

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, July 19, 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
Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE
Kim Kennedy, DCF-HSCO
Karen MacCrary, Mitchell County
Partnership for Children
Malissa Martin, Spark Wheel
Natalie McClane, KSDE
Lindsay Orion, KU CPPR
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning
Centers
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent
Information Resource Center
Hilary Koehn, KPATA
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas Head Start
Association
Christie Wyckoff, KCCTF
Cheisa Myles, Blessed Assurance
Daycare
Stephanie Wiggins, KCCTO
Amy Dean-Campmire, KDHE
Cathy Gray, Butler Community College
Lisa Gehring, Plainville Jr/Sr High School
Talia Juiliano-Myers, Child Care Aware of
Eastern KS
Stephanie Waterman, USD 475 Geary
County Schools

Sheila Bertelsen, Bright Beginnings -
Dodge City Public Schools
Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Child Development Center
Patty Peschel, KCCTO
Dr. Amber Wheeler, USD 258 Humboldt
Schools
Bronwyn Fees, Kansas State University &
KCCTO
Natalie Sollo, KU School of Medicine-
Wichita
Larry Lewis, Growing Futures Early
Education Center
Teresa Houston, Envision, Inc.
Mallory Arellano, Newman University
Charlotte Neuschafer, Russell Child
Development Center

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.

July Meeting Agenda

Marites Altuna moved to approve the agenda and Karen MacCrory seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

June 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Brenda Bandy moved to approve the June 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.

Welcome & Panel Overview

Cornelia introduced Melissa Rooker, Executive Director of KCCTF, to welcome the 2024-2025 Early Childhood Recommendation Panel members. The Panel, is a standing committee of the Kansas Children's Cabinet, assists in identifying strategies and approaches to achieve the goals outlined in the 'All-In for Kansas Kids' Statewide Strategic Plan.

State-Level Coordination:

The [2024 Kansas Statewide Early Childhood System Needs Assessment](#) finds that although collaboration and alignment within the Kansas early childhood ecosystem have improved as a result of the strengthened governance structure, there are substantial limitations to this coordinated model.

This informs (major component of the strategic plan):

- Goal 1: State- Level Coordination, of the [All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan](#), which outlines the steps needed to ensure the early childhood care and education system is structured and aligned for maximum impact.

Their work is ongoing however they have made progress since the first All-in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan that was introduced in 2020 and adopted. Later this year they will be adopting an updated five-year strategic plan. Please stay tuned for this because it will reflect the progress that they have made and will help them chart the course for the future in terms of the work that still needs to be done.

Advisory Council:

The Early Childhood Recommendation Panel, was established under Executive Order 20-02 by Governor Kelly, aligns with the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, serving as the state's official Early Childhood advisory Council mandated by federal Head Start legislation. Its key role is to coordinate agencies, identify barriers, and make recommendations. However, the current children's cabinet board does not fully meet the federal legislation's expertise and organizational criteria for the advisory council.

To address this, an executive order created a directive to form a standing committee within the children's cabinet called the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Below is an excerpt from Kansas Executive Order 20-02:

Kansas [Executive Order 20-02](#) designates the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund ("Children's Cabinet") as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care.

- It states, "In order to support the Cabinet in fulfilling [these duties], the Cabinet shall convene and maintain a panel of volunteers ("the Panel") with demonstrable early childhood expertise to operate at the pleasure of the Cabinet in an advisory role. The Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund shall coordinate the activities of the Panel on behalf of the Cabinet. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund shall provide ongoing direction to the Panel, delineating areas in which it would benefit from the Panel's expertise and establishing responsibilities, governance, and reporting structures as it finds beneficial.

The Role of the Panel:

The Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel serves as an advisory group to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund. This group is comprised of experts from diverse organizations. The Panel collaborates to conduct analysis and strategic plan with the hopes of finding something that could turn into a project.

Meeting Procedures

Cornelia Stevens presented the meeting procedures for the Early Childhood Recommendations Meeting. Part of the meeting procedures:

EO 20-02 requires the Panel to be subject to the Kansas Open Meetings Act:

- "A representative government is dependent upon an informed electorate." The policy of the State of Kansas is that "meetings for the conduct of governmental affairs and the transaction of governmental business be open to the public" (K.S.A. 75-4317).
 - What this means is: In Kansas, our representative government relies on an informed electorate. Our policy ensures that all government meetings are open to the public, meaning they are live streamed for everyone to see and hear. To comply with the Open Forum Act, the group disables the chat

feature during meetings, as chatting among attendees would violate this policy.

- For additional information review the Kansas Attorney General's Frequently Asked Questions at <https://ag.ks.gov/open-government/koma-faq>.

Open Forum Procedures:

Typical procedures for the Kansans' Open Forum shall be as follows:

- Each speaker shall be allowed to speak for three minutes.
- Panel members may ask clarifying questions of the person making the presentation. The speaker will have up to one minute to respond. The presiding officer may grant additional time.
- Information may be submitted to the Panel in written and electronic form. This information shall be included in the meeting minutes.
- Following the Kansans' Open Forum portion of the agenda, the presiding officer will acknowledge the participants and announce that the Panel will determine if any of the issues will be addressed at future meetings.

