

KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **December 1, 2023**, regular session of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund board meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. and held virtually with Chair Don Hineman presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don Hineman, Chair, Senator Renee Erickson, LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Deliece Hofen, Monica Murnan, Tyler Smith, M.D., John Wilson, and Derik Flerlage and Dr. Jessica Piper (KDHE), Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Justice Keynen Wall (Supreme Court), Matthew Billinger, (DOC/JJ). Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Christie Wyckoff, and Dyogga Adegbo.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

Chairman Don Hineman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

APPROVAL OF OCTOBER 6 AND OCTOBER 19, 2023, MINUTES

Chairman Hineman remarked the board would be acting on the October 6 regular, board retreat, and October 19, 2023, special session minutes.

Monica Murnan moved for approval of the three sets of minutes. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham. Motion carried.

2023 CHILDREN’S CABINET ANNUAL REPORT

Dr. Jessica Sprague-Jones, Assistant Director at The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnership and Research (CPPR) and Executive Director Melissa Rooker gave an overview of the annual report. Board members received an electronic draft copy of the report prior to the meeting. The final report can be found at <https://kschildrenscabinet.org/project/annual-report-2023/>. Melissa remarked the annual report will be presented to the governor once finalized and approved by board vote. The report highlights the Cabinet’s progress, data for impact, children’s future, and recommendations. It is a report that covered the scope of the Cabinet’s work for the past year.

Dr. Sprague-Jones walked through the draft report with the board. Topics included the Cabinet’s vision and goals, one-time, on-going, and competitive funding from federal and Tobacco Master Settlement dollars. Other highlights from the presentation covered program profiles, CIF Accountability Process, ECBG, CBCAP Ripple Effects Mapping for the CBCAP Evaluation, Childcare grants, the Kanas Early Childhood Data Trust, *Our Tomorrows*, Young Families experiences of Social Connections, and other grants and services focused on forward-thinking ideals to impact children’s future in Kansas.

Melissa reported on the work of the Kansas Early Childhood Transition Task Force and a summary of their recommendations. The board received a copy of the Task Force recommendations prior to the meeting. Governor Kelly established this task force to study early childhood programs in the state and consider a roadmap for the establishment of a new cabinet-level agency solely focused on early childhood. All information is available at <https://governor.kansas.gov/newsroom/kansas-early-childhood-transition-task-force/>. The final report will be sent to the governor on December 11, 2023. The top recommendation was to streamline the early childhood governance structure by realigning early childhood care and education services under one state entity. Melissa remarked the report recommends the Cabinet would retain its statutory authority and be embedded within the new state agency. The task force recommended that an external transition specialist be hired to handle the logistics of planning the reorganization.

Board members discussed adopting a motion to show agreement to supporting the work and retaining its statutory authority under a new entity. Senator Erickson asked for clarification about the board's role during the transition. John Wilson and Monica Murnan remarked that the board would maintain its statutory authority and participate in the transition processes. Details on programs and budgets could be worked out later.

After further discussion, Chair Hineman asked for a motion.

MOTION:

Monica Murnan moved followed by a second by LeEtta Felter the board recommend the Governor and the Kansas Legislature work together to identify the appropriate method for unification of early childhood programs and services and create an implementation plan that recognizes the role of the Children's Cabinet, in alignment with the Early Childhood Transition Task Force Recommendations. The board supports exploring options to:

- fully realize the Cabinet's statutory role as outlined in K.S.A. 38-1901:
- retain the Children's Cabinet governing board oversight of the Children's Initiatives Fund as outlined in K.S.A. 38-2103.
- retain the role of the Children's Cabinet as the state's Early Childhood Advisory Council in accordance with the federal Health Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (Kansas Executive Order 20-02).
- establish methods of collaboration and coordination between the Children's Cabinet board and the unified entity's administrative leadership.

Chair Hineman called for Roll Call Vote:

John Wilson	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

Motion carried.

