

# All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood  
Recommendations Panel

**MEETING** NOVEMBER 17, 2023



# WELCOME

**Thank you** for serving Kansas children, their families, and our state's early childhood care and education professionals!

This is a remote meeting.

- Today's meeting materials are posted on the [Panel Meetings webpage](#) on the Children's Cabinet site.
- Panel members will clearly identify themselves when they begin speaking.
- Panel members can use the "raise hand" feature to show they are ready to share.



# TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome
- Approval of November agenda
- Approval of October meeting minutes
- Kansans' Open Forum
- KAN-LINK Overview
- KDHE Regulation Review & CCSIT Updates
- AIFKK Tactic Work Group Reports
- Bright Spots & Upcoming Meetings
- Adjourn



# ACTION ITEMS

*Panel members - please clearly identify yourself when you begin speaking to make and second a motion.*

- Approval of November agenda
- Approval of October minutes



# KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

*Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the [Kansans' Open Forum Comment](#) Form by 5:00 p.m. 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.*





# KAN-LINK Project Overview



KANSAS LINKING INFRASTRUCTURE FOR NURTURING KIDS

# PARTNERS



Center for Public Partnerships and Research

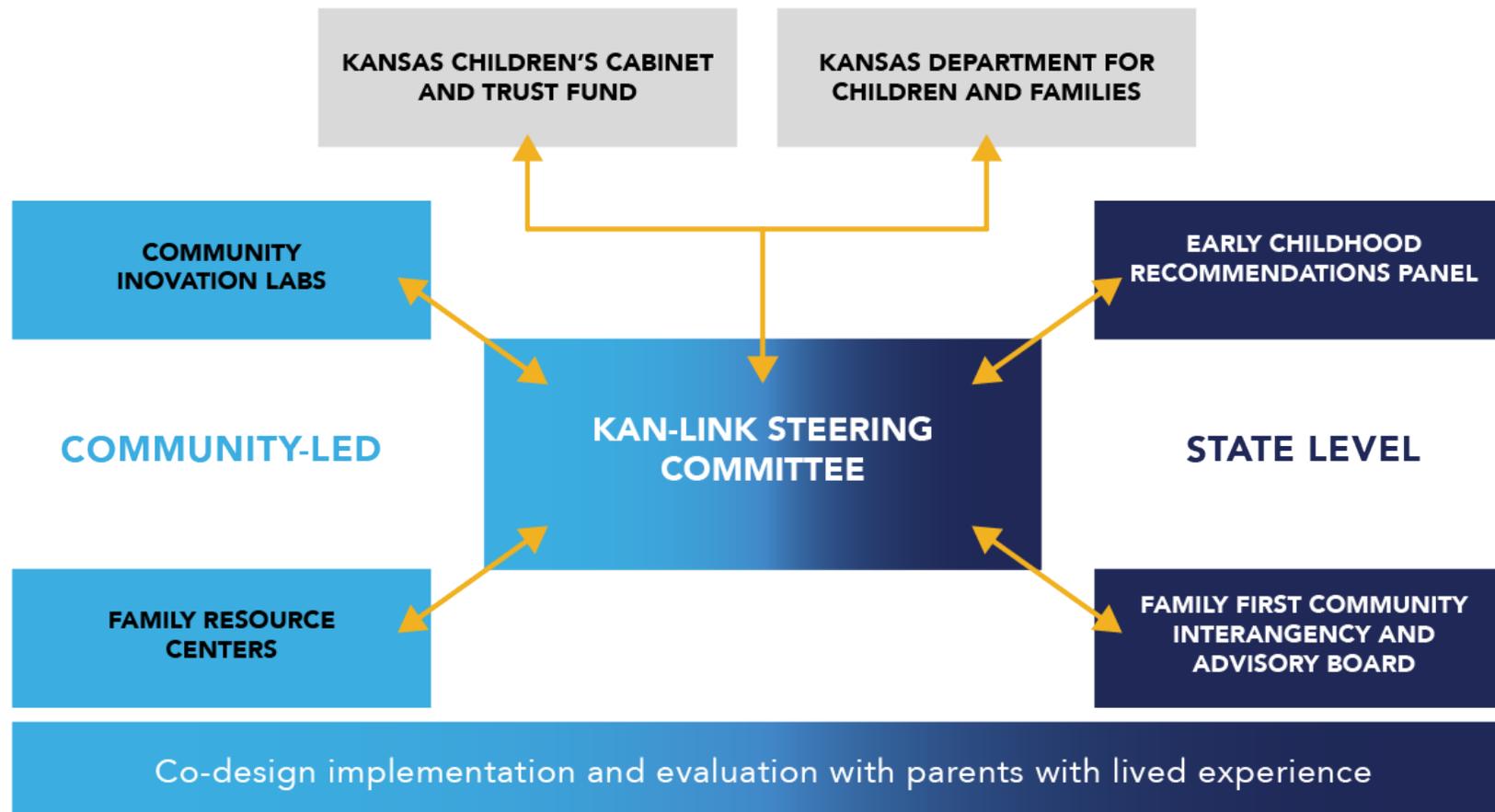


# PURPOSE OF KAN-LINK

- The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (KCCTF) and Department for Children and Families (DCF) will improve coordination, collaboration, alignment, and infrastructure between the Kansas early care and education (ECE) systems and the network of child abuse prevention and foster care providers at the state and local level.
- The project aim is to ensure access to a robust and interconnected network of comprehensive ECE services and supports to help children in Kansas thrive in their communities.

# GOVERNANCE

## KAN-LINK SHARED GOVERNANCE



# KAN-LINK GOALS

- Improve state level coordination, alignment, policy, and infrastructure to address the early childhood needs of children at risk of or involved in the child welfare system

## Goal 1

- Pilot community-based innovation labs to test and address local priorities, infrastructure, and policies.

## Goal 2

- Advance actionable equity within and between state and local early childhood and child welfare policies and programming.

