

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, March 22, 2024



Visit the [Children's Cabinet website](#) for meeting materials and the [YouTube recording](#).

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, DCF
Marites Altuna, Kansas State
School for the Blind
Mallory Arellano, Kansas State
School for the Blind
Brenda Bandy, Kansas
Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.
Dana Book, KCSL
Eldonna Chesnut, Johnson County
Department of Health and
Environment
Amy Dean-Campfire, KDHE
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE
Nick Engels, Littles Early Learning
Kerri Falletti, KDC
Kelly Franzt-Langford, TARC
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of
Learning
Kim Kennedy, DCF-HSCO
Hilary Koehn, KPATA
Tanya Koehn, CCAKS
Katrina Lowry, Russell Child
Development Center
Karen MacCroy, Mitchell County
Partnership for Children
Malissa Martin, Spark Wheel

Natalie McClane, KSDE
Leigh Anne Neal, USD 512 Shawnee
Mission School District
Lindsay Orion, KU CPPR
Stephanie Parks, KCCTO
Patty Peschel, KCCTO
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent
Information Resource Center
Bethany Samuel, DCF
Brett Schmidt, Learning Cross
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community
Y Child Development Center
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas
Head Start Association
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early
Learning Centers
Tara Taylor, Arkansas City Public
Schools
Ly Tran, DCF
Marie Treichel, KAIMH
Jateice Vieux, USD 226 Meade
Elementary & Junior High School
Christie Wyckoff, KCCTF

Minutes

Welcome

Cornelia Stevens called the meeting to order with a quorum present, described processes for a remote meeting, and directed participants to the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund website](#) for meeting materials.

March Meeting Agenda

Eldonna Chesnut moved to approve the agenda and Amy Dean-Campfire seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

January 19, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Leigh Anne Neal moved to approve the January minutes and Natalie McClane seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the [Kansans' Open Forum Comment Form](#) by 5:00pm the day preceding each meeting to share written comments or to sign up to share verbal comments with the Panel during this portion of the meeting. No comments submitted.

Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) Statewide

Cornelia introduced Stacy Clarke of Kansas Department of Health and Environment to present on the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ). The ASQ, Third Edition (ASQ-3) addresses five developmental areas: communication, gross motor, fine motor, problem-solving, and personal-social. And the ASQ: Social-Emotional, Second Edition (ASQ:SE-2) addresses seven social-emotional areas: self-regulation, compliance, communication, adaptive behaviors, autonomy, and affect/interaction with people. The ASQ can be used to identify children that may need additional supports. The early years of life build a foundation for future learning, health, and success. Children's early life experiences deeply affect their future physical, cognitive, emotional, and social development. Parents, providers, and communities play a critical role in ensuring children have the supports and resources they need to thrive. Early intervention is proven to be most effective, saves money in the long run, and prevents future delays.

The ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2 are screening tools, not diagnostic tools and they provide a developmental snapshot of a child (birth through kindergarten) at a specific time. Screening can detect developmental delays in children and celebrates their milestones. You can find chart and graphs of the 2023 aggregate data for the Statewide ASQ Online System (which includes the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot and the accounts administered by Part C Programs), including number of children screened (by age interval), and ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 results for all ages (as well as broken down into age intervals) on the [Recommendations Panel slide deck](#).

There have been coordinated efforts and several improvements made when it comes to usage of the ASQ across the state. Engaging families is a key part of getting children ready for kindergarten. Kansas elementary schools partner with parents and caregivers to complete both the ASQ-3 and the ASQ:SE-2.

2024 All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan

Cornelia introduced Erica Figueroa of KU's Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR) to present on the draft 2024 All In for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan. The Strategic Plan is funded by the Preschool Development B-5 Planning Grant (PDG-P) and it requires an updated Needs Assessment and Strategic Plan. This effort is a collaboration between 4 state agencies: the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, Kansas State Department of Education, Kansas Department of Health and Environment, and the Department of Children and Families. The purpose is to provide a north star and unified vision for the Kansas Early Childhood Ecosystem and help guide decision-making for early childhood leaders and champions at all levels. The document is structured by pillars (broad categories that align with the Needs Assessment), goals (full sentence objectives that specify how to get to the vision), actions (detailed steps to take to meet the goals), and measures of success (data points we can track on how we know we are achieving our goals).

Ecosystem Pillar

- **Goal 1** – Strengthen the continuum of early childhood services through widespread collaboration across the state and local partners. (Collaboration, Governance)
- **Goal 2** – Connect families to the right service at the right time through comprehensive networks of resources and services. (Navigation)
- **Goal 3** – Measure impact across the continuum of early childhood services over time and use the data to make changes that reduce disparities and improve outcomes for children. (Data, Equity, Impact)
- **Goal 4** – Promote agreements between public and private sectors to expand early childhood supports. (Investments, Community-driven Partnerships)
- **Goal 5** – Support policies and/or efforts that increase capacity, enhance quality, improve access to services, and contribute to economic security for families. (Policy and Process Improvement, Reducing Administration Barriers)
- **Goal 6** – Strengthen existing tools and create new resources that help families makes informed decisions and experience seamless transitions in support of their child's interests, healthy social-emotional development, and academic potential. (Seamless Transitions, Early identification, Family Knowledge and Choice)

