

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 15, 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

Dana Book, Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)

Jarvis Doleman, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

Teresa Houston, Envision Inc.

Bronwyn Fees, Kansas State University

Janine Foth, Cougar Cubs Daycare USD 397 Centre

Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC

Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning Child Development Center

Cathy Gray, Butler Community College

Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)

Hilary Koehn, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA)

Tanya Koehn, Child Care Aware of Kansas

Malissa Martin, SparkWheel, Inc.

Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)

Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, USD 512 Shawnee Mission School District

Patty Peschel, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO)

Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

Bethany Samuel, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)

Heather Schrotberger, Kansas Head Start Association

Natalie Sollo, Kansas Head Start Association

Cornelia Stevens, Chair, TOP Early Learning Centers

Marie Treichel, Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)

Dr. Stephanie Wiggins, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO), Kansas

Infant Toddler Specialist Network (KITS)

Christie Wyckoff, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

Jeanneret Lisa, DCF

Talia Juiliano-Myers, Child Care Aware of Eastern KS

Minutes

Welcome

Lindsay Orion 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.

November Meeting Agenda

Cathy Gray moved to approve the agenda. Hilary Koehn seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

October 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Marites Altuna moved to approve the October minutes. Tanya Koehn 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.

All in For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan Progress Update

Lindsay Orion introduced Sara Garner, Assistant Director of KU-CPPR, who provided an update on the All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan. Feedback is welcome on the preferred frequency of these updates.

Implementation and Monitoring

- The home page features the Strategic Plan, along with tracking, monitoring, and process updates. You can access the website by clicking the provided link(s).
 - Home Page: [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund | Improving the health and well-being of Kansas children and families](#)
 - Strategic Plan: [Strategic Plan | Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund](#)
- Alignment with State Agency plans and PDG-funded work
- Key considerations for work:
 - What actions or goals overlap with your plans?
 - What do you track or monitor?
- Monitoring format – coming soon!

Kansas Legislature 101

Lindsay Orion introduced John Wilson from Kansas Action for Children, who provided a detailed overview of how to understand and engage with the Kansas legislature. Panel members received information on the legislative process, including how to navigate the Kansas Legislature's website.


For a more in-depth breakdown of all of the helpful information presented by John Wilson under this section please refer to the November Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp: [17:34-1:07.47](#). Below are some of highlights from the presentation:

- The Kansas Legislature: Where and When?
 - An overview was provided on the timing of legislative sessions.

The Kansas Legislature

Where and When?

The Kansas Statehouse in Topeka



Legislative Session Timeline

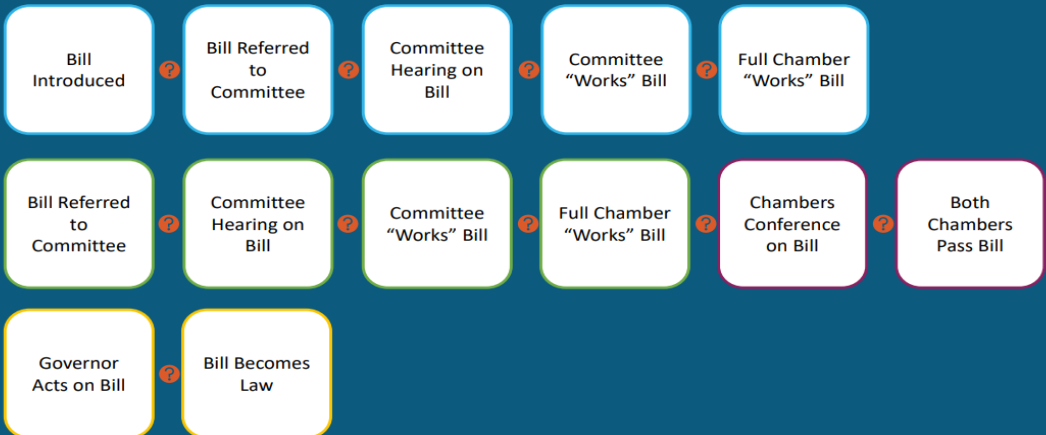
- **Jan:** Session begins
- **Jan/Feb:** Committees hear/work bills
- **Feb:** Chambers vote on bills
- **March:** Bills referred to and worked in opposite chamber
- **April:** Conference Committees & legislative break
- **April/May:** Action by Governor and Veto Session
- **May:** Session ends

- Mr. Wilson explained the roles of key legislative leaders, including the Speaker of the House, Senate President, Majority Leader, and Minority Leader, in the legislative process as well as how a bill becomes law.

The Kansas Legislature

How?