Voting Procedures:

- The Panel will strive first for consensus in decision making.
- If consensus is not possible, participants may call for a vote.
- Each Panel member is entitled to one vote on each matter submitted to a vote.
- A vote of two-thirds of those members present is necessary to approve any formal action taken by the Panel pursuant to Article 4: Panel Actions.
- The votes of Panel members participating virtually shall be included on matters submitted to a vote.

For more information on panel recommendations and system collaboration please refer to the [July's Early Childhood Recommendation Panel PowerPoint slides](#).

Panel Discussion:

- The new All in For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan will be available following the August 2 Children's Cabinet meeting. The Panel will have an opportunity to determine work group priorities at the August 16 meeting.
- The floor opened to discuss what topics or areas of focus would Panel members like to prioritize for the year. In addition to any governance groups or organizations that the group would like to invite to present to the Panel.
 - Brenda Bandy: Would like to hear from Jarvis Doleman when it comes to the new regulations that are coming out. Additional request: topic areas related to home visiting programs.
 - Larry Lewis: Mental Health support – for professionals

Panel SharePoint Hub

Panel members will find valuable information on the Panel's SharePoint Hub, an resource for staying up to date for all things related to the meetings. Below is a list of items available on the site:

- Meeting Materials (agendas, minutes, recordings, resources)
- AIFKK Tactic Work Groups (overview, resources, meeting notes)
- News/Updates – Panel updates, webinars, ECCE system updates

For a more in-depth breakdown of this helpful resource presented by Lindsay Orion please refer to the [July Early Childhood Recommendations Panel](#) timestamp: 26:10-34:17.

Family Friendly Workplaces Recommendation

Cornelia introduced Brenda Bandy who presented on behalf of Strategy 4.2: Family-friendly Workplaces. This group promotes family-friendly workplaces across the public and private sectors. The purpose of this presentation was to introduce a specific recommendation, followed by a vote for approval. During the duration of this group working together they were able to gather information and brought in an expert, Carrie from the Kansas Department of Commerce. This external expert allowed the chance to explore the Department's capabilities in supporting Kansas employers to implement family-friendly practices. This proposal/recommendation took two years to develop.

Background

- The Kansas Children's Cabinet identified in the [2024 Needs Assessment](#) the "Need for broader reach of family-friendly workplace policies" to improve the lives of Kansas families, especially when raising young children.
- These findings recognize the interconnectedness between a family's well-being, workplace support, and children's development.
- By establishing family-friendly workplaces, Kansas employers can facilitate the participation of parents in the workforce while providing them with the necessary resources and support to ensure their children's healthy development.
- This approach promotes economic stability, employment stability and opportunities for families.
- This approach also contributes to positive outcomes for children, creating a solid foundation for their future

Recommendation

The Kansas Children's Cabinet, in its role as the state Early Childhood Advisory Council, recommended adoption of the Family Friendly Workplace Survey and the Guide to Family Forward Workplaces as tools employers can use to select and implement family-friendly policies best suited to their workplace and encourages Kansas employers to implement family-friendly workplace practices, as appropriate for their business, to strengthen families, businesses, and the Kansas economy.

The Cabinet will:

- 1) include the Family Friendly Workplace Survey and the Guide to Family Forward Workplaces on the All in for Kansas Kids website and
- 2) encourage partners and state agencies, such as Labor and Commerce, to help Kansas employers implement family-friendly policies using existing resources.

Next Steps

The group hopes to bring this recommendation to the August 2 Children’s Cabinet meeting for adoption. Note: It is suggested that the Workgroup remain in place for the next year to continue refining the “Family-Friendly Workplace” designation and social media campaign.

Panel Vote:

A vote was conducted which would allow this recommendation to go to the Kansas Children's cabinet. Cornelia, the chair of this committee, proceeded in this order to initiate the voting process:

- Motion
 - Patty Peschel made the motion to accept Strategy 4.2: Family-friendly Workplaces as presented. Bronwyn Fees seconded this motion.
- Discussion
 - Cornelia, the chair of this committee, opened the floor for discussion and feedback on the information that was presented. [July Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp](#): 43:46-45:52.
- Vote
 - Motion passed. Unanimous vote to approve recommendation.

Bright Spots:

- Brenda Bandy: The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition planned several virtual sessions, two of which may be of interest to the group. First, there’s a child care session that meets virtually every other month, led by Kris Nicholson from Child Care Aware of Kansas. This meeting provides an opportunity to explore how infant feeding is supported in child care settings. The second opportunity is a public health session that offers home visiting programs a chance to learn how to integrate breastfeeding into their services. To learn more or sign up: [Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Sections](#).
 - Additional Bright Spot: Governor Kelly will proclaim August "Kansas Breastfeeding Month" in honor of National Breastfeeding month.
- Jarvis Doleman: They recently shared updates on their new regulations and highlighted their organization’s successful webinars. They have conducted 3-4 sessions, with 400-500 providers in attendance—which is an amazing turnout. As a result, the group plans to organize four additional sessions. They also intend to compile FAQs based on the questions they receive and continue hosting webinars.

- Dr. Amber Wheeler: Shared details about the Sunflower Summer program offered by the Chamber of Commerce. The goal is to promote this initiative within the community. It is a fantastic opportunity for children to explore various attractions, including free admission to museums and other exciting places. For more information visit the home page: [Sunflower Summer](#)

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting – Friday, August 2, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, August 16, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.