

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

The **June 7, 2024**, regular session of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund board virtual meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with Chair Pro Tem John Wilson presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

John Wilson, Chair Pro Tem, Dr. LeEtta Felter, Monica Murnan, DiAnne Graham, Deliece Hofen, Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D., Senator Renee Erickson, Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Tanya Keys (DCF), Matthew Billinger, (KDOC), Derik Flerlage, (KDHE), Dr. Jessie Piper, (KDHE), Dena Russell-Marino (Supreme Court) and Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Christie Wyckoff, and Dyogga Adegbore.

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

Chair Pro Tem John Wilson, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Don Hineman was away due to a family member's medical emergency.

### **APPROVAL OF APRIL 5, 2024 MINUTES**

LeEtta Felter moved for approval of the April 5, 2024 minutes. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham. Motion carried.

### **CIF ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS**

Dr. Owen Cox, Associate Researcher Senior, The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR), presented an overview of the accountability process. The annual accountability process takes place at the June Cabinet meeting to align with the state fiscal year and legislative process. Program service provision findings are reported on the previous state fiscal year. All budget recommendations at today's meeting are for the state fiscal year 2026.

The accountability process included timeline, data collection, categorized funding by agency and program, primary population demographics and programmatic data. All information was analyzed and summarized by individual programs and was put into a comprehensive report to the Children's Cabinet board. Dr. Cox talked briefly about each program.

Key takeaways from this process were:

- CIF funding and the programs it supports continue to provide crucial services for the healthy development of Kansas kids and their families,
- CIF funded programs continue to encounter challenges related to workforce,
- CIF served families continue to report resiliency, but their basic needs remain unmet,
- CIF funded programs experienced an emergency need for additional mental and behavioral health reports for Kansas kids and their families and staff.

\*\*For the purpose of creating an accurate record, we must make a correction to information shared during the oral presentation to the board. Dr. Cox misspoke and characterized 1-800-

CHILDREN as “serving fewer contacts in 2023.” The correct information in Dr. Cox’s notes reads as follows:

*1-800-Children the centralized access point for services and supports for families with children under 18 which saw 81,061 contacts in FY 23. Funds were also used to support The Family Forward Workplaces campaign which reached over 300,000 businesses and professionals in the state.*

We regret the confusion this may have caused. The 1-800-CHILDREN resource is an important support for families that has seen steady growth in utilization. We will ensure our annual report includes this data for the record.\*\*

The board thanked Dr. Cox for his presentation.

### **CIF RECOMMENDATIONS AND BUDGET DISCUSSIONS**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director, presented an overview of the state budget process, KEY Fund history and the CIF budget recommendations for FY26. The CIF recommendations are included as part of KSDE’s budget, who serves as the Children’s Cabinet’s fiscal agent. Our budget is submitted to the State Division of the Budget as part of KSDE’s budget annually. The FY25 budget includes three new line items. Melissa noted the 2024 annuity from the Master Tobacco Settlement was less than estimated and the current ending balance for the KEY Fund is \$11,356,051. The total CIF budget for FY25 is \$61,670,993. The board discussed concerns about the structural imbalance of our budget and a desire to ensure stability and sustainability for the CIF. The budget recommendations presented to the board for consideration included treating the three new line items as one-time expenditure and funding the rest of the CIF at FY25 levels, resulting in a CIF budget total of \$54,252,261 in FY26. Budget recommendations as presented to the board and adopted are attached.

### **MOTION**

Monica Murnan moved the Cabinet accept the CIF budget recommendations as presented. Motion seconded by LeEtta Felter.

Chair Pro Tem Wilson commented that members recommending changes to the recs with Maintenance of Effort (MOE) designations, will have to be mindful that it could create concerns for the state agency attached to the program, particularly if it means a reduction in funding. See CIF Recommendations.

Chair Pro Tem Wilson asked board member Murnan if she closed on her motion. Murnan said she closed on her motion. With no other discussions, Chairman Wilson asked for a Roll Call Vote:

Deliece Hofen	Yes
Dr. LeEtta Felter	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes

Monica Murnan Yes  
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D. Yes  
John Wilson, Chair Pro Tem Yes

Motion carried.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Executive Order 20-02 established the Children’s Cabinet as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care, which was a requirement of federal Head Start legislation. A volunteer Early Childhood Recommendations Panel was created to advise the Children’s Cabinet board in its role as State Early Childhood Advisory Council. Melissa discussed the membership process and informed the board that their action was requested to accept the slate of applicants to the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Some individuals are returning members to the Panel. The review team assessed applications and considered expertise, background, and organizational structure the candidate possessed and came from and what they brought to the table. Dr. Smith remarked she understood that were diversity of demographics but asked if diversity of thought had been considered while reviewing applicants credentials. Melissa responded yes, and all candidates came from a large array of backgrounds and demographics in the state. Service terms will be from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. See attached Panel List.

Chair Pro Tem John Wilson asked for a motion.

**MOTION:**

Deliece Hofen moved the board accept the slate of recommended Early Childhood Advisory Council Panel candidates. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham.

Chair Pro Tem Wilson asked for a Roll Call vote.

