

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 20, 2020



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Jennifer Adhima, Project Eagle, University of Kansas Medical Center

Marites Altuna, Kansas Deaf-Blind Project

Rachel Anno, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Mallory Arellano, Newman University

Emily Barnes, Barnes Child Care

Tanya Bulluck, Child Start

Gail Cozadd, Kansas Children's Service League

Rachele FioRito, United Way of the Plain

Jenny Flinders, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research

Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC, Inc.

Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning

Kim Hawkins, USD 233 Olathe Public Schools

Sheila Hermocillo, USD 443 Dodge City Public Schools

Eva Horn, University of Kansas Department of Special Education

Peggy Kelly, Kansas Head Start Association

Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Lorrena (Lori) Kravitz, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

David Lindeman, University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons

Kelli Mark, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education

Amy Meek, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

Paula Neth, The Family Conservancy

Patti Peschel, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.

Amanda Petersen, Kansas State Department of Education

Dee Rankin, Child Start, Inc.

Sarah Rivers, Via Christi Rehabilitation

Angie Saenger, Child Care Aware of Kansas

Jan Scheideman, Riley County Health Department

Chelsea Schulte, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Inc.

Cassandra Sines, Sines Virtual Assistant Service

Christi Smith, DCCCA

Heather Staab, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning Centers

Amber Tankersley, Pittsburg State University

Reva Wywadis, Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

Minutes

Welcome

Amanda Petersen 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.

Meeting Agenda

Natalie McClane moved to approve the agenda and Eva Horn seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

October 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes

Amy Meek moved to approve the October minutes and Cornelia Stevens seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the October minutes as presented.

Follow-up from last meeting - Debbie Deere

- An overview was presented of October's meeting regarding the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Kindergarten Readiness Transition.
- Discussion on a dissemination plan took place, and a formal recommendation will go in front of the Children's Cabinet at the December meeting. After this is presented and accepted, a dissemination plan will be created and provided for broad dispersal to all communities.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

Beth Toland, Early Childhood Education Specialist for Allen Community College spoke as a representative of the Early Childhood Quality Instruction Partners (EQIP) regarding the organization's support of adoption and implementation of a Kansas Workforce Registry.

- As the coordinator for the group, Beth reached out to the Panel for the collective support of the state's adoption and implementation of a workforce registry for childhood and preschool teachers and KDHE licensed programs.
- "A workforce registry should centralize access to not only community-based trainings, but help providers connect to higher education opportunities that best meet the career goals and goals for increased quality, care, and education."
- She addressed a fundamental problem with the education of the childcare workforce, and noted that the majority of our providers do not have at least an associate's degree.

Panel members thanked Beth and showed appreciation for the work being done. Amanda Petersen noted those who are interested in learning more about the early childhood workforce

can review the Early Childhood Systems Building bi-weekly webinars, as well as sign up for weekly email updates.

Review Survey Question & Answers

Debbie Deere presented that there was about 65% participation from Panel members in taking the Panel Engagement survey. Questions on the survey asked Panel members to report their familiarity with Kansas Power of the Positive as well as 1-800-CHILDREN. Survey results showed that members did not feel their community leaders include early childhood in their planning. Members also reported they used 1-800-CHILDREN resources more often in their early childhood work than Kansas Power of the Positive.

Kansas Power of the Positive Presentation (KPOP)

Amanda Petersen welcomed Vicky Roper and Rachelle Soden of Kansas Children's Service League who presented an overview of Kansas Power of the Positive.

Vicky Roper gave an overview of the history of Kansas Power of the Positive as a statewide coalition focusing on community and societal level interventions. This group presented at the November 4 Early Childhood Systems Building Webinar.

- Project began in 2014 with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Focus was on preventing and mitigating adverse childhood experiences. It was discovered that 70% of the impact of adverse childhood experiences is in the workplace. Goal is to create family-friendly workplaces.
 - Nearly 40 agencies committed to project.
- Kansas is one of seven states that is funded through Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 - CDC campaign - Boost Your Competitive Edge: Actions for a Healthy, Production Workforce
- Public Engagement Campaign
 - Currently have 54 folks trained as trainers
 - Trained a little over 2,000 in 2019
 - 960 were trained in Train the Trainer
- Eight Areas of Good Business
 - Flexible work Schedule
 - Child Care Access
 - Child Care Access
 - Paid Parental Leave
 - Continued Breastfeeding