The next recommendation called on **enhancing state investment** in the early childhood care and education system. Chair Hineman asked for a motion.

MOTION:

John Wilson moved, followed by second by Monica Murnan the board in its role as strategist, recommends enhanced state investment in the early childhood care and education system to better meet the needs of young children and their families, reduce CIF transfers to other agencies, and maximize Master Settlement Agreement dollars towards Children’s Cabinet priorities as outlined in the Blueprint for Early Childhood and the *All in For Kansas Kids* Strategic Plan.

Chair Hineman called for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Abstain
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 6-0-1 in favor of the motion with one abstention.
Motion carried.

The board discussed reiterating its **support for recommendations from last year’s annual report**. Three ideas had been supported revolving around supporting basic needs of Kansas families, childcare subsidy, and data-driven decision making.

John Wilson moved, and Monica Murnan seconded the board recommends increase access to work and family support programs that help children and families meet their basic needs. Research clearly shows that children thrive when their basic needs are met, and that parents and caregivers are better able to support children when their own basic needs are met. The Kansas children’s Cabinet believes current restrictions to childcare assistance, cash assistance, nutrition assistance, and health insurance

programs undercut the investments made through the CIF and blunt the efficiency and effectiveness of early childhood care and education programs. The comprehensive Statewide 2019 Needs Assessment and 2020 and 2021 Needs Assessment Update document these concerns.

Senator Erickson asked for clarification on restrictions. Melissa explained the restrictions cover whatever limitations were set for the programs. The Cabinet cannot change them.

Chair Hineman asked for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	No
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 6-1 in favor of the motion. Motion carried.

MOTION:

Monica Murnan moved, and LeEtta Felter seconded the motion the board recommend Contributing State General Funds to fully draw down matching Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funds from the federal level.

Board member Tyler Smith, MD, joined the meeting and chose to abstain from the vote.

Chair Hineman asked for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Tyler Smith, MD	Abstain
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	No
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 6-1-1 in favor of the motion with one abstention. Motion carried.

MOTION:

Monica Murnan moved, followed by a second by John Wilson the board representing the best interests of children, recommends that the best available data and evidence-based research drive decisions about regulations safeguarding the health and well-being of children.

There was discussion. John Wilson remarked he supported the motion based on needs assessments completed, evaluation of the ECBG, KIDs Count data, Ripple Effect. There is plenty of data to access to make good decisions.

Tyler Smith, M.D., remarked she supported the motion based on the data that is available and the number of people being served. This information is particularly important to stakeholders and professionals working in the health care industry.

Chair Hineman asked for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Tyler Smith, M.D.	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 8-0 in favor. Motion carried.

The board acted on the amended annual report.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Wilson, and seconded by LeEtta Felter, the board adopt the 2023 Annual Report recommendations as amended.

Chair Hineman asked for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Tyler Smith, M.D.	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	No
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 7-1 in favor. Motion carried.

MASTER TOBACCO SETTLEMENT

Jordan Brewer, Assistance Attorney General, Tobacco Enforcement Unit discussed the AG's role in receiving the annual Master Tobacco Settlement dollars and provided historical background.

- Several states filed a lawsuit against the major tobacco companies in mid-1990's relative to health effects on adults and youth addicted to their products.
- As a result of the lawsuit, states and large tobacco companies entered into the Master Settlement Agreement (MSA). Most states and U.S. territories signed off on the agreement except for Florida, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Texas. Those four states entered into separate agreements with the tobacco companies prior to the MSA.
- In 1997, a study revealed that over 36% of high school students were smoking cigarettes. MSA established restrictions on TV and sporting event advertisements targeting youth.
- Discussed participating versus non-participating manufacturers.
- Discussed the rise in vaping in recent years, which was not known or an issue in the 1990s.
- MSA has been successful and will continue to be effective.

