

KANSAS CHILDREN'S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **April 1, 2022**, regular session of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Board virtual meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Kim Moore presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kim Moore, Chair, DiAnne Graham, Deliece Hofen, Terri Rice, John Wilson, Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D (*joined later in the meeting*), Carla Whiteside-Hicks (DCF), Amanda Petersen (KSDE), Hope Cooper (DOC/JJ), Justice Keynen Walls, (Supreme Court), Karla Wiscombe (KBOR). Cabinet Staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Debbie Deere, and Dyogga Adegbore.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS:

Chairman Kim Moore welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Chairman Moore announced the Cabinet is honoring Child Abuse Prevention month in April. He along with the board members received the CAP pendants and pinwheels by mail from Kansas Children's Service League and encouraged board members and staff to wear blue in recognition of the event today. Last, Chairman Moore said action on the minutes would be postponed until a quorum was acquired.

EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director discussed what went into the ECBG application process and gave an overview of the review process.

This year, integration of the Early Childhood Block Grant and Kansas Preschool Pilot grant applications into the Common App to streamline application process took place to reduce grant-writing and reporting burdens for grantees who apply for and receive state funding. This allowed for efficiencies for state agencies in reviewing and awarding grant submission and improved understanding of the impact of state funding and alignment of different state funding streams. It also allowed for blended and braided funding for the best level effect.

Technical assistance included help with Kansas Common App through a webinar held last November. Questions pertaining to RFP were answered directly and included online FAQ and Help Desk Support offered for KS Common App. There were 162 technical assistance requests received and 30 hours collective technical assistance time provided.

The Children's Cabinet received 132 applications. The KCCTF and KSDE staff reviewed the initial applications for completeness and required documentation. Eligible applications included 131 of

which were then reviewed by an external panel. KCCTF and KSDE staff scored the final proposals. Total recommended approved grants were 19 at \$19,784,000.

Chairman Moore remarked he was curious, if 95 percent of the approved recipients are existing grantees, why put them through another application process. Melissa talked about the reviewers focus on analyzing delivery. After considerable discussion, Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

MOTION:

Deliece Hofen moved the board accept the recommended slate of ECBG recipients for State Fiscal Year 2023. Motion seconded by Terri Rice. Chairman Moore called for a Roll Call vote:

DiAnne Graham – Yes
Deliece Hofen – Yes
Terri Rice – Yes
John Wilson – Yes
Chairman Kim Moore – Yes
Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 4, 2022 MINUTES:

Chairman Moore announced there was a quorum and asked for a motion on the minutes.

MOTION:

Deliece Hofen moved the Cabinet approve the minutes of February 4, 2022, as written. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham. Members voted by voice vote in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL:

Debbie Deere, Early Childhood System Coordinator, KCCTF gave an update. Debbie presented two recommendations before the Cabinet for consideration:

1. The Kansas Children’s Cabinet, in its role as the Early Childhood Advisory Council, recommends the State Interagency Coordinating Council and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils collaborate to implement the following: 1) Strategies, 2) Background Information, and 3) Implementation Guidance.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Wilson the Cabinet approve the recommendation presented. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham. Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call Vote.

DiAnne Graham – Yes
Deliece Hofen - Yes
Terri Rice – Yes
John Wilson – Yes
Chairman Kim Moore – Yes
Motion carried.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL (contin)

2. The Kansas Children’s Cabinet, in its role as the Early Childhood Advisory Council, recommends state agencies and contracted partners use federal relief funding to design and implement a plan to issue one-time bonus payments to help retain individual child care professionals in licensed child care settings by including 1) Background Information, and 2) Implementation Guidance (Appendix A).

Chairman Moore remarked he had concerns about with the word “retention” bonuses being given out to everyone without some type of criteria. He did not object to bonuses being issued though. Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hicks provided clarification about the bonuses and had reservations about the term “retention” being included in the title of the bonus too.

Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

MOTION:

It was moved by Deliece Hofen the Children’s Cabinet approved the Child Care Retention Bonus recommendation as presented. Motion second by Terri Rice. Chairman Moore called for a Roll Call vote.

DiAnne Graham – Yes

Deliece Hofen – Yes

Terri Rice – Yes

John Wilson – Yes

Chairman Kim Moore – No (*based only on the word “Retention” being included*)

Motion carried.

