

KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **April 14, 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, Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, LeEtta Felter, Senator Renee Erickson, Terri Rice, John Wilson, and Derik Flerlage, Jessica Piper, Ashley Goss, (KDHE) Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Tanya Keys (DCF), Karla Wiscombe (KBOR), Dena Russell-Marino, (Supreme Court), Matthew Billinger (DOC).
Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Lucas Neece, and Dyogga Adegboro.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS

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

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2023, MINUTES

John Wilson moved for approval of the minutes of February 3, 2023. Motion seconded by Deliece Hofen. There was unanimous approval of the minutes by voice vote. Motion carried.

HOME VISITING ALIGNMENT UPDATE

The Children’s Cabinet made recommendations at its June 2022 meeting to evaluate evidence-based home visiting and its various models in Kansas and determine how to better align all models. Melissa provided a report to the Children’s Cabinet. Data collected through needs assessment and surveys showed that Maternal Child Health Universal reported there were 1,719 child and 2,039 families were served and Need-based home visiting served 12,600 children and 9,608 families in Kansas. Based on the data, several observations and challenges were noted. 1) HV models in Kansas consist of multiple funders and the multiple providers making data collection difficult, 2) Workforce challenges exist with inconsistent data in some areas, 3) Not all models keep caseloads full, yet others have long waiting lists, and 4) State agencies provide significant funding to certain models 5) Some local models did not accurately track all of their funding sources. Additional study would be beneficial. Melissa noted that the Governor’s Early Childhood Transition Task Force would also be exploring recommendations to better align these programs under a single state agency.

Chairman Moore commented he is a huge supporter of home visiting and added it is the most cost effective and accessible model available. He thanked Melissa for her report.

Chairman Moore welcomed board member Terri Rice to the meeting.

EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT (ECBG) STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024

RECOMMENDATIONS

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director gave an overview of the application review process. Applications were submitted through the Kansas Common App portal. There were 18 existing grantees that went through a fast-track application process for stability of program planning, efficiencies for submission and review, reduced grant-writing burdens. There were also 16 new applicants applied through an open competitive RFP bid process. The review team recommended eight of the new applicants and all of the existing grantees that applied. One existing grantee chose not to re-apply. Staff reviewed initial applications and a team of external panel members reviewed and scored the applications. The total proposed funding is \$22.8 million dollars for State Fiscal Year 2024.

After considerable discussion, Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

MOTION:

Deliece Hofen moved the Cabinet approve the slate of State Fiscal Year 2024 ECBG recommendations as presented. Motion seconded by John Wilson.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call Vote:

Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
Terri Rice	Yes
John Wilson	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

AGENCY UPDATES

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

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Awareness month and time to make the public aware of the importance of CBCAP programs. The Child Abuse Prevention federal grant allows the Cabinet to fund various prevention activities. Kansas Children’s Service League (KCSL) takes the lead in sponsoring various activities throughout the month of April in collaboration with other CBCAP programs in the state. See www.kcsl.org to view various activities and a toolkit featured.
- Conducted virtual site visits with the CBCAP grantees. The conversations have been good as the grantees complete their first half of the grant year.

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

- Encouraged everyone to sign up to receive the KSDE weekly newsletter. E-mail KSDEweekly@ksde.org. It is a wonderful way to stay up to date on everything going on at KSDE, such as summaries of recent Kansas Board of Education (KBOE) meetings, current professional development activities, and funding opportunities, to name a few.
- Kansas Board of Education continues to work through its strategic plan goals and better define its priority areas as new members join the board.

Derik Flerlage, Co-Director, Bureau of Family Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported:

- Introduced himself and shares co-director role with Dr. Jessica Piper, in the Bureau of Family Health division at KDHE, managing distinct functions. He started his new role in late-February 2023 and Dr. Piper joined in early March. Both Ashley Goss and Jessica Piper were present on this virtual meeting.
- KDHE started its review and promulgation of its Child Care Licensing regulations. Staff are on target with timelines and pleased with the direction the process has been going,
- Rolling out virtual education series consisting of three one-hour sessions for Child Care Providers on April 24, 27, and 29, 2023. Sessions will be held either in the evening or on Saturday, April 29th.