## Goal 3

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES: TWO-PRONGED APPROACH

The KAN-LINK project will use a two-pronged approach with actionable equity strategies included throughout:

## Statewide

- Targeted state level ECE/CW system improvements focused on ECE program access and infrastructure.

## Community-Based

- A unique approach that mobilizes community-led innovation labs to design local policies, practices, and infrastructure assets through a network of FRCs.

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES: TWO-PRONGED APPROACH

## Prong 1: Statewide

Integrate screening, assessment, and referral into prevention and other foster care programs.

Identify and evaluate ECE system barriers impeding coordination and success to services.

Leverage system-level mechanisms for communication to facilitate cross-sector collaboration.

Advance Equity for individuals who have been historically marginalized and overrepresented in CW.

# PROJECT ACTIVITIES: TWO-PRONGED APPROACH

The second prong of the KAN-LINK approach mobilizes community-led innovation labs to design local policies, practices, and infrastructure assets through a network of Family Resource Centers.

## Prong 2: Community-Based

Identify local priorities and co-create pilots for testing and scaling.

Leverage and expand existing systems to streamline and enhance referral coordination and access.

Identify and address policy and practice solutions at the local level.

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN & FAMILIES

## Child Level

- Increased screening, assessment, and referrals to services for children B-5 at risk of or involved in CW
- Increased participation in evidence-based ECE services for those children.
- Decreased maltreatment, reports, and involvement in CW system, particularly for children and families of color.

## Family Level

- Increased use of 1-800-CHILDREN and resource directory.
- Increased closed-loop referrals in IRIS or other systems.
- Increased utilization of FRC resources.

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR COMMUNITIES

## Community Level

- Increased yearly growth of local referral and resource networks.
- Increased quality engagement of individuals with lived expertise and historically marginalized population in co-designed solutions.
- Identification and adoption of community- and family-led innovative and accountable strategies to better serve community members' needs.

# EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR KANSAS

## State Level

- Identification of resource and infrastructure barriers across the intersection of the ECE and CW systems.
- Improved statewide policies and practices that promote early screening, assessment, and referral infrastructure to ensure children at risk or involved in CW are better connected to ECE services.
- Identification and adoption of state-level policies or procedures that increase the enrollment of children at risk of or involved in CW, particularly children of color, in ECE services.
- Improved alignment of funding, services, infrastructure, and resources to support greater access and availability of ECE services for at risk children.
- The adoption of a Model of Accountability to drive co-design and increase engagement of individuals with lived expertise.

# GOVERNANCE: CO-DESIGN AND LIVED EXPERTISE

Collaborative co-design and teaming with families with lived expertise is foundational to our approach and drives all aspects of KAN-LINK.

KAN-LINK will establish a Steering Committee to operationalize and implement project goals and share responsibility for jointly owned outcomes.

## Steering Committee

KCCTF

DCF

KU-  
CPPR

KUSSW

Early Childhood  
Recommendations  
Panel

Family  
First  
Statewide  
ICAB

KCSL

5 Lived  
Experts

# EVALUATION APPROACH

- Mixed-methods design will assess program performance, innovation, equity, and outcomes at the child, family, community, and state level.
- Pre-post post outcome analysis and empirical correlation methods will be blended to measure change over time, paired with Participatory Action Research.
- The evaluation approach incorporates tools for measuring progress on race equity, power sharing, and co-design, to be implemented using a pre-post design, and consistently measured across the grant cycle.

The evaluation approach will also leverage data from:

Kansas Early  
Childhood Data  
Trust

Administrative/outcome  
data from community  
partners and existing  
platforms (e.g., IRIS, 1-  
800-CHILDREN)

Qualitative data

Visual data

Participatory data



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# Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

**KDHE | Child Care Licensing | November 17, 2023**



# Introductions

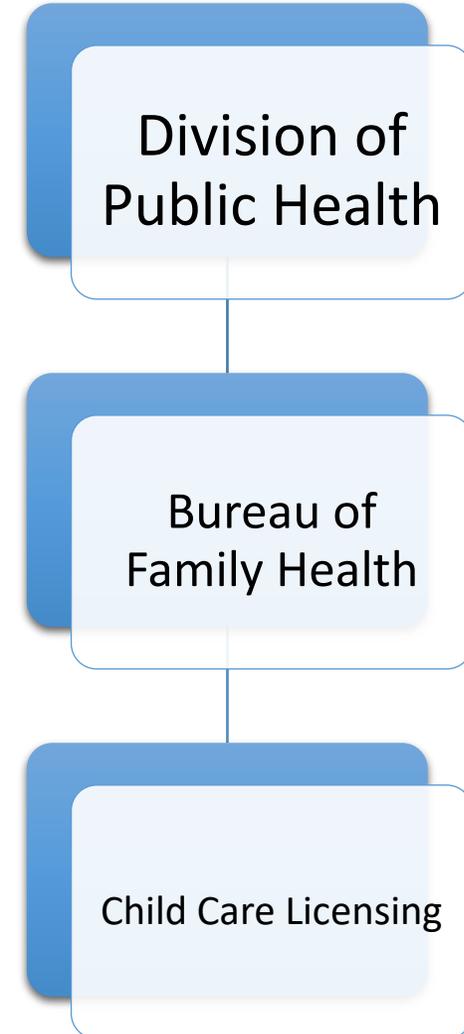
**Melissa Schoenberger, Director of Systems and Field Services, Child Care Licensing**

