

# KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Friday, October 20, 2023



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

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## Members Present

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Nichelle Adams, DCF  
Marites Altuna, Kansas State  
School for the Blind  
Brenda Bandy, Kansas  
Breastfeeding Coalition  
Emily Barnes, Barnes Child Care  
Sheila Berterlsen, Dodge City Public  
Schools-Bright Beginnings Early  
Childhood Center  
Dana Book, KCSL  
Tanya Bulluck, Child Start  
Kristina Cullison, Frontenac Public  
Schools  
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE  
Nick Engels, Littles Early Learning  
Bronwyn Fees, Kansas State  
University  
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of  
Learning  
Kim Kennedy, DCF-HSCO  
Hilary Koehn, KPATA  
Karen MacCrary, Mitchell County  
Partnership for Children  
Malissa Martin, SparkWheel, Inc  
Natalie McClane, KSDE  
Leigh Anne Neal, USD 512 Shawnee  
Mission School District

Lindsay Orion, KU CPPR  
Stephanie Parks, University of  
Kansas  
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent  
Information Resource Center  
Brett Schmidt, Learning Cross  
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community  
Y  
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas  
Head Start Association  
Dana Stanton, Northwest Kansas  
Economic Innovation Center, Inc  
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early  
Learning Centers  
Tara Taylor, Arkansas City Public  
Schools  
Ly Tran, DCF  
Marie Treichel, KAIMH  
Cora Ungerer, KDHE  
Jateice Vieux, USD 226 Meade  
Elementary & Junior High School  
Stephanie Wiggins, KCCTO/KITS  
Christie Wyckoff, KCCTF

## Minutes

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### 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.

### October Meeting Agenda

Tanya Bulluck moved to approve the July agenda and Kim Kennedy seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

### September 15, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Natalie McClane moved to approve the June minutes and a Panel Member seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

### Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments

Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the [Kansans' Open Forum Comment Form](#) by 5:00pm the day preceding each meeting to share written comments or to sign up to share verbal comments with the Panel during this portion of the meeting. No comments submitted.

### Early Childhood Transition Task Force Update

Cornelia gave a brief update on the Early Transition Task Force. Governor Kelly formed this Task Force to look at streamlining and creating more efficiency in our Early Childhood System in Kansas. The Task Force held their second to last meeting this week where the Task Force members shared draft recommendations created in their work groups. Recommendations were heard on programs (consolidation and moving programs around within state systems), transition logistics to create structure surrounding the recommendations, and metrics and data (to track progress and accomplishments). Their next meeting will be held on December 11<sup>th</sup> where they will review all formal recommendations to present to the governor in a final report. Further information and Livestream recording are available on Governor Kelly's website.

### DCF Narrow Market Analysis

Cornelia introduced Kate Young and Nigel Soria from the Public Policy and Management Center to walk through the Market Rate and Narrow Market Analysis Project that occurs every 3 years. This study aims to analyze local market rates of regulated child care in the state of Kansas, examine rates and county groupings to establish purchasing power parity, and conduct a narrow cost analysis to understand the cost to provide child care in the state of Kansas. The project requires robust engagement from our state experts on an advisory committee, including but not limited to local child care program administrators, child care resource and referral agencies, organizations representing caregivers,

teachers, and directors, and others, such as Tribal leadership. If anyone is interested in serving on the advisory committee, the time obligation would entail three to five 30-45 minutes meetings over the course of the project. Email [kate.young@wichita.edu](mailto:kate.young@wichita.edu) if interested. Once the survey questions are drafted and finalized they will return to the Recommendations Panel for further input. You can find the results of the last Market Rate Survey and Narrow Cost Analysis conducted in 2020 on the DCF website, [here](#). They will be looking at what it currently costs providers to provide child care in the state of Kansas and how those rates are distributed across the state and comparing that in what was found in the last study. Questions from the last survey will help inform the questions going out in this year's new survey.

## Family and Consumer Partnership

Cornelia introduced Cora Ungerer of KDHE Bureau of Family Health, who gave an update on the Family Leadership Team (FLT) and Family Advisory Council (FAC).

The Family Advisory Council stems from the Title V Block Grant for Maternal and Child Health started in 2009 with the goal of prioritizing strengths-based supports and services to promote healthy families and relationships, specifically focused on families with children with special health care needs (CSHCN). When the FAC was created it could support up to 12 active members but in 2020, after seeing the amazing work from families, leadership decided to expand the council to cover the 5 core Maternal and Child Health domains (CSHCN, Women/Maternal, Early Childhood – birth to 5, Child – 6-11, and Adolescence – 12 to 21). And now, in 2023, across those 5 core work groups, they have 38 members. The FAC envisions a state where individuals and families are engaged in program planning, evaluation, service delivery, and policy development; partners in advocacy; and leaders in their communities. Meetings are held 4 times a year (January, April, July, and October), with 2 virtual meetings and 2 in-person meetings. Members are provided a stipend, leadership opportunities, and are given the power to lead the work they want to do – with guidance. Members also help to review the Title V Maternal and Child Health 5-year State Action Plan and pick an area they are interested in and want to help progress, related with their work group domain. Plans for growth include a Youth Advisory Council and a Fatherhood work group.

