

# KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Friday, May 17, 2024



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

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## Members Present

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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  
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE  
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning  
Kim Kennedy, DCF-HSCO  
Tanya Koehn, CCAKS  
Karen MacCrary, 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  
Patty Peschel, KCCTO  
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning  
Centers  
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent  
Information Resource Center  
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y  
Child Development Center  
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas Head Start  
Association  
Christie Wyckoff, KCCTF  
Bronwyn Fees, Kansas State University

Kristina Cullison, Frontenac Public  
Schools  
Cheisa Myles, Blessed Assurance  
Daycare  
Logan Stenseng, Thrive Allen County  
Cora Ungerer, KDHE  
Stephanie Wiggins, KCCTO  
Emily Barnes, KAC  
Tara Taylor, Arkansas City Public Schools  
Katrina Lowry, Russell Child Development  
Center  
Marie Treichel, KAIMH  
Kerri Falletti, KDC  
Patty Peschel, KCCTO  
Amy Dean-Campmire, KDHE  
Lisa Jeanneret, DCF

# Minutes

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## 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.

## May Meeting Agenda

Emily Barnes moved to approve the agenda and Brenda Bandy seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

## April 19, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Tanya Koehn moved to approve the April minutes and Amy Dean-Campfire 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.

## AIFKK Website Process

Cornelia introduced Sara Gardner and Rachel Sisson of KU's Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR) who talked about the All in for Kansas Kids (AIFKK) website and let us know how this process is going. Sara discussed a system resource and how we can contribute to it, providing open feedback on how this resource can be beneficial for children, families, and the communities we serve. Background Information: AIFKK, most of the content so far has focused on distributing childcare capacity accelerator grants. However, the website was originally envisioned in 2020 as a centralized hub for families, communities, and professionals to access resources that are not tied to one state agency or organization. It's meant to serve as the 'front door' of the Kansas Early Childhood system. Below are some of the main goals of the site and its intended use.

### **AIFKK Website Goals**

- To be a dynamic, relevant, and welcoming source of information for families, communities, and professionals in the Kansas Early Childhood Ecosystem.
- To be the online presence for the collaborative Kansas Early Childhood Ecosystem – no one single agency or organization.
- To be a home base for AIFKK Strategic Plan implementation efforts.
- To amplify partner initiatives/efforts and direct visitors to where they need to go in the larger online Kansas Early Childhood space.

In the presentation, Sara shared her screen to show the current state of the AIFKK's website. The home/landing page of the website will all be updated in the next couple of months. Essentially the main tabs will include and cover families, professionals,

communities, provide information about the organization, and ways to contact them. Additional tabs for various resources are under consideration. The website overall is meant to be a simple tool/resource for families, caregivers, and professionals.



Below are different factors the team considered in evaluating how the website will impact its primary audience, including families, professionals, and communities. For example, what they might find on the site and how they can connect.

### **AIFKK Main Audience**

- **Families**
  - How to connect to the EC system (prenatal, maternal health child care, home visiting, developmental health, etc.)
  - Supports and/or connection to resources as a family/caregiver for their young children
  - Supports and/or connection to resources as an expecting parent or new parent
- **Professionals**
  - Inspiration and recognized value
  - How to understand what part of the KS EC Ecosystem Workforce is and how the pieces fit together
  - Best practices and/or ideas
  - Supports and/or connection to resources available for professionals
- **Communities**

- Lessons and strategies from Kansas communities in supporting EC
- Supports and/or connections to resources for local leaders (civic officials, eco devo, etc.)
- Best practices and/or ideas including community stories

### **AIFKK Website: What's The Difference?**

The website is not meant to be duplicative in providing information but used as a supportive resource. This platform aims to amplify and simplify access to services for families, professionals, or communities who may not know where to start. Below are a few additional reasons on how this resource is going to be different from other services.

- Limited programmatic details
- Warm, inviting language (not representing any one state agency)
- Central location to show and promote cross-agency, cross-partner, and cross-system connections
- Connections to AIFKK weekly email and webinars
- Not sure where to post something but it's important for EC families, communities, and professionals? AIFKK could be the right place!

### **AIFKK Website: Content Process**

If you're excited about this opportunity, you might be wondering how you can participate. There are two documents available to get more insight on the process: [All-In-Input-Process](#) and [Content Submission Form](#) from there these are the first steps.

- Current Steward – KU-CPPR (Content Review and Design/Web Maintenance)
- Goals of the Process
  - To maintain relevant and timely information based on audience needs
  - To refine language to match tone and placement of information.
  - To organize and format for clarity and ease of navigation.
  - To ensure coordination with the online content of Kansas early childhood partners
- Process Document – will be emailed to all Governance groups and state agency partners

For further insights into the breakdown of this process (content submission, review, posting, and maintenance) please refer to the [Early Childhood Recommendations Panel](#) timestamp: 20:42-28:47.