Chairman Moore thanked Debbie Deere for her report. Debbie remarked that members will be completing renewal applications for a seat on the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel for next year. Applications will be accepted between April 1 and May 1, 2022. Anyone interested in applying is welcome to do so and can do so at <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/apply-for-the-early-childhood-recommendations-panel/>

Chairman Moore welcomed Dr. Tyler Smith-Howells to the meeting.

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATE:

Melissa Rooker briefed the board on the work going in Year 2 and preparation for Year 3 of the PDG grant. Scope of work, budgets and background information from the various partners have been collected in preparation for PDG Year 3. Approval to carry forward funding from Year 1 was authorized by the federal awarding agency. The Children’s Cabinet’s federal application has been submitted and April 30, 2022 will mark the start of the Year 3 grant year.

PRESCHOOL DEVELOPMENT GRANT UPDATE (contin.)

Workforce Registry RFP – The RFP was announced and bids are being collected and reviewed. DCF will be transferring \$3M in funding to the Children’s Cabinet to administer the program.

Quality Subgrants Year 3: Existing grantees have been approval for renewals for Year 3.

AGENCY UPDATES:

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood (KSDE) reported:

- At the March the State Board, the board approved the establishment of a Literacy Advisory Council for the purpose of helping support and advance gains in literacy achievement for all Kansas students. Dr. Laurie Curtis has joined agency as our Dyslexia and Early Literacy Program Manager,
- State Board will consider Kansas Preschool Pilot recommendations when they meet on April 12 and 13. Appreciate the collaboration with the Cabinet, staff, grantees; a reminder that that is a mix of CIF and TANF,
- Annual process to review districts’ plans for preschool in upcoming years so that they can receive preschool-aged at-risk funding through the school finance formula. This is much larger than grants,
- Gathering renewal grant applications for Kansas Parents as Teachers grantees. Flat funding recommended from Children’s Initiatives Fund,
- Appreciated conversation about State and Local Interagency Coordinating Councils earlier today, and I do want to recognize outgoing staff member to the State ICC Jordan Christian. Supported State and Local ICCS over the past 5 years, tremendous job to help the individuals who serve the state and their communities engage and collaborate more effectively. We appreciate his work and wish him well as he moves to a new role – excited that he’ll continue lending his considerable talents to enhancing early childhood systems in states across the country.

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director, (KCCTF) reported:

- Reported on scheduling webinars with grantees and individual virtual meetings to discuss program work with the grantees and evaluate the program year;

Dr. Carla Whiteside-Hicks, Director of TANF and Early Childhood Programs, (DCF) reported:

- DCF is reviewing proposals for the Sustainability grants which would provide financial support to Providers,
- RFP announcement will be made on April 5 for the Child Care Retention grants

Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Director, Academic Affairs, (KBOR) reported:

- Promise Act scholarships.
- KBOR is working on a statewide General Education package for all its institutions in an effort to remove barriers to transferring courses. It will take a year or two for implementation to take effect.

AGENCY UPDATES (contin.)

Justice Keynen Wall, Supreme Court report:

- Kansas Mental Health Summit is scheduled April 13-14, 2022. The Summit will bring together local and national speakers to discuss ways to help improve the court's response to mental health issues.

Hope Cooper, Deputy Secretary of Juvenile and Adult Community-Based Services, Kansas Department of Corrections, reported:

- Interest in sharing data with the Kansas Data Trust,
- Juvenile Intake MOU between Department of Corrections & Department for Children and Families will be updated. Information on Youth Intake and Child in Need of Care will be reviewed and updated.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director asked the board what was their pleasure regarding resuming in-person meetings. Most members voiced they looked forward to meeting in-person again, however, they would like the zoom option since it made it easier to join and participate versus long travel time. Chairman Moore said he agreed but said connecting and meeting in-person was more convenient for him. Staff will check on meeting space availability and Melissa will announce by e-mail if meeting space could be tied down for the June and December, 2022 meeting dates.

NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting is scheduled Friday, June 3, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. as a zoom meeting.

All meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. as virtual meetings until further notice. Future meeting dates are August 5, October 7, and December 2, 2022.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore adjourned the meeting at 10:40 a.m.