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Department for Children and Families reported.

- DCF announced the recipients of the Family First Prevention grants with overlapping with Healthy Families America, Home Visiting, and Parents as Teachers.
- DCF also announced the ten recipients of the Family Resource Center grants. Some of those grantees also receive Early Childhood Block Grants.

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

- KBOR approved the Flint Hills Technical College offering an early childhood education program and approved by the Promise Act.
- KBOR will begin looking at mathematics pathways for all of its bachelor's and associate degrees. Universities' faculty will be reviewing and determining which core math classes (i.e., college algebra, elementary statistics, or quantitative reasoning) would be best suited and beneficial for students for their particular bachelor's and associate degree.

Dena Russell-Marino, Court Programs Specialist, Office of Judicial Administration, Kansas Supreme Courts attended the meeting and reported on behalf of Justice Keynen Wall. Dena reported:

- Third session of the juvenile justice online seminar series is scheduled May 26, 2023. The session is on Child Toxic Stress and LGBTQ Identity and Discrimination, Best Practices training, (in-person and via zoom) will be focusing on older youth and is scheduled in August 2023.

- New CASA Code books will be distributed across the state.
- Child Welfare Summit is scheduled next April 2024. Child welfare providers will meet to discuss their challenges, barriers, and wins in the child welfare system and collaborate.

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

- DOC staff have spent a lot of time working with legislators on several bills much like other state agencies. There were bills that DOC supported that did not pass during the legislative session. However, ongoing conversations will continue with legislators. Examples were a bill on eliminating fines for juvenile cases, another bill for opening up opportunities for juvenile crisis centers, and a bill concerning initiating additional funding for community programs.
- A bill that passed related to renaming the Joint Committee on Juvenile Justice Oversight. The bill renames the Committee in honor of the late Rep. J. Russell Jennings who was well-known in the juvenile justice community and his many contributions to the JJA system and advocate of juvenile justice reforms. House Bill 2114 was signed into law earlier in the week by Governor Kelly.
- Mr. Jennings served as a member of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund under his tenure as Commissioner of Kansas Juvenile Justice Authority. Mr. Jennings passed away in 2021.

Chairman Moore welcomed board member LeEtta Felter to the meeting. LeEtta explained she had to join the meeting late because she just returned from successfully passing her dissertation proposal defense. She is now officially a doctoral candidate and will be beginning her research.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Melissa Rooker updated the board on the following items:

- Legislative updates. Part of the CIF budget passed such as the line item matches that go to DCF and KDHE. Proviso regarding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library 501(c) 3 passed as well,
- Melissa thanked Senator Erickson for her help in helping move the recommendations through in the legislature,
- Hunt Institute is scheduled to convene the Governor’s Early Childhood Transition Task Force on May 16, 2023,
- Melissa introduced Lucas Neece, Grants Manager new to the Children’s Cabinet staff,
- Position of Early Childhood Program Coordinator has been filled with new hire starting on May 1,
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library current coverage map was shared with the board. Over 48,000 books distributed to children around the state each month,
- The extension for PDG funding was extended through April 29, 2024. The PDG Five-Year Strategic Plan helped support other gap analysis,

- Update on the Child Care Accelerator letters of interest and the RFP. Recommended another meeting of the Cabinet to act on the suggested slate of applicants. Melissa asked if members would be available for a short virtual meeting on June 23. The Cabinet discussed and set 1:00 p.m., Friday, June 23 as the meeting date and time.

OTHER BUSINESS

John Wilson remarked about two other legislative provisos on prior recommendations by the Children Cabinet. 1) Children's health and poverty level adjustment increased and 2) Increased CAP for newborn screenings level for next couple of years.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

The next scheduled meeting will be Friday, June 2, 2023. All meetings are scheduled 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. every other month as virtual meetings until further notice. Other meetings scheduled are August 4, October 6, and December 1, 2023.

The Cabinet will be conducting a special session Friday, June 23, 2023, at 1:00 p.m. to act on the slate of Child Care Accelerator grant recommendations. The meeting will be held virtually.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore asked for a motion to adjourn. DiAnne Graham moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by LeEtta Felter. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.