

## **KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES**

The **October 4, 2024** regular session of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board meeting held in the Monroe A Room of Bishop Education Center, 3601 SW 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Topeka, Kansas. The meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with Chair Don Hineman presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Don Hineman, Chair, Senator Renee Erickson, Dr. LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Monica Murnan, Representative Kristey Williams, John Wilson, Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D., Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Derik Flerlage and Amy Dean Campmire, (KDHE), Hon. Melissa Standridge (Supreme Court) and Matthew Billinger, (KDOC).

Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Christie Wyckoff, Megan Brohaugh, and Dyogga Adegboro.

### **CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:**

Don Hineman, Chair called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. He thanked board members for taking the time to participate in-person. Although virtual meetings work well, there is added value in meeting in-person from time to time.

### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 2, 2024 MINUTES**

Chairman Hineman asked if there were corrections to the August minutes. There were no corrections requested. Chair Hineman asked for adoption by unanimous consent and there were no objections. The minutes were approved as written.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT EVALUATION**

Melissa Rooker introduced Dr. Lynn Schrepferman, Wichita State University. Dr. Schrepferman has been presenting the ECBG evaluation report annually for the past eleven years. The information collected reflects the impact by the ECBG programs for 2023-2024.

Dr. Schrepferman, Senior Research Scientist, Wichita State University presented longitudinal data results collected and analyzed by her and her team on the ECBG program. The report also included data on outcomes, screening tools, and reporting from early childhood programs across Kansas. The report is available to the public on the Children's Cabinet website as part of the meeting materials. Board members asked questions about the screening tools and outcomes.

The data included:

26 ECBG programs

8,067 children served,

63 counties provided services,

70 percent of children qualified for free and reduced lunches,

51 percent of children were at-risk and experienced developmental delays,

90 percent of the children with at least one risk factor,

44 percent of the children served with three or more risk factors.

Key outcomes included:

53 percent of children served in PreK or 0-3 Care and Education received fulltime care,

78 percent high-quality classrooms,

5 percent on track in early communication

59 percent of 3 year-olds on track in early literacy

70 percent of 4-year olds in PreK were on track in language comprehension

68 percent of 3- and 4-year olds were on track in early numeracy

### **CHILD CARE CAPACITY ACCELERATOR UPDATE**

Owen Cox and Sara Garner, KU CPPR updated the board on the accelerator grants. The handout on Building Child Care Capacity and Innovation Evaluating the Impact were in meeting packets.

Dr. Cox and Sara Gardner shared the first years' worth of data collected from accelerator grant programs. The main purpose of the grant is to increase childcare capacity across the state by accelerating shovel-ready construction and major renovation projects and start-up operations. Dr. Cox discussed the braided funding sources for the grant and gave an overview of those impacted by the grant services. There are 63 communities served, 96 childcare businesses involved, 82 licensed centers, 13 licensed family childcare homes, and one small center pilot. There are 16 innovation communities mainly working on targeted pilots. Regions served include 9 rural, 12 frontier, 15 densely settled rural areas, 13 semi-urban and 14 urban areas. There are 44 grantees that reported completion rates over 75 percent and 18 grantees are 100 percent complete. In year 1, 2,613 new childcare slots made available, 28 new facilities and 46 major renovation projects took place. Information was presented about coordinated approaches and partnerships; many USD led projects occurred as well as coalition-led projects. Targeted needs were discussed such as infant care, childcare in close proximity to USDs, non-traditional hours or drop-in hours care, navigating barriers, on-site additional resources, mental health services and substitute care. Visit [allinforkansaskids.org](http://allinforkansaskids.org) for a list of all grantees, project descriptions and completion rates.

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY PANEL**

Melissa Rooker reported on updates on substitution members to the ECAC Panel. It is requested to accept Holly Fry, as a State Agency Representation for KDHE, replacing Amy Dean Campmire to the Council. Chairman Hineman asked for a motion to accept Holly Fry as the replacement on the ECAC Panel.

### **MOTION:**

Monica Murnan moved the board accept the recommendation to add Holly Fry to the Early Childhood Advisory Panel. Motion seconded by John Wilson. All were in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

### **AGENCY UPDATES**

Melissa remarked that the agency updates are important but in the interest of time, asked for either short reports or for written agency reports to be submitted which will be included as part of minutes. (No agency updates were received for inclusion in these minutes.)

Melissa introduced Justice Melissa Standridge who was newly assigned from the Judicial Branch to replace Justice Keynen Walls as the Supreme Court's ex officio advisor to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board. Melissa thanked Justice Wall for his tenure on the board and for his contributions.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director gave updates on several topics:

- Excited to announce the Cabinet received full funding for its application for the PDG 3-year Renewal Award. Virtual grant kick-off scheduled next week. Grant runs September 30, 2024 through September 29, 2025. Annual funding is contingent on Congressional budget approval. An in-person meeting with implementing partners for in-depth launch is scheduled in November.
- CBCAP Federal Award was received as a smaller federal award this year, adjustments to the approved grant recipients were made. Previous year's recipients will be receiving flat funding
- The 2023 PDG Planning Grant wraps up in December 2024. The Baby Steps project will remain in effect serving four northeastern counties through the end of December 2024 when funding closes.
- ECBG RFP application process will include a competitive RFP that opens in mid-November with applications due in early January 2025. Staff will present a recommended slate at the April 2025 meeting.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS:**

The next meeting is scheduled Friday, December 6, 2024, and as a virtual meeting. All meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as virtual meetings until further notice. Schedule of 2025 Meetings are: February 7, April 4, June 6, August 1, October 3, and December 5, 2025.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Don Hineman adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.