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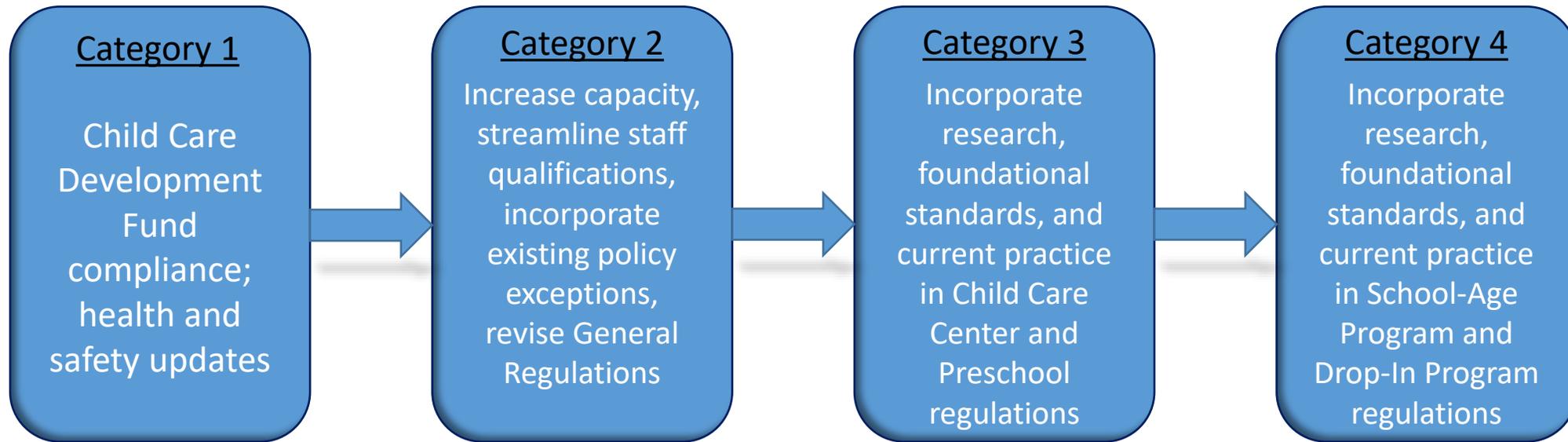
- **The Child Care Licensing (CCL) program operates within the Bureau of Family Health (BFH) at the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) with multiple levels of supervision and oversight to ensure operations and field services applications.**
  - **CCL Operations**
  - **CCL Systems & Field Services**
- **The program serves to carry-out the “health and safety” component of the state early childhood lead agency; the Kansas Department for Children & Families (DCF).**



# Child Care Licensing in Kansas

- **The Child Care Licensing (CCL) Program establishes and enforces regulatory safeguards for child care facilities and works to reduce the risk of preventable harm. CCL ensures a foundational (minimum) standard level of care and protection to children while in out-of-home care settings through regulation application and monitoring of licensed child care facilities.**
  - **Child care facilities include day care homes, child care centers and preschools, school age programs, drop-in programs and child care resource and referral agencies.**
- **The program is responsible for:**
  - **Processing all licensing applications**
  - **Ensuring the conducting of name-based and comprehensive background checks**
  - **Monitoring through onsite inspections and enforcing regulations.**
  - **Inspection activity is carried out by state staff located across the state and through contracts with local county health departments..**
  - **The program develops and adopts regulations that promote the health, safety and well-being of children as required by K.S.A. 65-508(c)**