John Wilson asked about the settlement with JUUL and whether the funds have to be used for a specific purpose. Jordan responded there has not been a specific purpose for the funds. It is up the interpretation of the Kansas Legislature and the funds have been deposited into the State General Fund.

LeEtta Felter brought up a recommendation she raised at Cabinet meeting in 2017 relating to the dangers of vaping. While the Cabinet took no action, it was suggested the Attorney General's office file suit against vaping companies. Since then, the Olathe School District sued JUUL vaping companies and won their case. LeEtta asked if the board would revisit the topic.

After considerable discussion, the board decided on a recommendation.

MOTION:

It was moved by LeEtta Felter and seconded by Monica Murnan the Kansas Children's Cabinet recommends the Kansas Legislature direct current and future tobacco vaping settlement funds toward the CIF. Chairman Hineman called for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Tyler Smith, M.D.	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	No
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

The vote was 7-1 in favor. Motion carried.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Melissa Rooker updated the board on the following items,

- Reported on the Early Childhood Task Force recommendations earlier in the meeting,
- PDG Planning Grant was approved for a no cost extension for 12 months,
- Child Care Aware was awarded a grant using PDG planning grant dollars for piloting the Baby Steps project in Wyandotte County for one year,
- Watershed provided findings for the ECCE workforce compensation strategies to the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel’s Workforce Workgroup so there can be alignment of efforts.
- Workforce Registry online system for child care professionals work continues
- February 2024 Cabinet meeting will include a slate of recommended Capital Project Fund grants,
- In the process of collecting the written reports from the Ex Officio agency representatives which will be made a part of the 12/2 minutes.

EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL SUBSTITUTION

Melissa discussed change on the panel. Since Tricia Waggoner’s duties changed at KDHE, she will no longer represent KDHE on the panel. Amy Dean Campmire’s name was proposed as a replacement. Chair Hineman asked the board if they supported the approval of Amy Dean, KDHE to the panel and accepted resignation of Tricia Waggoner. The members voted in the affirmative. No motion was necessary.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

All meetings are held the first Friday of every other month from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. as virtual meetings until further notice. Future meetings are scheduled February 2, April 5, June 7, August 2, October 4, and December 6, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Hineman adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

EX OFFICIO REPORTS

**Kansas State Department of Education
Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Supreme Court**

**No reports are available from Kansas Department for Children and Families,
Kansas Board of Regents, and Kansas Department of Corrections**

AGENCY UPDATE TO THE KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND

December 1, 2023

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood (apetersen@ksde.org)

Kansas Early Learning Standards Update

The Kansas State Board of Education received the draft update to the Kansas Early Learning Standards on November 15. [Click here to view the recording of the Kansas Early Learning Standards presentation](#). State Board members asked questions related to reorganizing the placement of social studies standards and guidelines regarding the use of devices and screentime in early childhood. Following the State Board meeting the Kansas Early Learning Standards Core Team met to review and address feedback shared by early childhood partners, members of the public, and State Board members. The updated document will be posted to the [Kansas State Department of Education Early Childhood webpage](#).

The State Board will hold additional discussion at its meeting at 9:00 a.m. on December 13 before planning to take action January 9-10. [The December 13 meeting will be broadcast live and recorded on the Kansas State Department of Education YouTube page](#).

The Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund will receive the updated standards at its February 2 meeting.

Kansas Preschool Pilot Grant Applications due January 15, 2024

The Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) invites applications for 2024-2025 Kansas Preschool Pilot (KPP) grants to provide preschool services. Eligible applicants include Kansas unified school districts (USDs) and other entities partnering with Kansas school districts. At least 50% of children served by Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funds must meet criteria to be at risk of entering kindergarten socially, emotionally, or academically unprepared for success.

2024-2025 Kansas Preschool Pilot grant applications are due at 5:00 p.m. CST on Monday, January 15, 2024. [KSDE will host a Kansas Preschool Pilot grant webinar at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, December 12 to discuss this funding opportunity](#).