Workforce Pillar

- **Goal 1** – Support strategies to increase the overall compensation of early childhood professionals and improve the financial sustainability of programs. (Compensation, Financial Sustainability)

- **Goal 2** – Build workforce capacity to provide high quality early childhood services. (Workforce Capacity)
- **Goal 3** – Support early childhood professionals to help them reach their professional development goals. (Professional Development)
- **Goal 4** – Support high quality programming and resources for children in all birth to 5 environments so they can reach appropriate developmental goals. (Quality of Experiences and Environments)

Children and Families Pillar

- **Goal 1** – Engage families in experiences to both lead and contribute, while creating new opportunities to help shape the early childhood system. (Family Voice and Knowledge)
- **Goal 2** – Build awareness of the continuum of service to help families make informed decisions in support of their child’s interests, healthy development, and learning. (Family Choice)
- **Goal 3** – Improve child well-being by increasing access to the continuum of services that prioritize safe, nurturing parent-caregiver relationships and strong families. (Family Well-being)
- **Goal 4** – Prioritize the mental health of families by offering accessible, multi-generational services to both children and parents/caregivers. (Mental/Behavioral Health)
- **Goal 5** – Ensure families have trusted culturally, linguistically, and diverse-ability-appropriate experiences across early childhood services. (Equity and Inclusion)

Voices of Kansans are vital to ensure the goals and action plans going forward reflect what is needed to help every child thrive! All are welcome to complete the [feedback form](#) to tell us what you think, where you see your own work and ambitions within the plan, and where you don’t. We want to know what you value most and where we might be missing the mark. The feedback form will be open from March 4 through April 19, 2024.

AIFKK Tactic Work Group Reports

Cornelia introduced a representative from each work group to provide an update on the work they have done since last month’s meeting.

Tactic 7.1.2: Zoning

Update given by Tanya Koehn. Toolkit currently up on the [CCAKS website](#) and it gives information for providers and communities if they are having zoning challenges and has an “Are You Ready to Join Forces” link which has a map of child care community coalitions across the state with relative contact information. This list continues to grow as we get more permissions from the individuals leading these coalitions. Our goal is to show providers and communities that they are not alone in their zoning struggles and help is available. Survey on Home Owner’s Association (HOA) challenges will be sent out to child

care providers so they can give input and we will accumulate and process that information and work towards creating an HOA Toolkit.

Strategy 4.2: Family-friendly Workplaces

Update given by Dana Book. Workgroup currently working toward multiple recommendations. Still honing the overlapping initiatives and crafting how they can work together (Family Friendly Kansas and Family Forward Kansas). Working with the department of commerce to spread the word of those initiatives through their website and other collateral material, including a recognition program that is ready to launch. The launch includes a social media campaign that promotes family friendly workplace work and recognizes employers that have been identified as a family friendly workplace.

Tactic 6.1.5: Recruitment and Retention

Update given by Amy Gottschamer. Continued moving forward with online toolkit plans and have been checking resources so as not to overlap with what has already been done. Identified some Child Care Aware work that looked helpful. Working on a broad, one stop shop for a multitude of audiences and have been considering where this toolkit could live. Main goals are to promote the work that has already been done and continue to pull everything together.

Tactic 6.1.1: Compensation and Benefits

Update given by Heather Schrotberger. Continued discussions with Watershed consulting group following the January Panel meeting to assure our forward movement is in alignment with what they are working on. Shared their working definition for early childhood professional compensation: competitive compensation and benefits for Kansas early childhood professionals includes direct compensation and financial relief strategies* reflective of both experience and credentials, aligned with the broader educational system, tied to a clear career pathway with opportunities for advancement, and backed by robust and sustainable public and private revenue streams. (*Direct compensation could include pay/benefits such as: wages and salaries; legally required benefits; unemployment insurance; social security contributions; workers' compensation; bonuses and stipends; paid time off (vacation and sick leave); health insurance; retirement contributions; company shares; paid planning time; professional development. Financial relief strategies could include paid family leave; child care benefits; tax credits; loan forgiveness; tuition assistance; and student loan repayment.)

2024-2025 Panel Applications:

Open to any Kansan interested in serving on the working group for the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council, known as the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Applications will be accepted from April 1st through May 3rd. This is a one year term from July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025. All current Panel members are encouraged to re-apply and share with others. Applications can be found on the [Children's Cabinet website](#).

Bright Spots:

- Tanya Koehn: Had a wonderful Early Learning Day on March 6th at the state capitol. Lots of energy and excitement from those in attendance!
- Eldonna Chesnut: The Raising JoCo Coalition is up and running and are hosting their first conference on April 6th and already have 80 registrants.
- Marites Altuna: Invitation extended to everyone for the Preschool Enrichment Program Open House at the Kansas State School for the Blind on April 12th as well as a Blind Soccer Pitch Ribbon Cutting on April 5th.
- Tabatha Rosproy: Kansas Parent Information Resource Center team has been invited to attend a week of learning this summer at Harvard for Harvard's Family Engagement Session to learn from experts and bring what is learned back to Kansas.
- Lindsay Orion: Stellar Insights [Early Childhood Data webinar](#) coming up on March 28th on the Early Childhood Data Dashboard.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, April 19, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.