

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recommendations Panel Appointments
7/1/2022 – 6/30/2023



Executive Order 20-02 from Governor Laura Kelly established the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund as the State Advisory Council on Children’s Education and Care (in accordance with Public Law 110-134 The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007) and created the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel as an advisory group appointed by the Children’s Cabinet.

- **Panel Chair:** Cornelia Stevens, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers
- **Panel Term:** One-Year Term from July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023
- **Meeting Details:** Monthly Meetings on 3rd Friday of the month, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Overview of Review Process and Timeline

- Apr 1 – May 1, 2022** Application period to apply to the Recommendations Panel. Application information was listed on the Children’s Cabinet website and promoted at the Early Childhood Recommendation Panel April 15 meeting, on biweekly webinars and in the *All In for Kansas Kids* weekly email update. Required positions include:
- Representative(s) of local school districts
 - Representative(s) of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas
 - Representative(s) of local providers of early childhood education and development services
 - Representative(s) from Head Start agencies located in the State of Kansas, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs
 - Parent(s) of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas
 - Other representatives determined to be relevant by the Cabinet and as determined by the Governor
- May 1 - 27** Applications reviewed by the Children’s Cabinet staff for eligibility

- June 3** Slate of recommendations, including selection of new Chair, submitted to the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board for approval

- June 3 - 10** Pending Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board approval, Panel positions announced and communicated.

- July 1** New members begin their one-year term, July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023.

FY23 Recommendations Panel Slate

Representative(s) of
the Kansas Department
for Children and
Families ***Nichelle Adams**, Kansas Department for Children and Families
***Rachel Anno**, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Representative(s) of
the Kansas Department
of Health and
Environment ***Paula Branizor**, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
*** Kelli Mark**, Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Tricia Waggoner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment

Representative(s) of
the Kansas State
Department of
Education, early
childhood education
and early childhood
special education ***Natalie McClane**, Kansas State Department of Education

Representative(s) of
local school districts **Tara Taylor**, USD 470 Arkansas City Head Start/Pre-K Director

Representative(s) of
institutions of higher
education in the State
of Kansas ***Mallory Arellano**, Assistant Professor of Education / Early Childhood Unified
Coordinator, Newman University
***Jennifer Forker**, Early Childhood Education Instructor, Hutchinson Community
College
Jennifer Francois, Assistant Professor / Director of Kansas Institute of Early Childhood
Education
***David Lindeman**, Director, KU Life Span Institute-Parsons
Stephanie Parks, Associate Teaching Profession, University of Kansas

Representative(s) of local providers of early childhood education and development services

- ***Marites Altuna**, Deaf-Blind Project Director, Kansas State School for the Blind
- ***Emily Barnes**, Self-employed In-home Family Child Care Provider, Barnes Childcare
- Tiffany Bartley**, Healthy Families Supervisor, Kansas Children's Service League
- ***Amanda Billings**, Group Daycare Home Provider, Mayor - Portis
- ***Tabitha Ewing**, Pre-K Teacher, Susanna Wesley Preschool, Family Advisory Council
- ***Amy Gottschamer**, Executive Director, Googols of Learning Child Development Center
- ***Callie Hoffman**, Executive Director, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association, Director, USD 368 Paola PAT Consortium
- Dominique Lewis**, Director, Guidepost Montessori
- ***Pam Noble**, Assistant Director, Kansas Children's Service League
- ***Lisa Schmidt**, Early Childhood Center Director, Women's Community Y
- ***Dannah Schatz**, Triple-P Coordinator, Russell Child Development Center, Family Advisory Council
- ***Cornelia Stevens**, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers

Representative(s) from Head Start agencies located in Kansas

- ***Jennifer Adhima**, Executive Director, Kansas Head Start Association

State Director of Head Start Collaboration

- ***Kim Kennedy**, Kansas Department for Children and Families

Parent of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas

- ***Crystal Henry**, Parent, Start Young Manager, The Family Conservancy
- Jennifer Whiteford Houk**, Parent, PAT Educator, Family Advisory Council

Other

- Brenda Bandy**, Executive Director, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
- ***Tanya Bulluck**, Child Care and Referral Director, Child Start Inc.
- Eldonna Chestnut**, Division Director of Child Care Licensing, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
- ***Kelly Davydov**, Executive Director, Child Care Aware of Kansas
- Asia Foster**, Early Learning Program Manager, Mid-America Regional Council
- ***Malissa Martin**, President-CEO, Community in Schools Mid-America
- ***Amy Meek**, Early Childhood Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
- ***Patty Peschel**, Director, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities
- Logan Stenseng**, Policy & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Thrive Allen County
- ***Reva Wywadis**, Executive Director, ERC Resource & Referral / Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

*2021-2022 Panel Member