

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, August 19, 2022



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, DCF
Jennifer Adhima, Kansas Head Start Association
Marites Altuna, Kansas State Schools for the Deaf & Blind
Mallory Arellano, Newman University School of Education
Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Emily Barnes, Family Child Care owner/operator
Tiffany Bartley, KCSL
Tanya Bulluck, Child Start
Kelly Davydov, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Tabitha Ewing, Susanna Wesley Child Care
Jennifer Francois, Kansas Institute of Early Childhood Education
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
Asia Foster,
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning
Crystal Henry, Family Conservancy
Callie Hoffman, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Kim Kennedy, DCF, Kansas Head Start Collaboration
Dominique Lewis, Guidepost Montessori
David Lindeman, University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons
Kelli Mark, KDHE
Malissa Martin, Community in Schools Mid-America
Amy Meek, KCCTF
Natalie McClane, KSDE
Pam Noble, KCSL
Stephanie Parks, KU Special Education
Patty Peschel, KCCTO
Dannah Schatz, Russell Child Development Center
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Logan Stenseng, Zero to Thrive Kansas Coalition
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning Center

Tara Taylor, Head Start and Local Education Agency
Tricia Waggoner, KDHE
Jennifer Whiteford Houk, PAT Educator
Reva Wywadis, Child Care Aware of Eastern Kansas

Minutes

Welcome

Cornelia Stevens 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

Amy Meek moved to approve the agenda and Natalie McClane seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented

July 15, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Jennifer Francois moved to approve the July minutes and Jennifer Adhima seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

No comments submitted.

Welcome/Panel Overview

Cornelia introduces Chris Tilden and Sushmita Samaddar, who provided an overview of the work of the Early Childhood Systems Collaboration Analysis presented by the Center for Public Partnerships and Research.

Presenters explained the parts 1 and 2 of the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory. Areas to be rated include environment, membership, process & structure, as well as communication, purpose, and resources. A historical overview of Wilder Domain Scores from year 1 and 2 was also provided with background information about what different scores mean.

Following the Wilder Collaboration Factors Inventory, presenters from the Center for Public Partnerships and Research explained the Levels of Collaboration Scale. Factors making up this scale include networking, cooperation, coordination, coalition, and collaboration. Definitions were provided to members as well as an overview of the five-point rating system which measures perceived interactions between representatives in a group.

Historically, in years 1 and 2 the level of interaction was initially at the “networking level” with low levels of shared collaboration. Overall the average level of interaction increased annually and moved closer to the “collaboration level” (level 2). Additionally, over the course of the survey the average number of connections between organizations grew. The team from KU explained this is indicative of strong collaboration and powerful relationships.

Key Insights:

- In both years there was an increase in connectedness among participants on the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel from the beginning to the end of the year
- Some organizations built large numbers of new connections. In Year 1, three organizations increased the number of organizations they were connected to (at a level 3 or higher) by 20 organization or more; another five gained 10-19 connections. In Year 2, two organizations established over 20 new connections (level 3 or higher) and five organizations gained 10-19 connections
- Changes in the composition of the panel between years influenced connectedness of the network

Panel Member Perceptions:

- "I like the new format this year. I think last year, because I personally do not mind connecting with people and organizations to support my work and theirs, it wasn't an issue. But for those who aren't as "outgoing", this new format and engagement in our meetings, will support newer members who tend to stay quiet, in opening up and networking"
- "I am excited for the direction of this year's panel. I really like the idea of the 3 work groups and the way in which the meetings will be divided"
- "Love the work being done. Collaborative work is HARD, yet I feel this group has come a long way."
- "I appreciate all the levels of support for this group"

Opportunities for Improvement:

- Increased Diversity
- Clarity of Purpose & Expectations
- Open-mindedness

What's Next?:

- Some of the concerns raised by member may be addressed by:
 - Striving for higher ethnic diversity among panel members
 - Improvement in family engagement activities through participating in the National Family Support Network's Standards and Strengthening Families training
 - Building in ways to communicate and interact on regular updates between working groups such that efforts are not duplicated or repeated

Next Steps on LICC Network Analysis:

- The team at the Center for Public Partnerships and Research will continue moving forward with the LICC Network Analysis to discover what influences greater collaboration. They will look at components like composition of network, perceived program performance, and composition of Part C programs to evaluate collaboration. The team will also look at the impact of network collaboration and if greater collaboration effects performance.

Questions about the work? Please reach out to Chris Tilden, Associate Researcher Senior ctilden@ku.edu 785-866-6699

Cornelia introduces Pam Noble and Kaitlyn Moore, who gives an overview of the work of the Kansas Children's Service League.

The Parent Leadership Conference 2022 will be held November 4th & 5th at the Hotel Topeka at City Center. A limited amount of scholarships will be provided to families who have to travel from outside of Topeka. The event aims to include parent voice in all presentations and to empower families to understand the importance of family engagement. The conference is free to attend and involves activities for all ages. The second part of the presentation from Kanas Children's Service League was an overview of 1-800-Children supports and marketing material. Panel members were informed how to acquire new marketing materials as well as how to find services.

Questions about the work? Please reach out to Kaitlyn Moore, Community Engagement & Marketing Coordinator, kamoore@kcsl.org

Bright Spots:

- A member shares Kaleidoscope is back on the calendar after a 2 year hiatus and they are back and kickoff date is September 24th. Invitations were sent out to surveyors in about 15 different counties, attendance has been capped at 150 people. They are excited to have this program back up and seeing people face to face again.
- A member shares they learned that their home visiting model is up for reauthorization in September and had the opportunity to bring congressman Estes to Child Start this past Monday. The member expressed how important it is to collaborate with statewide partners and find support across the state.
- A member shares that he went to a training event on how to organize a proper meeting, including technical aspects of meeting going as well as building powerful relationships that are both long term and accountable. This member thought the training was energizing and exciting.
- A member shares that they have a new exciting technical training. They are able to offer two fully remote technical trainings to assist those working with childcare providers who may have questions about infant feeding in the child care setting.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, September 16, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m. (schedule changed)
- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, October 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Stakeholders Group Meeting – Friday, October 7, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53am