### **AIFKK Website: Next Steps**

The content process will be open to EC partners immediately. During this process and afterwards, the team is open to any feedback, whether it's about what's currently working or what's not. The floor was open for immediate comments and feedback. Great questions were asked, from maintenance and quarterly content review to even the panel members providing helpful suggestions related to the target audience. Overall, the panel was extremely excited and hopeful about this resource. If you want to hear more about what

was discussed, here is the [Early Childhood Recommendations Panel](#) timestamp of the open discussion: 30:53-46:20.

## 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 6.1.1: Compensation and Benefits**

Update given by Heather Schrotberger. Continued discussion on how to identify potential opportunities and solutions related to benefits for the Early Childhood Workforce. An updated version of the recently conducted compensation report and recommendation was received, and the group intends to review it collectively during the work group breakout session. Aim to provide a comprehensive update during the June meeting.

### **Tactic 7.1.2: Zoning**

Update given by Tanya Koehn. The HOA survey results have been received, and the group will review them to begin exploring the next steps.

### **Tactic 6.1.5: Recruitment and Retention**

Update given by Amy Gottschamer. Progress was achieved in determining the hosting platform for the online toolkit, designed to address recruitment and retention challenges beyond compensation and benefits. Met with Sara and Rachel to discuss how this group could get their information on the All in for Kansas Kids (AIFKK) website platform. Further discussions are scheduled for the work group breakout session and post-panel meeting. It is anticipated that they will proceed with completing the form. Looking forward to finalizing this process and showcasing their content on the AIFKK website.

### **Tactic 4.2: Family-friendly Workplaces**

Update given by Dana Book. The group took a hard look into the original recommendations and have refined them down to a few big recommendations for the cabinet. Recognize parallels from 5.17.2024 AIFKK website presentation and what has been discussed during family-friendly break out group discussion. Recognize that this could be something that may be useful for this group.

**For the June 21, 2024 Panel: Work groups are requested to prepare a comprehensive summary and presentation for this Panel meeting.** Work groups can bring forth any recommendations based on findings and experience and outline actionable next steps that can be used as a guide as we transition into next year's Panel work groups. Work groups may complete their work during this cycle or make recommendations for how the work can continue into the next Panel year. As a reminder, recommendations do not need to take the form of formal recommendations to the Children's Cabinet but could include recommendations to other Early Childhood Governance Groups, or for the Panel for future work. If you plan to suggest formal recommendations to the Children's Cabinet, these should be shared in advance with Executive Director Melissa Rooker for review and feedback.

## Bright Spots:

- Dana Book: Shout out to Brenda. Both Brenda and Dana have been actively promoting family-friendly workplaces across the state. Brenda recently presented to the Western Kansas SHERM chapter. Last month, Dana presented on resilient workplaces to a national audience last month. Dana presented resilient workplaces for a national audience and received bright feedback.
- Emily Barnes: Kansas Action for Children (KAC) is co-hosting a webinar with the United Methodist Health Foundation on May 20, 2024, at 6 PM. Discussing important updates to the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) and the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE), which will be up for public hearings in early June. Believe this is a great opportunity to simplify the information, making it easy for all Kansas residents to understand.
- Brenda Bandy: Join the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc. on July 3rd from 9:00 to 9:30 AM for a roundtable discussion on Paid Family Leave. Due to the significant impact of this topic on the early childhood field, they plan to continue this open discussion, with a special focus on employers on this date. Will be inviting small businesses to participate, along with national and state experts on paid leave, to explore the variety of options available. If you're interested in attending, you can find the link for the upcoming event here: [Paid Leave Round Table](#).
- Tanya Koehn: (1) Have a [Community Child Care Support Center Tab](#) on their website. This resource tab includes helpful step-by-step guides for community members on engaging with elected officials or city representatives to advocate for changes in child care guidelines. Additionally, can find a link to the local child care coalition across the state on this tab. The interactive map allows you to click on your county to access contact information for the designated child care coalition representative.
  - Second update: plan to inform the panel as soon as it's finalized, but excited to announce that they will be adding a business link to their site. Plan to collaborate with businesses and invite them to share their stories about how they're working with child care providers or starting their own initiatives. Currently in the middle of interviews with businesses right now.
- Sara Gardner: ACF, funding source for Preschool Development Grant (PDG), has announced a new notice of funding opportunity. This means that another round of PDG funding is now available. Kansas is eligible to apply. Competitive process, but CPPR plan on applying. Feel free to reach out to Sara Gardner at [sgardner10@ku.edu](mailto:sgardner10@ku.edu); if you have a question.
- Nichelle Adams: Shared information about an upcoming [CCDF State Plan](#) virtual public meeting. The meeting will be held June 3, 2024, from 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm via Microsoft TEAMS. Details are provided in the link about registering for the virtual public hearing. Note: Please register prior to May 24, 2024.

### Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, July 19, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting – Friday, August 2, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.