Deliece Hofen Yes  
DiAnne Graham Yes  
Dr. LeEtta Felter Yes  
Senator Renee Erickson Yes  
Monica Murnan Yes  
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D. Yes  
John Wilson, Chair Pro Tem Yes

Motion carried.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Melissa Rooker updated the board on the following items,

- Wrapped up the three year PDG Renewal grant end of April 29. Final phase is creating a final comprehensive report that will be shared with the U.S. Congress.

- We are in the final six months of the PDG Planning grant. The board will receive a draft All In For Kansas Kids strategic plan for adoption at the August meeting. This is a key deliverable of the PDG Planning grant. Our strategic planning process included intensive collaboration with our agency partners KDHE, KSDE and DCF, as well as input from external partners and the public.
- Melissa thanked Deliece Hofen for service on the Children’s Cabinet board. This was board member Hofen’s last meeting. Deliece appreciated serving on the board and will continue to be an advocate for Kansas children.

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

The following agency written reports were submitted for inclusion with the minutes.

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood, Kansas State Department of Education  
Forward

- In May, the Kansas State Board of Education approved Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs in 266 Kansas school districts. In districts operating approved programs, 3- and 4-year-old students who meet an at-risk criterion for the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program and who are enrolled and attending a program that meets all of the Preschool-Aged At-Risk program requirements on Count Day will automatically count as a ½ student (0.5 FTE) in calculating a district’s enrollment and accompanying weightings for the Kansas school finance formula.
- In May, the Kansas State Board of Education approved grant awards for the parent education program (Kansas Parents as Teachers) for 2024-2025. Grant awards totaled \$9,521,560 in Children's Initiatives Fund funding (\$9,437,635 in allocated Fiscal Year 2025 funding and \$83,925 in reallocated funding from the prior year). Expenditures from the parent education program account for each grant must be matched by the school district grantee in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of the grant. School districts may choose to invest more than the minimum match requirement in their programs.
- The Kansas State Department of Education continues to prepare to implement a new system of school accreditation in 2024-2025. This School Improvement Model based on four fundamentals (Structured Literacy, Standards Alignment, Balanced Assessment, and Quality Instruction) along with State Board outcomes, student outcomes, and compliance. In June the Kansas State Board of Education will receive an updated, actionable model that clearly lays out expectations for various levels of accreditation, timelines involved, and responsibilities of KSDE, districts, and the Accreditation Review Council so that all aspects are in place prior to accreditation.
- The Kansas State Department of Education and the Children's Cabinet approved a data sharing agreement to pilot a process to securely collect, store, transfer, match, and assign a unique identifier to link records between one early childhood data source and the State Longitudinal Data System (SLDS). KSDE will securely receive data from the Children's Cabinet for children who have received early childhood services from 2014 to present. KSDE will add a State Student Identifier (SSID) column to the file received from the Children's Cabinet. After performing the matching process, the SSID's

will be assigned to the matched children in the file. The file will then be returned to the Children's Cabinet.

Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hicks, Director of Economic & Employment Services, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

- DCF is finalizing the FFY 2025 – FFY 2027 Child Care and Development Fund State Plan. The draft plan and instructions for submitting comments regarding the plan can be found at [https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Child\\_Care/ChildCareDevelopmentFundPlan.aspx](https://www.dcf.ks.gov/services/ees/Pages/Child_Care/ChildCareDevelopmentFundPlan.aspx).

Derik Flerlage, Co-Director, Bureau of Family Health, Kansas State Department of Health and Environment.

- Child Care Licensing completed our public hearing on June 4<sup>th</sup>. We received a few written comments and had 2 in-person oral comments during the hearing. We did not receive any comments that would cause us to pause or to edit any of the proposals and have submitted the proposals to the Secretary of State for publication in the *Kansas Register*. We do not yet have a publication date from them. Regulations are considered effective 15-days after publication. We will be holding several education opportunities for providers to make sure they understand the updated regulations. We are also transitioning effective immediately to using the new regulations during required orientation for new/potentially new providers.

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

- KBOR President and CEO, Blake Flanders appointed Dr. Cynthia Lane as the Director of the Blueprint for Literacy
- Dr. Lane will step down as a Regent to fulfill the appointment
- The Blueprint
  - Establishes professional development and micro-credential courses for all in-service educators (including early childhood) at low or no cost
  - Ensures courses in the science of reading are included in all undergraduate early childhood and elementary teacher preparation programs at state educational institutions
- The Kansas Education Opportunity Scholarship Program Act replaces the Kansas Ethnic Minority Scholarship Program
  - Under this Act, first generation students or students who have a parent or guardian employed in Kansas as a pre-K through grade 12 teacher or paraprofessional would be eligible for a scholarship based on student eligibility, including established financial need

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next meeting is scheduled Friday, August 2, 2024, as an in-person meeting at KASB. 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. Future meetings are scheduled October 4, and December 6, 2024. *Note: Due to meeting attendance conflicts, the August meeting will be held as a virtual meeting in the morning and the Retreat will be rescheduled.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business for discussion, DiAnne Graham moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by LeEtta Felter. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.