

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, November 17, 2023



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, DCF
Kristen Alhareedi, Sedgwick County
Health Department
Mallory Arellano, Newman University
Emily Barnes, Kansas Action for Children
Sheila Berterlsen, Dodge City Public
Schools-Bright Beginnings Early
Childhood Center
Dana Book, KCSL
Eldonna Chesnut, Johnson County
Department of Health and Environment
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE
Nick Engels, Littles Early Learning
Kerri Falletti, KDC
Bronwyn Fees, Kansas State University
Kelly Franzt-Langford, TARC
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning
Lisa Jeanneret, DCF
Kim Kennedy, DCF-HSCO
Hilary Koehn, KPATA
Tanya Koehn, CCAKS
Katrina Lowry, Russell Child Development
Center
Karen MacCrory, Mitchell County
Partnership for Children
Natalie McClane, KSDE
Leigh Anne Neal, USD 512 Shawnee
Mission School District
Lindsay Orion, KU CPPR
Stephanie Parks, KCCTO
Patty Peschel, KCCTO

Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent
Information Resource Center
Bethany Samuel, DCF
Brett Schmidt, Learning Cross
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas Head Start
Association
Dana Stanton, Northwest Kansas
Economic Innovation Center, Inc
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

Welcome

Lindsay Orion 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.

November Meeting Agenda

Eldonna Chesnut moved to approve the November agenda and Karen MacCrory seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

October 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes

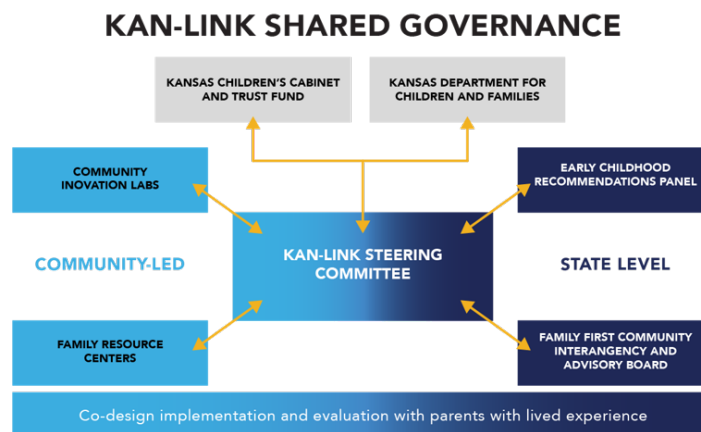
Tabatha Rosproy moved to approve the October minutes and Natalie McClane seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments

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

KAN-LINK Project Overview

Lindsay introduced Megan Cizek from KU's Center for Public Partnerships and Research and Dr. Kaela Byers from the School of Social Welfare to update us on the KAN-LINK (Kansas Linking Infrastructure for Nurturing Kids) grant that was awarded in September. 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.



This project 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. KAN-LINK has the following three goals; (1) 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 (CW), (2) pilot community-based innovation labs to test and address local priorities, infrastructure, and policies, and (3) advance actionable equity within and between state and local early childhood and child welfare policies and programming. The KAN-LINK project will use a two-pronged approach with actionable equity strategies included throughout, the prongs are statewide and community-based.

Statewide approaches:

- 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 system.

Community-Based approaches:

- 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.

The multiple levels of approach have a multitude of expected outcomes for children, families, communities, and the state of Kansas as a whole, these are those outcomes:

Child Level:

- Increased screening, assessment, and referrals to services for children birth to 5 at risk of or already 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.

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.

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 already 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.

Collaborative co-design and teaming with families with lived expertise is foundational to their 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.

In terms of evaluation, data will be leveraged from many different sources including the Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust, administrative/outcome data from community partners and existing platforms (e.g. IRIS, 1-800-CHILDREN), qualitative data, visual data, and participatory data.

This mixed-methods design will assess program performance, innovation, equity, and outcomes at the child, family, community, and state levels. Pre-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 entire grant cycle.

[Kansas Department of Health and Education Child Care Licensing Updates](#)

Lindsay introduced Melissa Schoenberger and Jarvis Doleman from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to give a Child Care Licensing update. The Child Care Licensing (CCL) program operates the Bureau of Family Health (BFH) at KDHE with multiple levels of supervision and oversight to ensure operations and field services applications. The program serves to carry-out the "health and safety" component of the state early childhood lead agency; the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

