

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, October 18, 2024



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Marites Altuna, Kansas State School for the Blind
Mallory Arellano, Newman University
Sheila Bertelsen, Dodge City Public Schools-Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center
Dana Book, Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)
Jarvis Doleman, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Bronwyn Fees, Kansas State University
Holly Frye, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Janine Foth, Cougar Cubs Daycare USD 397 Centre
Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC
Lisa Gehring, Plainville Jr/Sr High School
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning Child Development Center
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Teresa Houston, Envision Inc.
Tanya Koehn, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Malissa Martin, SparkWheel, Inc.
Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
Cheisa Myles, Blessed Assurance Daycare

Patty Peschel, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO)
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center
Bethany Samuel, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Brett Schmidt, Learning Cross, Inc.
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y Child Development Center
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas Head Start Association
Cornelia Stevens, Chair, TOP Early Learning Centers
Marie Treichel, Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)
Stephanie Waterman, Geary County Schools USD 475
Mandi Waugh, Child Start, Inc.
Dr. Amber Wheeler, USD 258 Humboldt Schools
Dr. Stephanie Wiggins, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO), Kansas Infant Toddler Specialist Network (KITS)

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.

October Meeting Agenda

Natalie McClane moved to approve the agenda. Dr. Amber Wheeler seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

September 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Tanya Koehn moved to approve the July minutes. Dr. Amber Wheeler seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously 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.

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC)

Cornelia Stevens introduced Stacy Clarke from KSDE, who provided an update on the state interagency coordinating council. The mission of the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services is to ensure that all children in Kansas, from birth to age five, who have or are at risk of developmental delays. Their families have access to a comprehensive system of integrated services.

There is a chance you might have come across various names that represent the Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council, such as the State Interagency Coordinating Council (SICC), which is the most common, and the Kansas Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services (KCCECDS). This council is supported and funded by a MOA between KDHE, KSDE, and DCF to fund the work of the SICC and to have KSDE oversee that work.

Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)

Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs) are made up of community members who have a vested interest in creating an interagency system of service provision for children from birth to age five and their families. Currently there are around 29 Local Interagency Coordinating Councils across Kansas.

In their role of advising and assisting, Local Interagency Coordinating Councils (LICCs) are responsible for several key activities. These include conducting child activities and fostering communication and collaboration among community partners on issues relevant to young children and their families. Additionally, LICCs contribute to public awareness and professional development initiatives. They also advise the lead agency on matters of

policy and resource development, identify the lead agency and fiscal agent for the Part C program, and review and approve local Part C program grants.

For a more in-depth breakdown of the recommendations from the Kansas Children's Cabinet tied to this presentation, as well as additional helpful content presented by Stacy Clarke, please refer to the timestamp ([6:02-45:55](#)) from October's Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Below is a brief snapshot of the sections presented:

- **Broaden local ICC participation and membership** by implementing strategies such as holding meetings outside normal 9-5 hours, offering stipends for time and travel, and providing childcare support for council members.
- **Enhance communication among LICC members** to raise awareness of community resources and share information to address the needs of children and families with developmental delays, disabilities, and special health care needs.
- **Sponsor community engagement events** and provide informational materials to create networking opportunities. These events should also inform community partners about the challenges faced by families and professionals in supporting children with developmental delays, disabilities, and special health care needs.

Preschool Development B-5 Renewal Grant

Cornelia Stevens introduced Meghan Kluth, Research Project Manager with KU-CPPR, who provided an overview of the Preschool Development B-5 Renewal Grant.

Grant Overview Part #1

Kansas was awarded a grant as one of ten states, with the Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund serving as the grantee. The anticipated funding is approximately \$7 million per year, running from September 30, 2024, to September 29, 2027, pending annual Congressional approval. This marks Kansas' fourth Preschool Development Grant (PDG) award, which specifically supports efforts to strengthen early childhood systems in alignment with the All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan.