The Family and Consumer Partnership Toolkit was developed in part with conversations and feedback from the FAC, information from other states and resources, national frameworks, and their own experiences engaging with families. The next phases of the toolkit include developing more one-page info sheets, using discussions and feedback from families, finding additional tools to be added to the toolkit, and developing new tools that fill in the gaps. Their goal is to have a fully accessible toolkit available to anyone interested in family or consumer partnership and to develop technical assistance for community partners. More information on this toolkit is available on the [MCH website](#).

The Family Leadership Team (FLT) originated from the Preschool Development Grant to develop a larger family, agency, and program feedback and action team. This group includes agencies and programs who work directly with families in Kansas. Their goals

include hearing from people throughout the state about the good and the bad that comes along with raising a family, and available services, and supports in Kansas; and compiling feedback to create smaller project groups to produce a solution and present recommendations to the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. The FLT is currently conducting Family Round Table Discussions to elicit feedback from families to help create their formal recommendations. These round tables are being held on November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 6<sup>th</sup> and registration can be found [here](#).

### AIFKK Tactic Work Group Reports

Cornelia introduced a representative from each work group to provide an update on the work they have done thus far.

#### **Tactic 7.1.2 Zoning**

Emily Barnes gave an update on this work group's progress. They held a group meeting at the end of September and a productive meeting with Melissa Rooker to elicit her feedback. They are finding clarity on who their target audience is and have been utilizing local governance associations for zoning to figure out the best way to move their recommendations forward.

#### **Tactic 6.1.5 Recruitment and Retention**

Amy Gottschamer gave an update on this work group's progress. At their most recent group meeting they reviewed the document they've drafted to make it more thorough, usable, and organized. They also reviewed and edited the introductory page and added more suggestions to the document. As they work on these documents more ideas and suggestions are discovered, including but not limited to, discussions of the perception of early childhood work, examinations of current marketing campaigns for K-12 and how to adapt them to the early childhood field, digging more into the utilization of sub-pools, and fine-tuning their target audience.

#### **Tactic 6.1.1 Compensation and Benefits**

Heather Schrotberger gave an update on this work group's progress. After meeting last month this work group continued most of their discussions via email. They are focusing on putting together a vision of how they see and align competitive compensation systems, finalizing the components of mapping out a compensation system, revising their current proposed definition. Their next steps are to finalize the definition and outline a framework for potential recommendations by each component. Once this is done they will then be ready to seek feedback from the larger group.

#### **Strategy 4.2 Family Friendly Workplaces**

Malissa Martin gave an update on this work group's progress. Dana Book is the new lead for this work group. They are still working through the feedback they received on their original recommendations and have decided to rescind one of them to create room for a more specific recommendation. In order to educate their relevant audiences they would like their findings to be published on the Department of Commerce website (for employers) and on the Children's Cabinet website (for families). They have representatives from KPOP

joining their work group meeting today to help further discussion and hope to come up with a plan on how to move forward with their current recommendations.

### Bright Spots

- **Natalie McClane:** The first draft of the updated Kansas Early Learning Standards is completed and currently out for public comment. You can find a scrolling banner on the [KSDE website](#) to provide written feedback or attend their Zoom meeting on October 30<sup>th</sup> to give verbal feedback.
- **Jarvis Doleman:** KDHE has finished their part of the Regulations Review and they have moved forward in the promulgation process to the attorney general's office. There will be additional opportunities for public comment in the future. Through the Regulations Review process they discovered that the School-Age Programs and Drop-In Program regulations were also in need of review. Because of this they held a Summit last week to discuss this with those in the field and have started working on drafted updates for those regulations.
- **Brenda Bandy:** There is an opportunity on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to speak to Human Resource Managers about Employment Law practices and Family Friendly practices. Exhibiting at the Kansas Association School Boards to talk about Family Friendly Practices. Kansas was selected by the Pre-Natal to 3 Policy Impact Center to attend a Paid Family Leave Policy Academy in November, so our attendees will bring back whatever they learn from this academy.
- **Bronwyn Fees:** Completed 17 interviews with over 200 individuals from across the state (workforce association members, state directors, etc.) in regard to the implementation of the Career Pathway. Received enlightening feedback and will be implementing it into the current plan. At this time, they are working on creating a survey for a comprehensive workforce study that will launch the first week of November

### Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – Friday, November 17, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, December 1, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.