

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, April 21, 2023



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, DCF
Marites Altuna, Kansas State Schools for the Deaf & Blind
Mallory Arellano, Newman University Inc
Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition
Emily Barnes, Barnes Childcare
Eldonna Chesnut, Johnson County CCL
Meghan Cizek, KU-CPPR
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
Jennifer Francois, Kansas Institute of Early Childhood Education
Sara Gardner, KU-CPPR
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning
Maggie Hart, KU-CPPR
Crystal Henry, Family Conservancy
Kim Kennedy, DCF-HSCO
Dominique Lewis, Children's Mercy
Chavis Lickvar Armstrong, KU-CPPR
David Lindeman, University of Kansas Life Span Institute at Parsons

Malissa Martin, CIS of Mid-America
Natalie McClane, KSDE
Pam Noble, KCSL
Lindsay Orion, KU-CPPR
Stephanie Parks, KU Special Education
Patty Peschel, KCCTO
Bethany Samuel, DCF
Dannah Schatz, Russell Child Development Center
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Megan Smith, DCF
Logan Stenseng, Zero to Thrive Kansas Coalition
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning Centers
Tara Taylor, Head Start and Local Education Agency
Ly Tran, DCF
Tricia Waggoner, KDHE
Hannah White, KSDE
Jennifer Whiteford Houk, KPATA
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

Jennifer Francois moved to approve the April agenda and Natalie McClane seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

March 24, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Marites Altuna moved to approve the March minutes and Eldonna Chesnut 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 Thursday before the Panel 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 Taskforce

Governor Kelly appointed members to a Kansas Early Childhood Transition Taskforce for the purpose of reviewing our early childhood programs and developing a roadmap for the creation of a new state, cabinet-level agency focused on supporting success of our youngest Kansans. The first meeting was held on March 31st. Cornelia serves as co-chair of this taskforce. The vision is that all Kansas children – especially those between zero and five years of age – deserve healthy childhoods that are supported by a robust early childhood system which improves outcomes and effectively provides high-quality early care and education, adapts to the needs of families and communities, and is equitably accessible to all communities across the state. The next meeting is schedule for May 16th and we will continue to share updates from those meetings here at our monthly Panel meetings.

Child and Family Well-Being Dashboard Discovery Session

Cornelia introduced Meghan Cizek an Assistant Director at KU-CPPR and her colleague Maggie Hart to hold a Discovery Session on Child and Family Well-being. The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research is working to develop an interactive dashboard of child and family well-being in Kansas. This dashboard will allow for exploration of data related to Kansans' access to basic needs, community level-strengths and resource gaps, community-based family resources, and social determinants of health. It will use a strengths-based approach and serve as a visual tool for translating data to

policy makers, private sector partners, and partners in the child and family well-being system. The development of this dashboard will be informed by child and family well-being stakeholders and individuals with lived experience, in addition to systematic meta-synthesis and methodological rigor. In order to identify what data to include on the dashboard they are meeting with different groups in Kansas, including this Panel, and Family Council members from the Family First Family Council. This Discovery Session prompted the Panel with the following questions related to well-being in their communities:

- What does child and family well-being look like to you?
- What does it look like for children and families to experience well-being/how do we know they are experiencing it?
- What do you ultimately think are key ingredients for well-being?
- What does community well-being look like?
- What organizations/places in your community help facilitate well-being?
- What institutions cause harm to well-being in your community?
- From the early childhood perspective how do you facilitate child and family well-being?

For detailed responses from Panel members, please review the recording between timestamp 12:38 and 47:17.

[Kansas Community Data Dashboard](#)

Cornelia introduced Sara Gardner an Assistant Director at KU-CPPR to present on the Kansa Community Data Dashboard. There are a few places in Kansas to go for data resources including Child Care Aware of Kansas' Child Care Data By County, Kansas Health Matters, and the KSDE Data Center. We partnered with MySidewalk for our newest resource, the Kansas Community Data Dashboard, which is a collection of indicators across health, education, and care with story pieces embedded into it that helps you tell a meaningful data story about the needs in your community. It provides you with the latest publicly available data and has exportable data elements in order to improve data literacy. The data from the dashboard is as updated as the data source itself, making it a live and dynamic tool. Sara walked through a live demonstration of the dashboard and how to use it, and then answered a few questions from our Panel.

[Tactic Work Group Orientation](#)

Cornelia asked for reports/updates from our tactic work groups who met directly after our meeting in March.

- Strategy 4.2: Promote family-friendly workplaces throughout the public and private sectors.
 - Update given by Brenda Bandy. This work group has met twice since the March Panel meeting. They have reviewed the resources brought forth by the group to look at organizations/agency lists and education programs who

are already working on this strategy and how their initiatives align with this work group. They will be meeting again on May 17th and will be prepared with a recommendation for our June meeting.

- Tactic 6.1.1: Develop recommendations to increase compensation and benefits for early childhood care and education professionals.
 - Update given by Logan Stenseng. During this work group's first meeting they created a Miro board to organize their questions, thoughts, and resources on their initiative. They are assessing the current landscape to figure out what they need to dig deeper into to uncover short-term and long-term solutions.
- Tactic 6.1.5: Document and address recruitment and retention challenges (includes all early childhood care and education professionals).
 - Update given by Amy Gottschamer. This work group is still sifting through all available resources and are coming up with ways to attract workers, change public perception, grow within our own programs, and increase public awareness and outreach campaigns. They want workers to feel like and be treated like professionals. Also looking into mental health supports that could help retain professionals.
- 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.
 - Update given by Eldonna Chesnut. This work group has met twice and has mainly focused on reviewing what work is already going on out there and sifted through the information that has already been collected by other organizations. Discussed the importance of working alongside other groups, including city planning and potentially the American Planning Association, to help impact the influence of local zoning. Have discussed a potential survey to help get the information they need to bring forth an impactful recommendation.

Panel Updates

Cornelia asked the Panel to share any specific topics/agenda items that they would like to hear more about at future meetings by utilizing the [Agenda/Resource form](#), available on the Panel SharePoint Hub.

Applications for the 2023-2024 are available and are due by May 5th. You can find the [Panel application](#) on the Children's Cabinet website. We encourage all of our current members to re-apply for another one year term and to please share with any others that might be interested in joining our group, as we would love to expand our Panel with parents of young children.

Bright Spots

- Emily Barnes: CCPC is more than halfway through their virtual conference that is held every Tuesday and Thursday. Participation has been robust and we have had some new presenters that we've never heard from before.

- Eldonna Chesnut: Calling out the collaboration with CCPC and Johnson County Department of Health and Environment, holding a Child Care Provider Fair for Child Care Appreciation Day. Also hosting our first Johnson County Child Care Coalition Meeting on May 1st.
- Logan Stenseng: The Zero to Thrive Coalition is excited about being in the final stages of drafting a job description for some Regional Field Organizers for the Coalition which will create more capacity within the organization.
- Brenda Bandy: The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition's child care training through KCCTO "How to Support the Breastfeeding Family" is now available in Spanish. April course is wrapped up but will be available again in July and October. Invitation to any/everyone to join the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Child Care Section, an opportunity to continue the conversation around the intersection of child care and breastfeeding support, reach out the Brenda if interested.
- Jarvis Doleman: KDHE has put together a new virtual education series, providing quarterly education for licensed providers and programs. Next week is our first session. For more information on that or how to sign up you can reach out to Jarvis.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – Friday, May 19, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, June 2, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 10:32am