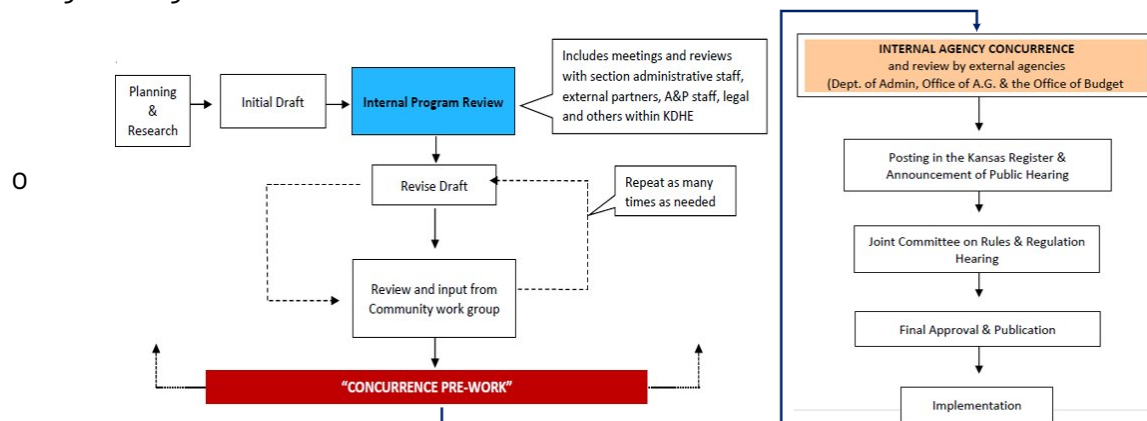
The CCL program establishes and enforces regulatory safeguards for child care facilities and works to reduce the risk of preventable harm. CCL ensures a foundational (minimum) standard level of care and protection to children while in out-of-home care settings through regulation application and monitoring of licensed 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 on-site inspection and enforcing regulations
- Inspection activity is carried out by state staff located across the state and through contracts with local county health departments
- Developing and adopting regulations that promote the health, safety and well-being of children as required by K.S.A. 65-508(c)

KDHE has been working on a review of the child care regulations, some of which haven't been updated since the 80's, for a majority of this year. Due to the amount of regulations KDHE split them into 4 separate categories; (1) Child Care Development Fund compliance; health and safety updates. (2) Increase capacity, streamline staff qualifications, incorporate existing policy exceptions, revise General regulations. (3) Incorporate research, foundational standards, and current practice in Child Care Center and Preschool regulations. (4) Incorporate research, foundational standards, and current practice in School-Age program and Drop-In program regulations. Some of their key focuses during the regulation review were:

- Implement Child Care Development Fund health and safety standards (medication administration training, CPR and first aid certificates, hazardous waste)
- Increase child care capacity in homes, centers, and preschools
- Reduce barriers (staff qualifications, health status form, break times for staff, Family Child Care Home – title and license type)

KDHE utilized the Child Care Systems Improvement Team (41 members made up of parents, providers, center directors, early childhood educators, school age operators, early childhood trainers, etc.), provider engagement and listening sessions, public health meetings, and individual meetings with stakeholders (as applicable) to assist in the edits of 43 regulations. These regulations are currently undergoing the concurrence and promulgation process while KDHE has begun work on the School-Age Program and Drop-In Program regulations.



Due to this massive regulation review process and being mindful of capacity, KDHE has made the decision to pause the Child Care Systems Improvement Team (CCSIT) until the review process is completed. KDHE still has plans to elicit feedback on the regulations as needed from the CCSIT at special meetings throughout the year. Once the entire regulations review is completed they will begin to convene monthly again.

Panel member, Emily Barnes, expressed her gratitude towards KDHE for all of the work they have completed in the last year with the regulations and how mindful they were of receiving feedback from those in the field. The same sentiment was echoed by Dana Stanton.

AIFKK Tactic Work Group Reports

Lindsay introduced a representative from each work group to provide an update on the work they have done since last month's meeting.

Tactic 6.1.1: Compensation and Benefits

Heather Schrotberger gave the update. This group is still currently in a thinking/thinking out loud phase and continues to refine its definition of compensation. Discussions have been most specifically about wages. The topic of compensation has been throughout many conversations around the state and they want to be sure their work is reflective of those conversations as well. Therefore, at today's discussion they have a group joining them that has been doing some background research on early childhood compensation with KU CPPR.

Strategy 4.2: Family Friendly Workplaces

Dana Book gave the update. Over the last 6 weeks of discussion about family friendly workplaces this group has discovered that Kansas has 2 existing initiatives that are very similar. The group has been working on comparing them side by side and figuring out how they can be aligned better. These initiatives come from Kansas Power of the Positive, Blue Cross Blue Shield Pathways to a Healthy Kansas, and 1,000 Days Kansas. This group is working on crafting messaging surrounding this that isn't confusion to employers, community coalitions, etc. They continue discovering and leaning into the strengths of each initiative.

Tactic 7.1.2: Zoning

Christie Wyckoff gave the update. This group is refining the Go Team's toolkit with them before finalizing their full recommendation. They have started to hone in on the Homeowner's Association part of this tactic and will continue during 2024 starting with a survey for the public.

Tactic 6.1.5: Recruitment and Retention

Amy Gottschamer gave the update. This group initially utilized Jamboard to archive their many thoughts and ideas on the challenges of recruitment and retention, then moved them to a more succinct spreadsheet. From that initial spreadsheet they are creating a document to list out those challenges as well as possible solutions, as well as specific audience. They are currently finetuning the document to make it as user friendly as possible.

Bright Spots

- Eldonna Chesnut: Johnson County Child Care Coalition participated in a Career Exposition this week geared toward middle and high school students and it felt very successful with lots of students stopping by the booth. The color changing cups that were given away were a big hit!
- Cora Ungerer: Presented on the Family Leadership Team and held Family Round Table sessions. Currently in the process of compiling those findings that we hope to utilize to create new recommendations for the panel.
- Karen MacCrory: Mitchell County Partnership for Children has guided conversation with 5 different districts to organize a training for early childhood caregivers and preschool teachers and will have Tabatha Rosproy coming to speak to make sure our professionals know how much they're appreciated and valued.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, December 1, 9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – Friday, December 15, 9 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:15am