Preschool Pilot grants will be for a 1-year funding period from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025. Kansas Preschool Pilot grants will consist of funding from the Children’s Initiatives Fund (CIF) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Grant funding is dependent upon the final state budget approved during the 2024 Legislative Session.

The amount of Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funding remains limited. KSDE anticipates that the same amount of funding will be allocated in 2024-2025 as was allocated in 2023-2024 (\$4,200,000 of CIF funding and \$4,132,317 of TANF funding for a total amount of \$8,332,317). Districts are encouraged to consider other larger, more sustainable options to invest in preschool, including state school finance formula funds, special education funds, and federal Head Start grants.

To focus time and energy on more sustainable options to invest in preschool, the following will be in place for 2024-2025:

- [2023-2024 Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees](#) will first have the opportunity to renew the 2023-2024 amount of grant funding for 2024-2025. Kansas Preschool Pilot grant awards will not exceed the gap between a program’s revenue and expenses. Applicants will use the 2024-2025 Preschool Revenue Calculator and Budget Template to estimate the amount of funding they will receive (state enrollment aid and accompanying weightings, special education funds, Head Start funds) and demonstrate how

they plan to spend that funding. o If the gap between forecasted revenue and expenditures remains larger or equal to the 2023-2024 grant award, the grantee will receive level Kansas Preschool Pilot grant funding for 2024-2025. If other sources of funding will reduce the gap between forecasted revenue and expenditures, the grantee will receive a 2024-2025 grant equal to the size of the gap between revenue and expenses.

- Any remaining funding will then be awarded on a competitive basis to applicants proposing initiatives to improve the quality and availability of preschool in their community. Applicants may apply for up to \$50,000 in new Kansas Preschool Pilot funding. These applicants may include both applicants who do not currently receive Kansas Preschool Pilot grants and current Kansas Preschool Pilot grantees demonstrating a gap between preschool revenues and expenditures. Initiatives to improve the quality and availability of preschool may include:
 - o Expenditures that will improve the percentage of preschool students with disabilities receiving the majority of special education and related services in the least restrictive environment (Indicator 6)
 - o Partnerships that increase overall community preschool capacity, particularly capacity to provide full-day/full-year early childhood care and education
 - o One-time expenditures that will enhance the quality of programs (professional development, instructional materials, supplies, etc.)
 - o Other innovative practices described by the applicant to improve preschool services in their community

Visit the KSDE [Preschool Programming](#) webpage to view the 2024-2025 Kansas Preschool Pilot Grant Requirements and Application document and associated materials.

Kansas Parents as Teachers Updates

KSDE hosted a meeting for Kansas Parents as Teachers coordinators in Wichita November 6-7. With the 58 program coordinators who attended the meeting, there was 686 years of combined PAT experience represented. KSDE appreciated the support of Janet Horras, who is consulting for the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund and the Kansas State Home Visiting Leadership Team, in leading conversation around home visiting alignment in Kansas.

Four Kansas Parents as Teachers affiliates have been named Blue Ribbon affiliates by the Parents as Teachers National Center. These four affiliates achieved the highest level designation in this year's cohort of programs engaging in Quality Endorsement and Improvement Project (QEIP). Each year, Kansas has a different group of affiliates engage in the continuous quality improvement process.

The following PAT affiliates received Blue Ribbon status:

- Goddard Unified School District 265 Parents as Teachers.
- St. John-Hudson USD 350 Parents as Teachers.
- Hays USD 489 Parents as Teachers.
- Topeka USD 501 Parents as Teachers.

The four affiliates engaged in a rigorous 15-month study and record review to determine eligibility for the designation. The process included a self-study and review from PATNC on 21 Essential Requirements and 81 Quality Standards, including review of a comprehensive program policy, procedures and protocol manual. The quality review process confirms that the affiliate is meeting Parents as Teachers' standards of fidelity and quality. Blue Ribbon affiliates are exemplary programs

delivering the highest quality services to children and families. Congratulations to these Kansas PAT affiliates!

