

# KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recommendations Panel Appointments  
7/1/2024 – 6/30/2025



**Executive Order 20-02** from Governor Laura Kelly established the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund as the State Advisory Council on Children’s Education and Care (in accordance with Public Law 110-134 The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007) and created the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel as an advisory group appointed by the Children’s Cabinet.

- **Panel Chair:** Cornelia Stevens, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers
- **Panel Term:** One-Year Term from July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- **Meeting Details:** Monthly Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

## Overview of Review Process and Timeline

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**Apr 1 – May 3,  
2024**

Application period to apply to the Recommendations Panel. Application information was listed on the Children’s Cabinet website and promoted at the Early Childhood Recommendation Panel April 15 meeting, on biweekly webinars and in the *All In for Kansas Kids* weekly email update. Required positions include:

- Representative(s) of local school districts
- Representative(s) of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas
- Representative(s) of local providers of early childhood education and development services
- Representative(s) from Head Start agencies located in the State of Kansas, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs
- Parent(s) of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas
- Other representatives determined to be relevant by the Cabinet and as determined by the Governor

**May 3 – 24**

Applications reviewed by the Children’s Cabinet staff for eligibility

**June 7**

Slate of recommendations, including selection of new Chair, submitted to the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board for approval

**June 7-17**

Pending Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board approval, Panel positions announced and communicated.

**July 1**

New members begin their one-year term, July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

## **FY25 Recommendations Panel Slate**

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Representatives of the Kansas Department for Children and Families	<b>*Nichelle Adams</b> , Early Education and Child Care Services Assistant Director, Kansas Department for Children and Families <b>*Bethany Samuel</b> , QRIS Supports Manager, Kansas Department for Children and Families
Representatives of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment	<b>*Jarvis Doleman</b> , Child Care Licensing Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment <b>*Amy Dean-Campfire</b> , Children and Families Section Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Representative of the Kansas State Department of Education, early childhood education and early childhood special education	<b>*Natalie McClane</b> , Education Program Consultant, Kansas State Department of Education
Representative of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund	<b>*Christie Wyckoff</b> , Early Childhood Coordinator, Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund
Representatives from Head Start agencies located in Kansas	<b>*Sheila Hermocillo Bertelsen</b> , Education Specialist, Dodge City Public Schools, Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center <b>Larry Lewis</b> , Executive Director, Growing Futures Early Education Center <b>*Heather Schrotberger</b> , Executive Director, Kansas Head Start Association
State Director of Head Start Collaboration	<b>*Kim Kennedy</b> , Kansas Department for Children and Families
Representatives of local school districts	<b>Lisa Gehring</b> , Superintendent, Plainville Jr/Sr High School <b>*Karen MacCroy</b> , School Readiness Specialist, Mitchell County Partnership for Children <b>*Leigh Anne Neal</b> , Chief of Early Education/Sustainability, USD 512 Shawnee Mission <b>Stephanie Waterman</b> , Early Childhood Program Coordinator, Geary County Schools USD 475 <b>Amber Wheeler</b> , Superintendent, Humboldt USD 258

Representatives of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas

**\*Mallory Arellano**, Assistant Professor / Early Childhood Unified Program Coordinator, Newman University  
**\*Bronwyn Fees**, Professor and Associate Dean, Kansas State University  
**Cathy Gray**, Lead Instructor/Early Childhood Education, Butler Community College  
**Natalie Sollo**, Associate Professor, MD, KU School of Medicine - Wichita

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Parent of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas

**Stephanie Wiggins**, Parent, Technical Assistance Specialist, KCCTO Infant Toddler Specialist Network

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Representatives of local providers of early childhood care and education services

**Turi Berger**, Owner/Director, T.L.A.D. Learning Academy  
**Janine Foth**, Director, Cougar Cubs Daycare USD 397 Centre  
**\*Kelly Frantz-Langford**, Director of Children’s Services and Assistive Technology, TARC  
**\*Amy Gottschamer**, Executive Director / Owner, Googols of Learning Child Development Center  
**Teresa Houston**, Director, Envision Inc. Early Childhood Development Center  
**\*Cheisa Myles**, Owner, Blessed Assurance Daycare  
**Charlotte Neuschafer**, CACFP Director, Russel Child Development Center  
**\*Brett Schmidt**, Executive Director, Learning Cross Inc.  
**\*Lisa Schmidt**, Executive Director, Women’s Community Y Child Development Center  
**\*Cornelia Stevens**, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers  
**Mandy Waugh**, Program Director, Child Start

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Other Representatives

**\*Marites Altuna**, Statewide Birth to 3 Program Coordinator for Vision Services, Kansas State School for the Blind  
**\*Brenda Bandy**, Co-Executive Director, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc  
**\*Dana Book**, Training Specialist, Kansas Children’s Service League  
**\*Kerri Falletti**, Grassroots Strategy Developer, Kansas Department of Commerce – Office of Rural Prosperity  
**Talia Juiliano-Myers**, Provider Services Manager, Child Care Aware of Eastern KS  
**\*Hilary Koehn**, Executive Director, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association  
**\*Tanya Koehn**, Director of Families and Community Services, Child Care Aware of Kansas  
**\*Malissa Martin**, President-CEO, SparkWheel, Inc.  
**\*Patty Peschel**, Director, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities  
**\*Tabatha Rosproy**, Early Childhood Project Coordinator, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center  
**\*Marie Treichel**, Program Manager, Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)

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*\*2023-2024 Panel Member*