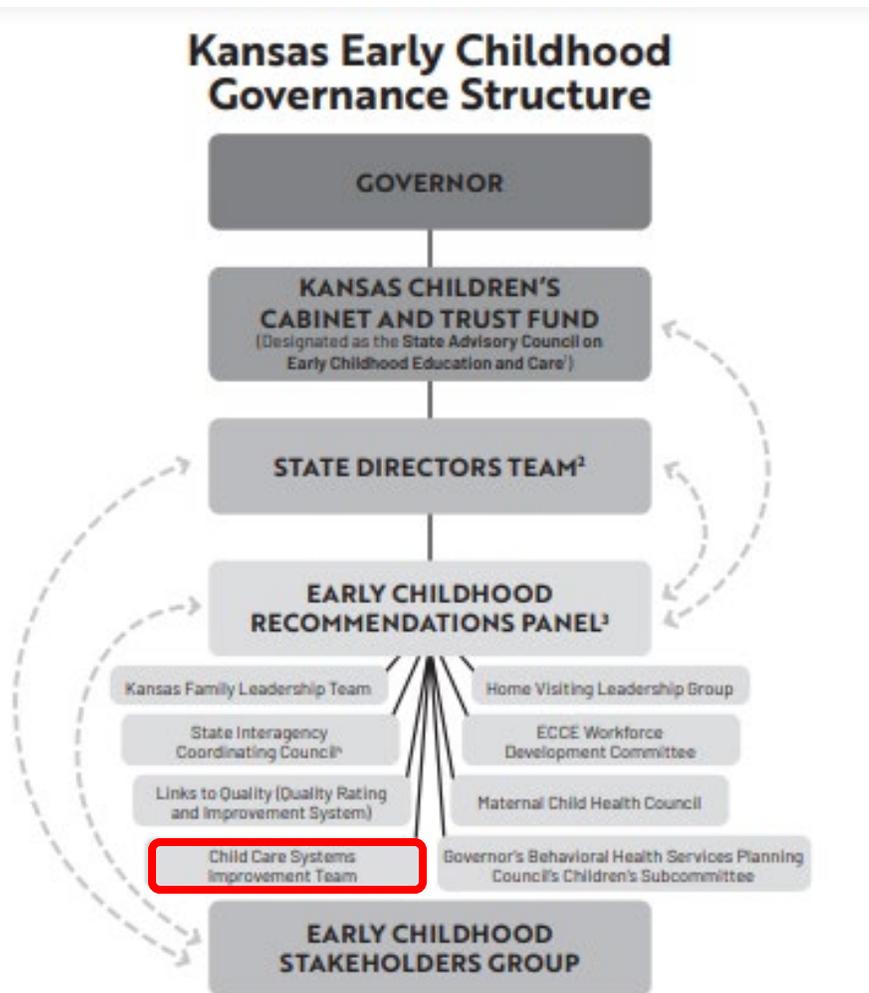
## 2023 Child Care Licensing Regulation Review



## Stakeholder Input and Feedback

- ✓ **3** Child Care Systems Improvement Team meetings (June, July, September)
- ✓ **2** Provider engagement and listening sessions (June, July)
- ✓ **6** Regional public health meetings (July, August)
- ✓ Online survey (ongoing)
- ✓ Summary of changes memorandum (September)
- ✓ Individual meetings with stakeholders as applicable

