

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

The **August 2, 2024**, regular session of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund board virtual meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with Chair Don Hineman presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Don Hineman, Chair, Senator Renee Erickson, Dr. LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Monica Murnan, Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D., Rep. Kristey Williams, Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Derik Flerlage, (KDHE), Matthew Billinger, (KDOC), and Dena Russell-Marino (Supreme Court)  
Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Christie Wyckoff, and Dyogga Adegbore.

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

Don Hineman, Chairman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Don remarked he had to miss the June meeting because of a medical emergency relating to his wife. She is recovering and doing well.

Chairman Hineman welcomed Representative Kristey Williams to the board. Rep Williams was appointed by House Speaker Dan Hawkins, replacing Deliece Hofen.

Chairman Hineman thanked Deliece Hofen for her service on the board and for her services to children throughout her tenure on the board.

Chairman Hineman called on Derik Flerlage, KDHE to give an update on the childcare licensing regulations.

### **CHILDCARE LICENSING REGULATIONS UPDATE**

Derik Flerlage, Co-Director, Bureau of Family Services, Kansas Department of Health and Environment gave an update on the childcare licensing regulations.

Derik discussed the regulations timeline from April 24, 2023, through today when the regulations take full effect. KDHE began comprehensive regulation review in April 2023. The agency held multiple public engagement sessions with childcare providers to take input as the process unfolded, including sessions to review the proposed changes. Draft changes were reviewed and approved by Department of Administration and the Office of the Kansas Attorney General. The proposed changes went through the required public comment period, presentation to the Joint Committee on Administrative Rules and Regulations, final public hearing, and then publication in the Kansas Register.

Monica Murnan commended Derik and his team for their efforts in updating these important regulations.

### **APPROVAL OF JUNE 7, 2024 MINUTES**

Chairman Hineman asked if there were any corrections to the June minutes. Board members had none. Chair Hineman asked for adoption by unanimous consent and there were no objections so the minutes were approved as written.

**COMMUNITY-BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION GRANTS**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director provided a brief overview of the federal Community Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program. Melissa discussed the primary and secondary prevention focus for the prenatal to 5 age population and their families, as well as alignment with the Blueprint for Early Childhood.

Christie Wyckoff, Early Childhood Coordinator, gave an overview of the CBCAP annual award renewal process. There were 25 proposals received, \$5,198,235 in funding requested, estimated funding available is \$1,842,892. The FFY 2024 Federal Award was \$1,623,085 and there is \$219,807 in carry-over funding. The applicants submitted applications via the Kansas Common App portal. Grants are expected to begin October 1; however, funding is pending Congressional budget action and formal award notice. A PowerPoint slide displayed the applicant organizations and recommended award amounts. The total award amount is \$1,838,051. Slate of recommended grant recipients is *attached*. Chairman Hineman asked if the board had questions.

Senator Erickson inquired about any data of efficacy and the Lawrence-Douglas County Health Department’s use of the terms “fourth trimester” and “birthing persons.” Clarification was provided that the first three months after the birth of an infant are classified as the fourth trimester and birthing persons are the expectant mothers.

Dr. Smith asked if those former grantees that were left behind will be given opportunity to re-apply. Melissa responded yes; they will be encouraged to reapply in the next open competition.

**MOTION:**

It was moved by Monica Murnan the board approve the slate of recommended CBCAP recipients. Motion seconded by Tyler Smith.

Chairman Hineman called for a Roll Call Vote:

Dr. Tyler Smith	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Dr. LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	No
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 5-1 in favor. Motion carried.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Melissa Rooker updated the board on the following items,

- Submitted the 2024 PDG Renewal Grant. Grant award is \$7 million dollars per year.
- Grant will run from September 30, 2024, to September 29, 2025 with two additional years contingent on U.S. Congressional approval of funding,
- Final reports will be submitted on the 2020 PDG Renewal Grant,
- PDG Planning Grant included the Baby Steps expansion which supports urban areas. The project has been successful.
- Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grant for operations (funding provided by DCF from the federal Child Care Development Block Grant ARPA Discretionary Funding) work is wrapping up. Funding ended June 30, 2024. Final reports will be shared at the October Cabinet meeting,
- Updated on Dolly Parton Imagination Library services. Over 75,000 kids enrolled statewide with a number of counties in Kansas meeting or exceeding the 65% enrollment target goal.

## **AGENCY UPDATES**

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood, Kansas State Department of Education reported:

- In February, the Kansas State Board of Education and the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund adopted updates to the Kansas Early Learning Standards. Work is underway to support early childhood professionals statewide in implementing these updates in their own programs. This includes plans to distribute printed copies of the standards via mail, work to translate the standards into Spanish, and a new website - <https://kels.ksde.org/> - to house supporting resources, including highlighting the updated training available through Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.(KCCTO).
- The start of the school year means that the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot is underway. Since 2018, all elementary schools in Kansas have been required to partner with families of incoming kindergarten students for families to complete the Ages & Stages Questionnaires, or ASQ. This tool is also used in a variety of Kansas early childhood settings serving children birth through kindergarten entry. Learn more in the [August 1 edition of KSDEweekly: What is the ASQ® and how is it used for the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot?](#)
- This year schools will participate in an update system of accreditation and school improvement. This model is focused on the four fundamentals of structured literacy, standards alignment, balanced assessment, and quality instruction. Schools will participate in facilitated conversation with their peers to develop action plans. Training for facilitators is underway and KSDE will be offering a number of KESA 2.0 informational sessions this fall. Learn more on the [KSDE School Improvement webpage](#).

Matthew Billinger, Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee, Coordinator, Kansas Department of Corrections reported:

- Recent release of Innovation grants. Applications can be submitted year-round, with funding awarded on a quarterly basis. There was \$50 million dollars secured to make the awards. Grants are for services to youth in behavioral crisis and their families.
- Stepping-Up Initiative continues to address from an integrated approach the needs of youth with various challenges. A strategic plan is being devised.

Dena Russell-Marino, Kansas Supreme Court reported:

- Best-Practices in Child Law training scheduled August 20-21, 2024. This is a biennial training offered to all of the Supreme Court’s partner agencies. The training is focused on legal and judicial communities. Topics covered include Termination of Parental Rights and Permanency Options for Children. Another session will be conducted April 15-16, 2024. The topic will be Trauma Informed Courtrooms and the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Melissa reported on behalf of Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Kansas Board of Regents (KBOR) that work on the Blueprint for Literacy Task Force was underway.

- 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

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The next meeting is scheduled Friday, October 4, 2024, as an in-person meeting from 9:00 a.m. to noon with lunch provided followed by an afternoon retreat. The Location TBA. KCCTF board meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as virtual meetings. The final meeting of the year is scheduled December 6, 2024, as a virtual meeting. *Note: Oct 4 meeting is scheduled at the Bishop Learning Center, 3601 SW 31<sup>st</sup> Street in Topeka from 9:00 a.m. to noon followed by the board retreat until 3:00 p.m.*

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Don Hineman adjourned the meeting at 10:44 a.m.