- Comprehensive Employee Wellness
- Supportive Services & Resources
- Predictable Work Schedule
- Livable Wages
- Members support family-friendly policy change. When families are successful, children are successful.
- Family-friendly work policy benefits employers:
 - Recruit and retain the best employees
 - Reduce employee absenteeism, turnover & on-the-job injury
 - Increase employee satisfaction, productivity
 - Develop future workforce
 - Improve company's public image
- Family-friendly work policy benefits children and families:
 - Access to stable child care
 - Continued breastfeeding for optimal child development
 - Provide for children's basic needs
 - Improve parenting behaviors
 - Reduce maternal depression & parental stress
 - Access to medical care for children
- Vicky presented a success story video showcasing an employee and his children who have benefited from services through Kansas Children's Service League.
- Panel members joined breakout groups to discuss the following questions: How does this tie into the work that you're doing? And who would you be able to target with this presentation in your communities? Ideas included:
 - What this would look like reaching childcare providers and how they can have the language to relay the information to their communities.
 - How tool fits perfectly with work that is already ongoing.
 - Not to think of these benefits as 'perks.' These are things to put in place to retain people.
 - Parallels between supporting staff and how staff supports community.
 - Creative ways for small businesses to partner to support this work.
 - Conversations around people who are there taking care of children and the flexibility is not there in their schedule. Hard to have flexibility because they have

to be there for other families. Discussed child care subsidy, and it is difficult to find. General impression that you have to be working or in school to qualify for childcare subsidy.

- How Child Care Aware provides data for parents that are working and trying to find child care and how they provide productivity for the workforce through training.
- Discussed resource navigators that could help connect families. Shift work is a need from a child care perspective. Discussion about providing technical assistance to employers who are interested in providing childcare.
- How fully funded child care is not available, so partnering with employers to provide that funding. Not enough child care options for everyone, and one of top reasons why people are leaving areas. How do we reach big companies?
- Discussed recruitment and retention. Links 2 Quality has a position that is looking into these. Partnering with businesses for childcare need in most communities.
- How and where groups fit with this work. Who, where, what, how to get the work going and supporting. Share wealth and knowledge and spread out.
- Culture change and it takes all of us.
- We need to support community-based child care if feasible before relying on company-based care.
- Kansas Power of the Positive team clarified that there is no cost associated with Train the Trainer, and if anyone is interested and committed to training, to email Rachelle Soden.

1-800-CHILDREN Presentation/Discussion

Pam Noble and Stephanie Boone of Kansas Children's Service League presented an overview of the history of 1-800-CHILDREN.

- First established in 1992 as the 'Parent Helpline.'
- Long-standing history of collaboration with state and local agencies and organizations.
- Recently went through reorganization and rebranding, with a new resource database: 1800childrenks.org. Relaunch was on November 4, and new marketing materials are in the works.
- Stephanie Boone discussed call line practices and procedures, as well as an overview of the database:
 - No question is off limits
 - Several ways to connect to helpline
 - Accessible

- Resource directory and how to check if your program is included. If program is not included, you can 'suggest a program' be added.
- Organizations can claim their program and make updates as needed without assistance.
- free downloadable app on IOS and Android
- resource guide available for users
- search bar/linked logo that can be included on your website
- Partners are asked to update 1-800 logos on webpages
- Amanda Petersen opened up meeting for members to ask questions or share groups they would consider as resources.
 - A brief video may be helpful
 - Leveraging social media usage
 - School counselors can send out in their resources
 - QR codes on magnets that drive people to websites or applications
 - Share on various Facebook groups (Buy, Sell, Trade sites)
 - Doctor offices and school districts
- Stephanie Boone said next steps would be continuing to schedule presentations with organizations to promote and gather input. A formal marketing campaign will come in the future.
- "The Asks" – How the Panel can get involved - Panel members are asked to:
 - Make sure your program(s) are updated in the resource's directory
 - Disseminate parent outreach electronic flyer as appropriate
 - Identify if you would like to include an embedded search bar/or actionable hyperlink image on your website, both of which connect to the resource directory

Requests for future agenda items

Panel members suggested discussing early childhood in the time of a pandemic, in regard to lack of qualified staff, comfortability for families, and providers shutting doors due to lack of children. There is currently a Vaccination Council in place, and a 47-page COVID-19 Vaccination Plan developed by KDHE, which would make this discussion timely.

- Another future topic to keep in mind is difficulty finding child care for children with special needs.

Upcoming Meetings

- Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting – Friday, December 4, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Kansas Early Childhood Stakeholders Group Meeting – Friday, December 4, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting - Friday, December 18, 9:00-11:30 a.m.
 - Third Fridays of the month, beginning at 9:00 a.m.
 - All meetings scheduled via Zoom

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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