that the best available evidence-based data and research driven regulations safeguarding the health and wellbeing of children. Motion seconded by John Wilson.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call Vote on the amended motion.

Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Delice Hofen	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
John Wilson	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

After the Cabinet’s edits to the annual report, Chairman Moore asked for a motion to approve the Annual Report with the additions.

**MOTION:**

LeEtta Felter moved the Cabinet adopt the 2022 Children’s Cabinet Annual Report with the recommended edits. Motion seconded by Tyler Smith.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call vote.

Senator Renee Erickson	No
LeEtta Felter	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Delice Hofen	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
John Wilson	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Vote was 7-1. Motion carried.

### **PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT B-5 RENEWAL GRANT UPDATE**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director reported:

- Cabinet/KUCR CPPR team submitted the PDG grant application on November 7. Cabinet is designated lead applicant in continued collaboration with KSDE, KDHE, and DCF.
- Grant year runs 12/30/2022 to 12/29/2023.
- Awards cap at \$4 million for ten successful applicants
- Kansas is one of twenty-seven states eligible to apply for new planning grant
- Kansas is not eligible for a parallel PDG Implementation grant
- The PDG grant focuses on five tasks: 1) Statewide Needs Assessment, 2) Statewide Strategic Plan, 3) Maximizing Parent & Family Engagement, 4) Support the B-5 Workforce & Disseminate Best Practices and 5) Support Overall Quality Improvement.
- Workforce Registry Update:  
Completed a lengthy state procurement process with Kansas Department of Administration and Kansas Office of Information Technology, reviewed and vetted applicants, and ensured statutory requirements adhered to in contract. Successful vendor identified and contract fully executed earlier this week.

Hannah White, Early Childhood Systems Workforce Coordinator discussed the Career Pathway tool

Career Pathway is a model representing the career, support, and training options offered to professionals practicing in the Early Childhood Care and Education system. It is a software portal tool developed to meet the objectives of Goal 6 under the All In For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan. The career pathway provides professionals in the field towards resources to support their professional goals. The career pathway brings together existing system offerings while simultaneously developing multiple entry points for advancement in more equitable and attainable careers.

Chairman Moore thanked Melissa and Hannah for their updates.

## AGENCY UPDATES

Hannah White, Early Childhood Workforce Systems Coordinator, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund reported:

- Open application period in effect for the ECBG RFP. Due date for submission is Friday, December 16, 2022, by 5:00 p.m. Useful information was shared via webinars and biweekly e-mail notifications to help prepare applicants as they complete applications.
- Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director has coordinated a team of reviewers. After the application closes, that team will begin reviewing and scoring applications.
- A slate of recommended applicants will be presented to the Cabinet board at the April 14, 2023, meeting for approval.

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

- KSDE distributes *KSDE Weekly*, its new electronic newsletter every Thursday to school leaders on issues KSDE addresses. Bright spot programs and topics from around the state are showcased. For example, in the Nov 17 edition, an update about the Paola Consortium of Parents As Teachers was featured for conducting a virtual meeting recognizing its World Nursery Rhyme Week and the significance of child literacy. Anyone interested in receiving the newsletter, please e-mail [ksdeweekly@ksde.org](mailto:ksdeweekly@ksde.org). The KSDE early childhood team also uses the newsletter to share out information on early childhood administration.
- Core team and content specialists are working on updates to the eight content areas of the Early Learning Standard. The team is contemplating how the ELS impacts the diverse experiences of children and their families and considering how to make the document more accessible and broadly distributed to a wide array of professionals in Kansas. If interested in engaging in these efforts, please send an e-mail to Natalie McClane at [nmcclane@ksde.org](mailto:nmcclane@ksde.org). Updates will be shared in the All In For Kansas Kids weekly newsletter and at the Early Childhood Systems Building meetings.
- Preparing for the 2023-2024 school year and thinking about preschool funding. KSDE Early Childhood team is reviewing resources to share with school districts as they strategize and budget for their early childhood/preschool programs. Along with PDG and Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) funding, sharing information about other sustainable resources with the school districts.

Secretary Janet Stanek, Kansas Dept. of Health & Environment

- Looked forward to more collaboration with other state agencies and CIF programs in the upcoming year. KDHE has several targets and obviously the childcare licensing area is another important focus. She asked Ashley and Alyson to give updates.
- Ashley Goss, Deputy Secretary for Public Health, reported KDHE has a new Child Care Licensing Director. New staff are being recruited to provide quicker turnaround of childcare licensing,
- KDHE held a public hearing on proposed amendments to the childcare licensing regulations. Several individuals came out in opposition to the amendments. All public comments have

been compiled and will be presented to Secretary Stanek and her team for review. There might be misunderstanding about the amendments that will be addressed. Alyson addressed the nature of the comments,

- Alyson Dalrymple, Program Coordinator, remarked she had reviewed all the public comments and confirmed the objections to the amendments came from childcare providers. There were 50-60 childcare providers that shared their opinion. Approximately six statewide partners provided written testimony,
- Alyson reported on the Childcare bonus updates. As November 28, KDHE received 12,500 applications, equating to \$26 million dollars. Fiscal staff are doing an excellent job processing those requests. The deadline is December 10, 2022, for submitting applications.

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

- DCF in review phase of RFPs for Family Resource Centers. Anticipates announcing successful recipients in next month. The Centers will function as community hubs for families.
- DCF anticipates announcing recipients for its second iteration of the Family First Prevention Providers grants. Those grants will promote parent-skill building, parent education, and home visiting services. Grants will begin next state fiscal year. The Cabinet heard the impact of those grants during an earlier presentation.

Melissa Rooker reported Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Kansas Board of Regents sent her regrets for not joining the meeting, however, she sent an update about the Statewide System General Education Units package changes across Regents' institutions. The point of the measure is to make it easier for students to transfer credits across Kansas institutions of higher education, provide cost savings and less duplication of effort. Please see [https://www.kansasregents.org/academic\\_affairs/general-education](https://www.kansasregents.org/academic_affairs/general-education).

Justice Keynen Wall, Supreme Court

- Discussed the Rural of Justice Initiative kicked off December 1. The Committee will be addressing the shortage of attorneys in rural or frontier counties in Kansas and barriers to accessing justice in those communities. The shortage impacts situations in Child In Need of Care matters. The parents, grandparents or foster care have the challenge of seeking legal counsel in their communities, for example.

Matthew Billinger, Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee Coordinator, Kansas Department of Corrections, reported:

- Replaced Hope Cooper on the Cabinet as the DOC Ex Officio designee,
- Reported on DOC Innovation grants,
- Reported on DOC Opiate Response Unit that partners with DCF, KDHE and KDADs to address substance abuse issues,
- Focused on promoting public awareness activities and offered to share information on other members' distribution platforms. Melissa Rooker offered to collect Matthew's information and include it in the Children's Cabinet weekly newsletter on Twitter.



## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director reported:

- Revisited a Cabinet recommendation from the June 24, 2022 special meeting on home visiting to conduct an evidence-based study on home visiting models in Kansas. The study would support of a statewide infrastructure with variety of home visiting options for sustainability to meet the needs of Kansas families and children.
- Attended the annual National Alliance Children's Trust Fund Conference, in Denver, CO, November 14-17, 2022. Met with peers from across the country to share information about children trust funds,
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library expanding across the state. CIF line item established in July 2022 to support the expansion of services,
- Involved in various community presentations and visits
- Kansas Leadership Center Panel – Invited to participate as a panelist at KLC Leadership program next week.

## **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 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 Deliece Hofen the meeting be adjourned. Motion seconded by Monica Murnan. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.