

KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **February 3, 2023**, 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, Chairman, John Wilson, Dr. Tyler Smith-Howells, Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, LeEtta Felter, Senator Renee Erickson, Alyson Dalrymple (KDHE), Natalie McClane (KSDE), Tanya Keys (DCF), Dr. Karla Wiscombe (KBOR) and Matthew Billinger (DOC).
Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, and Dyogga Adegboro.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

Chairman Kim Moore called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

Chairman Moore asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes, and if none, asked for a motion.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 2, 2022, MINUTES

LeEtta Felter moved the minutes of December 2, 2022, meeting be approved as written. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham. Members voted by voice vote in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING DASHBOARD

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director reported on supplemental federal American Rescue and Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funding awarded to Kansas under the federal Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families’ Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program a year ago. Although the Cabinet has not yet granted out those dollars, Melissa presented information on a proposed targeted service under a new program called the Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard which she believes would be an ideal project for which to grant the funding to better understand community-level issues that affect children and their families while articulating the benefits of investing in child maltreatment prevention. This project builds on the Thriving Families, Safer Children and All In For Kansas Kids work.

Melissa remarked since the supplemental dollars are one-time funding, the Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard seems to be an ideal way to use those dollars that will have a lasting effect. This would be a proactive measure for prevention of child maltreatment and abuse. The timeframe for the project will be split into two phases. Phase 1 covers research and development of public data this year and Phase 2 will include review, improvement and dissemination for the year 2024 through 2025. Recommended supplemental CBCAP funding allotted will be approximately \$371,320 under a two-and-a-half-year budget.

LeEtta Felter commented that the data collected would be beneficial for anyone desiring to write a grant for their communities.

Dr. Jackie Counts, KU Center for Public Partnerships & Research elaborated KUCR would develop an interactive dashboard that contains data on basic needs, community strengths and gaps, family resources and social determinants of health. Chairman Moore suggested Melissa contact the Kansas Hospital Association for information about their data tool and input and what lessons they learned as they established a similar software tool. He wondered if even conducting webinars for grantees would be beneficial to them in accessing data in the communities served. Melissa remarked she would follow up on those suggestions.

MOTION:

Deliece Hofen moved the Cabinet approve the proposal of funding the Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard with the Supplemental ARPA CBCAP award dollars and authorize staff to implement the plan. Motion seconded by LeEtta Felter.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE ORDER 23-01

Melissa Rooker reported that Governor Laura Kelly signed the first executive order of the year that establishes an Early Childhood Transition Task Force. The Task Force is charged with reviewing Kansas’ early childhood programs and creating a roadmap for a new state, cabinet-level agency to support the success of Kansas children. Melissa will be a member of the Task Force representing the Children’s Cabinet. The vision focuses on serving children ages zero to five years of age and supporting high quality early care and education, adapting to the needs of families, communities and supporting access for all families. All members received a copy of the executive order in their meeting prep materials.

SPARK FUNDING

Melissa Rooker briefed the board on a new project we will be engaged in called the Child Care Capacity Accelerator, funded by an award from the SPARK funding (part of the American Rescue and Recovery Plan (ARPA) State Fiscal Recovery Fund discretionary dollars in the amount of \$20 million to support construction and major renovation of childcare centers across

the state. DCF transferred \$20 million from its Child Care Discretionary Fund (ARPA) so the Child Care Capacity Accelerator can also provide operational support to add high-quality and sustainable licensed childcare seats in Kansas. Melissa explained the Children's Cabinet will administer the \$40 million in funding through a single RFP application process. Melissa shared the timeline for posting and accepting Letters of Interest, application timeline pending Recovery Office approval. Letters of Interest are due by 5:00 p.m. February 20, 2023. Announcement of awards is tentatively scheduled some time in June 2023. See: www.allinforkansaskids.org/communities.

DRAFT LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING NONPROFIT CORPORATION BENEFITING DOLLY PARTON IMAGINATION LIBRARY

Melissa discussed a draft bill authorizing the Children's Cabinet to establish a nonprofit corporation to benefit the Dolly Parton Imagination Library book gifting project. The board of directors shall consist of the members of the Children's Cabinet; the executive director and other directors designate by the Children's Cabinet. The nonprofit corporation shall accept gifts, donations and grants and engage in fundraising projects for the benefit of the Dolly Parton Imagination library book gifting program to sustain reading by Kansas children. A copy of the draft bill was included in the meeting prep materials. (attached)

AGENCY UPDATES

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund reported:

- Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) RFP closed on December 21, 2022. External and interview reviewers are scoring applications. A recommended slate will be presented to the Cabinet board at the April 14 meeting. Successful applicants will begin grant year on July 1, 2023.
- Wrapping up Preschool Development Grant (PDG) subgrant. All funding must be expended by April 29. There are approximately 50 grants, some have had multi-year grants and others are one-year kindergarten readiness recipients. There have been some challenges for grantees due to supply chain and staffing issues. Staff held zoom meetings with each grantee to follow up on status of spending down grants and respond to questions.

Natalie McClane, Education Program Consultant, Kansas Preschool Program, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) attended the meeting in place of Amanda Petersen and reported:

- Kansas Parent Information Resource Center (KPIRC) distributed over 45,000 copies of the updated Kindergarten in Kansas booklets to organizations. Preparing to disseminate additional copies to organizations preparing for kindergarten roundup. The booklet has been translated in Spanish, Vietnamese, Swahili, Arabic, and Burmese.