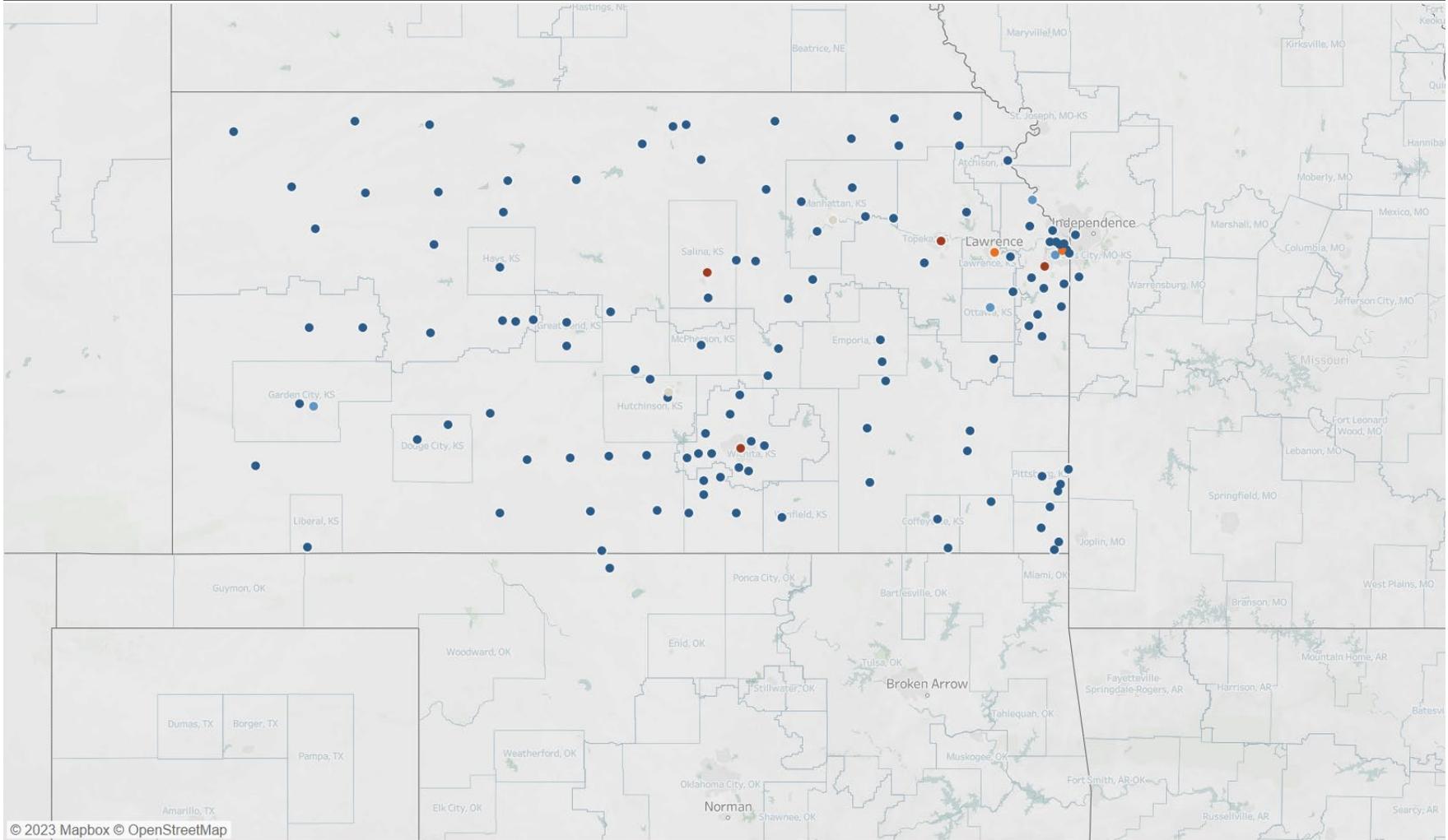
## System Improvement Team – Targeted Stakeholder Engagement



- **41 members**
  - *Parents, providers, center directors, early childhood educators, school age operators, early childhood trainers*
- **Direct feedback to CCL – 3 SIT meetings (June, July, September)**
- **Ongoing support**