Grant Overview Part #2

Below are the set categories for the application/grant:

- Activity One: Statewide B-5 Needs Assessment
- Activity Two: Statewide B-5 Strategic Plan
- Activity Three: Maximize Family Participation and Engagement
- Activity Four: Support the B-5 Workforce
- Activity Five: Support Program Quality Improvements
- Activity Six: Subgrants to Enhance Quality and Expand Access

Grant Overview Part #3

The focus on strengthening the All in for Kansas Kids (AIFKK) initiative includes several key areas: conducting 2024 needs assessment gap analyses in rural family care, family child care, and early childhood mental health; implementing the 2024 strategic plan and

identifying quality indicators; further developing the AllInforKansasKids.org website; maintaining the Early Childhood Integrated Data System (ECIDS) dashboard; and supporting the ECCE Champion and Leader Future Fellows cohorts.

Early Childhood Workforce Initiatives

This section focuses on several key areas, including increasing access to specialized care and mental health professional development, expanding the child care substitute care model, and enhancing Kansas' new Cape Portal. Additionally, the initiatives provide health insurance stipends and exchange navigation support for child care professionals, as well as the expansion of the Baby Steps infant/toddler incentives model.

How To Stay Connected

- Executive summary will be shared after meeting
- Follow All in for Kansas Kids communications channels – weekly newsletter, monthly webinars, AllInforKansasKids.org for updates
- See a connection with your work or role with the Panel? Let them know!

For a detailed breakdown of the information presented by Meghan Kluth in this section, please refer to the October Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp: [46:04-1:09:44](#). Additionally, if you have any questions you can reach out to Meghan Kluth at: mkluth@ku.edu

Work Group Reports

Family Friendly Workplaces

- Dana Book spoke on behalf of their group and shared that they learned there is a lot of work being done. The primary goal is to figure out who is doing what and how to get everyone to the table. The group is working towards a recommendation for what a family-friendly workplace designation would look like, followed by a social media campaign. They are currently gathering information on existing initiatives and from there will push forward with the implementation piece.

Workforce: Exit Interviews

- Stephanie Wiggins spoke on behalf of their group and shared that they discussed their intentions for the group, emphasizing that their main objective is to create useful documents for exit interviews to be utilized across the state. They highlighted the underlying factors prompting workforce departures and the need to address these issues. The goal is to gain a clearer understanding of trends in the workforce to help tackle retention challenges. They are hoping that some of this data can help guide decisions in funding in future years at local, state, and federal levels, as well as looking to understand impact factors across settings, from individual center-based programs to the reasons staff are leaving.

Workforce: Mental Health Supports

- No updates were made for this group this month.

Workforce: Targeted Journey Recruitment

- Amy Gottschamer spoke on behalf of their group and shared that they were able to get to know each other and identified what brought them all to the table and why they were interested in this particular group. They came up with goals and areas of interest. Some of the potential goals/areas of focus consist of:
 - Compensation (seek out information from previous workgroups)
 - Internships and Apprenticeships (seek out information from previous workgroups)
 - Recruitment of DCF providers
 - Recruitment in general

Special Note: If anyone has any information related to the above, just to make sure they are not reinventing the wheel, please share with Amy if you can at amy@googolsoftlearning.com. The group is looking for information gathered perhaps last year regarding compensation, internships, and apprenticeships, and current data that shows how many students are in paid internships or what paid apprenticeships (both secondary and higher ed) are available in Kansas. Also, anyone who might have knowledge regarding funding from mill levies to support apprenticeships and internships.

System Progress Communications

- Kelly Frantz-Langford spoke on behalf of their group and shared that they all decided to review the Kansas Strategic Plan and meet again. They have now come up with some goals; the first is to make it easier for families to access federal and state resources that address needs outlined in section 5.1 of the Strategic Plan. They also decided to conduct an environmental scan to gather information on what is already out there, such as community navigators, family service coordinators, and a lot of family resource centers that are helping with family navigation.
 - Hoping to meet with someone from 1-800-Children to look at their lessons learned and what's going well for a learning point.
 - Discussed collaboration with Family Strong.
 - Also, will building on 3.3 within the Strategic Plan as well.

For a more in-depth breakdown of the groups reflections please refer to the October's Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp: [1:09:45-1:24:32](#).

Bright Spots:

No Bright Spots were shared during this October's panel meeting.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- CCSIT Regional Roundtable – Tuesday, November 12, 2024, Abilene (6:00-7:30 p.m.)
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, November 15, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting – Friday, December 6, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.