17th episode of Cool Careers video series highlights early childhood education

In the [17th episode of the HirePaths' Cool Careers video series](#), host Audrey packs her backpack and heads to preschool to learn all about early childhood education. Made for kids, each Cool Careers video is hosted by a local child and highlights a fun, in-demand career in Kansas.

Accreditation Update

Kansas State Board of Education members at their November meeting received proposed changes to the current accreditation model that Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) staff members say will better connect school improvement and accreditation, allow for a rapid, personalized response to system needs, and increase accountability and support. Dr. Jay Scott, director of the KSDE Accreditation and Design (AD) team, and Deputy Commissioner Dr. Ben Proctor presented the proposed changes.

If the State Board approves the changes to the Kansas Education Systems Accreditation (KESA) model, the new model would be implemented in the 2024-2025 school year.

KSDE staff members are asking the State Board to approve four fundamentals as a basis for accreditation. The four fundamentals are:

- Structured literacy: Ensuring the most effective literacy instruction.
- Standards alignment: Aligning classroom instruction and resources to standards.
- Balanced assessment system: Using data to inform instruction.
- Quality instruction: Promoting quality instruction through high expectations.

KSDE staff members also are asking the Board to approve an annual accreditation system featuring more opportunities for systems to obtain feedback on progress in the areas of accreditation from their peers, experts and KSDE. The new annual accreditation system would create a more dynamic review process that would allow for a rapid, personalized response to system needs.

In the proposed new model, the Accreditation Review Council (ARC) will retain its role of making accreditation recommendations to the State Board. However, ARC members would only review systems with persistent gaps in any of the areas of accreditation.

The State Board is scheduled to vote on the recommendations in December.

Bureau of Family Health Update

Derik Flerlage and Dr. Jessie Piper, Co-Directors, Bureau of Family Health Kansas Department of Health and Environment

- Child Care Licensing drafted proposed regulations remain at the Attorney General's Office
 - Next steps include a formal public hearing and comment period (this does not account for suggested changes from the Attorney General's Office)

- Child Care Licensing continues to work on revisions and drafted language for currently existing school-age programs and drop-in programs
 - Scheduled engagement session with these providers/partners on December 6
 - The team remains on-task to complete this project before the end of the calendar year

- Bureau Director (Derik Flerlage) and Child Care Licensing leadership will present at the Kansas Association of Counties Annual Convention on December 5
 - Presentation outline: *Background and history of child care licensing in Kansas, it's purpose, current status, and how counties and local leadership can become part of the solution moving forward.*

- Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infant, and Children (WIC)
 - Funding extended by continuing resolution through January 19, 2024

- Kansas Early Childhood Development Services (KECDS – Part C)
 - Database up and running through internal KDHE IT processes. Things are going smoothly!

- Maternal and Child Health and Universal Home Visiting
 - Successful home visitor training in Wichita on November 14 with 86 home visitors across the state in attendance.

Judicial Branch
Justice Keynen J. Wall

The 2023 Child in Need of Care and Juvenile Justice Code books are now available on our website: <https://www.kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Programs/Child-Welfare-Law-Training>. The printed versions will be available soon.

- The judicial branch continues its planning for the 2024 Child Welfare Summit. We anticipate registration to open in early 2024. Here is a link to the webpage: <https://www.kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Court-Administration/Court-Initiatives/2024-Kansas-Child-Welfare-Summit>
- In response to the cybersecurity incident impacting the judicial branch, on November 7, we opened a public access service center at the Kansas Judicial Center in Topeka. Terminals within the center allow members of the public to search district court case information. We expanded the public access service center this week – we now have 18 terminals available. Here is a link to the page with information about the service center – the page also has information on how to make an appointment: <https://www.kscourts.org/About-the-Courts/Court-Administration/OJA/Court-Systems-Security-Incident/Public-Access-Service-Center>.