- Kansas Preschool Pilot renewal applications are due by February 17, 2023. Applicants with questions, should feel free to e-mail nmcclane@ksde.org or submit a helpdesk ticket through the Kansas Common App. Chairman Moore commended Natalie and KSDE on translating the Kindergarten Readiness booklet in so many languages.

Melissa remarked Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Department for Children and Families had to leave the meeting early.

- DCF awarded family resource center grants totaling \$1.8 million dollars to several organizations. DCF partnered with Kansas Children’s Service League (KCSL). Grants were awarded to entities across the state such as Douglas County, southeast Kansas, southwest Kansas, KU Project Eagle in Wyandotte County, Sedgwick County, LiveWell Northwest Kansas, USD 252 South Lyon County, USD 202 Turner Schools in Wyandotte County, Pony Express program in Marshall and Washington Counties.

Melissa remarked Justice Keynen Wall was unable to join the meeting due to Supreme Court docket. Justice Wall send updates to share with the board.

- Four 75-minute family law webinar are scheduled during the year and begin at noon. They are set up for judges, court staff, and attorneys.

Parental Conflict and Child Development was held on January 25,
 May 24, 2023 - A Child’s Voice in Court,
 September 27, 2023 - Mental Health and Family Court, and
 December 13, 2023 - Family Court and Technology

- Four 50-minute webinars on child toxic stress and its impact on youth that have been in the juvenile justice system are scheduled. Judges, attorneys, and court staff are welcome to attend and all seminars will begin at noon.

February 24, 2023 – Child Toxic Stress, Racial Identity and Discrimination
 May 26, 2023 – Child Toxic Stress and LGBTQ Identity and Discrimination
 September 22, 2023 – Child Toxic Stress and the Foster Care System
 November 15, 2023 – Systemic Considerations: A Trauma-Informed Approach

- Kansas Legal Services provides a grant-funded advice line providing brief advice to court patrons who have questions about legal proceedings, filling out forms, and other related topics. The telephone line is 1-800-675-5860. Any questions can be e-mailed to cindyv@klsinc.org.

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director of Academic Affairs, Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) reported:

- Glad to be back at the Cabinet meetings
- KBOR approved the Statewide System General Education Units package across Regents' institutions.
- Discussed the new General Education Disciplinary buckets and creating pathways for all high students to be successful. An example of a six-hour bucket is the required courses of public speaking and English Composition I required for all associate and bachelor's degrees. www.kansasregents.org/academic.affairs/general-education/seven-bucket-framework.

Alyson Dalrymple, Deputy Bureau Director, Bureau of Family Health (KDHE) reported:

- Drew Duncan has served as Interim Bureau of Family Health Director.
- Derik Flerlage and Dr. Jessica Piper have been hired as Co-Directors of the Bureau of Family Health. Derik will oversee child care licensing, Early Care & Youth Programs, Nutrition & WIC services. Dr. Piper will oversee Title V Maternal & Child Health, Screening and Surveillance, Children & Families divisions.
- Alyson mentioned she will be on military leave for the next two months and Ashley Goss will be attending the next Cabinet meeting.

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

- KDOC and Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee will be announcing new grant opportunities for community agencies and health centers that would not normally apply or be eligible to apply for juvenile justice grants. Fliers will be sent out.
- KDOC started a contract with a functional family therapy approach for youth that are on supervision. Staff will be receiving training in how best to engage families and help parents get involved with working with their youth.
- Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee created a workgroup and included DCF, KDADs, KDHE to address behavioral health networks in Kansas. There have been several barriers that these networks face. Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee would like to see how it can partner and help.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Melissa reported that the Cabinet received \$4 million-dollar federal Preschool Development Birth to Five Planning Grant from Department of Health and Human Services in late December 2022. This is a one-year grant that requires states to update their comprehensive needs assessment and strategic plan for early childhood.

Shared updates on staffing responsibility changes in the office. Due to additional responsibilities Melissa is taking on with regard to the Governor's Task Force and other special projects, Amy Meek will assume responsibility for the administration of grants and contracts. The Cabinet is also hiring a federal project officer to administer the Child Care Capacity Accelerator. We have an additional open position to fill to oversee the Early Childhood Block Grant and Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Grant programs. Hannah White, Project Coordinator for the Early Childhood Workforce program responsibility continues to revolve around the workforce registry and career pathway implementation as part of the PDG grant. Dyogga Adegboro, Program Consultant continues to function as office manager, supports the Cabinet board and preparing meeting minutes, tracking office funds, accounts payables, and grant/contractual legal paperwork. Megan Brohaugh, Administrative Specialist continues to provide administrative support to the staff and the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel along with processing PDG payments for Preschool Development Grant (PDG) grantees.

Melissa discussed the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program expansion across Kansas and reported on a draft bill authorizing the establishment of a 501 (c) (3) for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in Kansas would be discussed during the House Appropriations Committee hearing next week. She anticipated a mirror bill on the Senate side too.

Melissa shared that the Cabinet will be printing bookmarks with information about the Imagination Library. Dr. Smith said she would like to receive several bookmarks to distribute. Melissa said she would ensure several are sent to Dr. Smith and thanked her for offering to assist in dissemination of the bookmarks.

OTHER BUSINESS:

John Wilson remarked every year the Children's Cabinet makes decisions on funding recommendations. He wanted to see guidelines for the board on where to direct interested parties concerning grant application process. John asked Melissa if the staff would provide the board with guidelines where to field questions from constituents or public. Melissa responded Cabinet staff will put together guidelines to share with the board.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Upcoming meetings are scheduled 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every other month as virtual meetings until further notice. The 2023 schedule of meeting dates are: April 14 (second Friday), 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. John Wilson moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by Tyler Smith-Howells. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.