



Cabinet Meeting

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2025





Welcome & Approval of Minutes

DON HINEMAN, CHAIR





Well-Being & Prevention Efforts

DR. KAELA BYERS, KU-CPPR



OVERVIEW

- Connecting children to early childhood services promotes overall well-being and prevents ACEs.
- Upstream, primary prevention services are tools that empower parents and caregivers to take charge of their family's well-being.
- National shifts toward prevention and well-being:
 - Family First Prevention and Services Act of 2018
 - Thriving Families, Safer Children (2020)

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COST EFFECTIVENESS

- Reduces long-term costs by keeping children out of foster care.
- Investing early reduces the likelihood of the cycle of child welfare repeating.
- Investing in proactive, community-based services versus more costly services, like foster care, is fiscally responsible.

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COST AVOIDANCE

Alia Innovations social return on investment (SROI) study (2019):

- Analyzed SROI based on annual per child cost of foster care placement using best- and worst-case scenario experiences.
- Best-case scenario: For every \$1 spent = \$-3.64 ROI
- Worst-case scenario: For every \$1 spent = \$-9.55 ROI

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COST AVOIDANCE

State of Kentucky example

- Data from SFY19-21 indicates prevention funding increased by \$9.8M and out-of-home expenditures decreased by \$58.1M (900 less children in foster care and reductions in congregate care).
- Kentucky SFY2022 budget included \$1000 in flexible funding for families participating in family preservation to meet concrete needs and prevent removal into foster care.

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COST AVOIDANCE

Family Resource Centers Return on Investment

- Alabama: For every \$1 invested = \$4.93 savings to the state in immediate and long-term financial benefits.
- Orange County, CA: Overall ROI to the child welfare system = \$3.65.
- Teller County, CO: Overall ROI to the child welfare system = \$2.92 and a 63% reduction in its child maltreatment rate.

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KANSAS PREVENTION CONTINUUM

Investment in upstream approaches

- Family First Prevention Services early adopter (2019) resulting in \$13M of federal funding for community-based services for families.
- Thriving Families, Safer Children cohort member (2021)
- Family Resource Centers: 10 DCF-funded

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CHILDREN'S CABINET PORTFOLIO

- Thriving Families Kansas
- Well-Being Pathway
- KAN-LINK
- CBCAP
- Early childhood investments

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THRIVING FAMILIES KANSAS

- Part of National Commitment to Well-Being
- Statewide vision toward realizing a proactive system that promotes and supports child and family well-being.

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WELL-BEING PATHWAY

Resource for communities to address specific factors contributing to well-being.

- Well-Being Index measures well-being domains using strengths-based indicators.
- Accompanying toolkit highlights Kansas community bright spots and offers guidance to strengthen community and family well-being.

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WELL-BEING PATHWAY



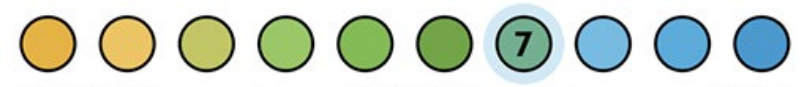
Explore the interactive well-being pathway

[Go to the Well-being Pathway](#)

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Explore Child & Family Well-being Pathway Scores



Getting Started

The county is in the early stages of addressing the needs of children and families with significant gaps in resources and support, a need for greater infrastructure, and community collaborations.

Strengthening

The county is making good progress but still has room for improvement with a solid foundation. Some areas may require further development to ensure consistent access to services and improved well-being outcomes.

Excelling

The county is meeting the needs of children and families. The county demonstrates strong outcomes in key well-being indicators, with minimal gaps or barriers.

Health



Health well-being encompasses an individual's overall state of physical, mental, and emotional health. It involves having access to healthcare providers, facilities, and treatments within...

[How do we measure this?](#)

Community



The sense of connection, includes access to structured support networks and services, fostering an environment of acceptance.

[How do we measure this?](#)

Environment



Environmental well-being refers to the holistic assessment of the indoor and outdoor surroundings where individuals reside, encompassing both physical conditions and environmental quality. I.

[How do we measure this?](#)

Financial



Financial well-being involves the ability to meet current and ongoing financial obligations, such as basic needs like food, housing, utilities, health care, transportation, education, child care...