How a Bill Becomes Law (*Basically*)



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    graph LR
      A[Bill Introduced] --> B[Bill Referred to Committee]
      B --> C[Committee Hearing on Bill]
      C --> D[Committee "Works" Bill]
      D --> E[Full Chamber "Works" Bill]
      E --> F[Bill Referred to Committee]
      F --> G[Committee Hearing on Bill]
      G --> H[Committee "Works" Bill]
      H --> I[Full Chamber "Works" Bill]
      I --> J[Chambers Conference on Bill]
      J --> K[Both Chambers Pass Bill]
      K --> L[Governor Acts on Bill]
      L --> M[Bill Becomes Law]
  
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- Kansas Legislature Website Walkthrough
 - Mr. Wilson provided a detailed walkthrough of the Kansas Legislature's website, explaining its features and navigation.



The session was highly informative and worth exploring and checking out. John Wilson can be reached at: john@kac.org if you have any questions or would like to learn more.

Work Group Reports

Cornelia Stevens introduced a representative from each work group to provide an update on the work they have done since last month's meeting.

Family Friendly Workplaces

Dana Book spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: The group is working on the recognition and designation of family-friendly workplaces. Brenda has spoken with individuals in North Carolina to learn about their approach and plans to meet with them to discuss ideas. Additionally, the groups have identified employers who have completed the survey and implemented policies and will collaborate with them to pilot what this looks like.
 - Bright Spot: A new coalition, "Paid Leave for All Kansans," is being formed to support paid leave initiatives, which align with family-friendly workplaces. The coalition is in its early stages. More information can be found at [Paid Leave for All Kansans – Working People Need Access to Paid Leave](#).

Workforce: Exit Interviews

Stephanie Wiggins spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: The logistics of developing a survey to identify concerns among a wide range of child care providers were discussed. The group aims to explore factors beyond compensation that contribute to workforce turnover, including potential changes to compensation or other specific areas.
- Several survey versions were reviewed, and plans are in place to bring in additional partners at upcoming meetings to encourage broader collaboration.

Workforce: Mental Health Supports

Marie Treichel spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: Stephanie Park will be visiting to provide information on the workforce well-being study.
- The group received an update on the Preschool Development work, which will influence their next steps. They have some ideas to discuss and plan to continue to make progress when they break into their group.

Workforce: Targeted Journey Recruitment

Amy Gottschamer spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: The group began exploring the use of DCF subsidies, recognizing their benefits not only for Kansas children but also for early childhood providers.
- They reached out to Emily at Kansas Action for Children, who is already working on strategies to increase child care provider participation in DCF.
- Key takeaway: Providers are underutilizing the resources. While child care subsidies have recently increased, more providers need to be informed about these changes. The group plans to invite Kansas Career and Technical Education to discuss programs and opportunities. They have reached out to Taylor Spangler to speak at the December breakout session about high school recruitment and the programs offered.

System Progress Communications

Kelly Frantz-Langford spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: The group spent their last meeting reviewing goals and discussing whether to divide tasks among individual committee members or focus on shared goals. They also began an environmental scan to assess existing systems across the state, particularly effective communication systems, successes, and lessons learned. The group aims to understand current state efforts and explore how early childhood professionals have successfully accessed resources, using data to guide their efforts.

For a more in-depth breakdown of the groups reflections please refer to the November's Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp: [1:07:51-1:19:25](#).

Bright Spots:

Cornelia Stevens opened the floor for panel members to share any updates and highlight bright spots.

- Dana Book: Shared a bright spot that can be found under section -
 - Work Group Reports - Family Friendly Workplaces.
- Tabatha Rosproy shared that the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center partners with KSDE to provide monthly training sessions on ASQ (Ages and Stages Questionnaires). These sessions are intended for providers, healthcare professionals, or any family-facing professionals using ASQ. Emphasized the importance of this service, noting that it has been especially helpful for those who have participated.
 - The training sessions typically last three hours and are held on Friday mornings. Anyone interested in training, learning how to score ASQ, or discussing it with families is encouraged to join. The next training opportunity will be in January. More information can be found on the [KSDE website](#).
- Jarvis Doleman from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) shared that, based on a recommendation from the CC-SIT team, they are planning and organizing a series of roundtables across the state to gather feedback from providers and communities. The goal is to understand how the licensing program can be improved, identify what is working well in the community, and explore areas where additional support is needed within the system.
 - The first roundtable was held in Abilene, and it was a great success, with excellent turnout and productive discussions. There were many valuable insights that will be shared with the group. The team is excited about the positive feedback and plans to host roundtables every other month. Please be on the lookout for upcoming flyers.
- Lindsay Orion: Shared upcoming information from Christie Wyckoff. The Children's Cabinet will be opening the Early Childhood Block Grant on November 18th, 2024. Will ensure to share a link with more details, in case other organizations or community members are interested in this funding opportunity. The purpose of this grant is to support high-quality early childhood care and education services for children from birth through kindergarten. More information is available on the Kansas Children's Cabinet website as well.
- Marites Altuna from the Kansas State School for the Blind shared that they will be offering a daycare preschool in addition to their preschool enrichment program. They have received their licensing and will be publishing flyers with details on dates, rates, and hours of operation very soon.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, December 20, 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.