# Regulation Review - Provider Outreach

## KDHE Child Care Licensing Provider Engagement Session Attendance

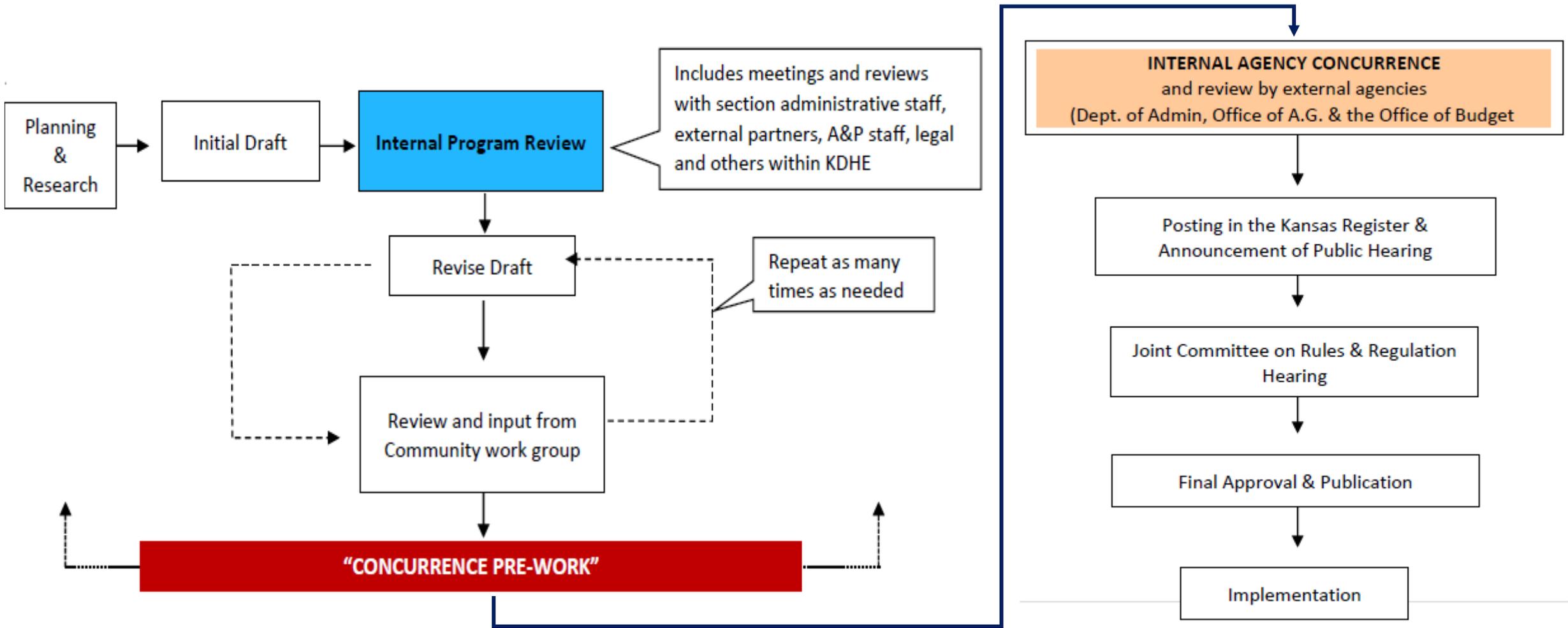


© 2023 Mapbox © OpenStreetMap

Map based on Longitude (generated) and Latitude (generated). Color shows count of Migrated Data. Details are shown for StateName and City.

- **Some key focuses during the regulation review:**
  - ✓ Implement Child Care Development Fund health and safety standards
    - Some examples: medication administration training, CPR and first aid certificates, hazardous waste
  - ✓ Increase child care capacity
    - Homes, centers, preschools
  - ✓ Reduce barriers
    - Some examples: staff qualifications, health status form, break times for staff, Family Child Care Home – title and license type
  - ✓ Modernization and alignment across program types
    - Some examples: health and safety, breast milk storage, safe sleep, tobacco products
- **School-Age Program and Drop-In Program update**
  - ✓ Out of School Time Summit held on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023
  - ✓ Drafting of proposed regulations with planned feedback sessions
- **What's Happening Now?**
  - ✓ Concurrence and promulgation for initial 43 regulations

# Summary of Promulgation Process



# Thank you! Questions?



# AIFKK TACTIC WORK GROUPS

- **Tactic 6.1.1:** Develop recommendations to increase compensation and benefits for early childhood care and education professionals.
- **Strategy 4.2:** Promote family-friendly workplaces throughout the public and private sectors.
- **Tactic 7.1.2:** Study local zoning and homeowner associations across the state to identify laws that adversely affect the ability to operate a child care business in residential and commercial spaces.
- **Tactic 6.1.5:** Document and address recruitment and retention challenges (includes all early childhood care and education professionals).

Reports



# UPCOMING MEETINGS AND BRIGHT SPOTS

**\*\*Bright Spots – Panel members are invited to share\*\***

## **Reminder:** 2023-2024 Agenda Items

- [Agenda/Resource form](#) available on Panel SharePoint Hub

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund –December 1, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Livestream via [KCCTF YouTube](#)
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – December 15, 9:00 a.m.





# Adjourn





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