[How do we measure this?](#)

Learning & Development



Learning and development encompass the processes and experiences through which individuals acquire knowledge, skills, and competencies over time. This includes access to education, attainment...

[How do we measure this?](#)

Family & Household



Family and household well-being encompasses the overall functioning and quality of life of a family unit or group of individuals living in a shared dwelling. It involves positive interactio...

[How do we measure this?](#)

Kansas Linking Infrastructure for Nurturing Kids (KAN-LINK)

- 3-year child welfare discretionary grant (in year 2)
- Systems-level support to increase access to quality early childhood services as a protective factor to prevent child welfare involvement.
- Statewide and local approaches partnering with Family Resource Centers.



Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP)

- Annual federal formula funding (CAPTA) intended to prevent the likelihood of child abuse and neglect.
- Aid to local funding for primary and secondary prevention. Nine community-based grantees.
- Statewide initiatives: Child Abuse Prevention Month, Governor's Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect



EARLY CHILDHOOD

- Guided by the *All In For Kansas Kids* Early Childhood Strategic Plan
- Early Childhood Block Grant
- Preschool Development Grant
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library

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IMPACT

Investments in prevention and well-being in Kansas have:

- Increased access to supportive family services.
- Reduced need for foster care.
- Contributed to improvements in family well-being (e.g., child social-emotional development, safety, mental health parenting, substance use, educational achievement).

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RETURN ON INVESTMENT

- Kansas ECIDS pilot study: CIF and CBCAP contribute to the well-being of families.
- Participating in early childhood services significantly reduced the likelihood of removals into foster care by 28%.
- Preventing removals makes fiscal sense, reduces harm, and keeps families together. For every dollar invested in ECBG/CBCAP, Kansans reap an 11% return on investments by reducing economic burden in other systems.

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CHILD WELFARE IMPACT

- Steady decrease in child welfare in out-of-home placements.
 - Since SFY19 – Dec SFY25 = 23% reduction of children in foster care.
- Family First Prevention Services:
 - Over 6,000 children referred for services Oct 2019-2024.
 - 90% of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from time of referral have remained together at home without the need for foster care.
- Southeast Kansas impact: 29% decrease in OOH placement from SFY21 to Dec SFY25.

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EARLY CHILDHOOD & K-12 IMPACT

- The Opportunity Project (TOP) partnership with Wichita USD 259
- Ongoing longitudinal study 2008 – present
- TOP graduates consistently have better test scores, higher GPAs, fewer SPED placements, fewer discipline referrals, and lower suspension rates than the control.
- Cost analysis = 11% annual return on investment to the state

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LOOKING AHEAD

Aligned with Health Rise call to action, The Children's Cabinet is contributing to improving the health of all Kansans.

- Leveraging Kansas Thriving Families
- Replicate innovations expanding cross-system linkages in new sectors (e.g., EC, IPV, MH, and SUDS)
- Expand coordinated intake and integrated service coordination (e.g., hub models, FRCs, community network)

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Early Childhood Advisory Council

MELISSA ROOKER



ROLE OF THE KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

- The Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel is an **advisory group** to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
- Meeting materials are posted at kschildrenscabinet.org/panel-meetings



**State-Level
Coordination**



PANEL MEMBER SUBSTITUTION

Tanya Koehn, Child Care Aware of Kansas

- Stepping down due to position change

Christi Smith, Child Care Aware of Kansas Executive Director

- Replacement

**Recommendation
Panel**





Agency Updates



EX-OFFICIOS

- **Amanda Petersen**

- Kansas State Department of Education

- **Matthew Billinger**

- Kansas Department of Corrections, Juvenile Justice Authority

- **Tanya Keys**

- Kansas Department for Children and Families

- **Justice Melissa Standridge**

- Kansas Supreme Court, Office of Judicial Administration

- **Brandi Wells**

- Kansas Board of Regents

- **Derik Flerlage & Amy Dean Campmire**

- Kansas Department for Health and Environment

Children's Cabinet





Director's Update

MELISSA ROOKER



UPCOMING MEETINGS

Cabinet meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 am – 12:00 pm.

Next Meeting: April 4 *(virtual)*

2025 Meeting Schedule

- April 4
- June 6
- August 1
- October 3
- December 5

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