

## **KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES**

The **June 2, 2023** regular session of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund board virtual meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. Chairman Kim Moore presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kim Moore, Chairman, John Wilson, Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D., Deliece Hofen, DiAnne Graham, Senator Renee Erickson, Monica Murnan, and Derik Flerlage, Jessica Piper (KDHE), Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Matthew Billinger (DOC), Justice Keynen Wall (Supreme Court). Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Lucas Neece, Christie Wyckoff, and Dyogga Adegboro.

### **CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:**

Chairman Kim Moore called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

### **APPROVAL OF APRIL 14, 2023 MINUTES**

DiAnne Graham moved for approval of the minutes of April 14, 2023. Motion seconded by John Wilson. There was unanimous approval of the minutes by voice vote. Motion carried.

### **CIF ACCOUNTABILITY PROCESS**

Dr. Owen Cox, Associate Researcher Senior, The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR), presented an overview of the CIF accountability process. The annual accountability report is given at the June Cabinet meeting to align with the state fiscal year and legislative process. Program service provision findings are reported on the previous state fiscal year. All budget recommendations at today’s meeting are for the state fiscal year 2025.

The accountability process included timeline, data collection, categorized funding by agency and program, primary population demographics and programmatic data. All information was analyzed and summarized by individual programs and was put into this comprehensive report to the Children’s Cabinet board. Dr. Cox talked briefly about each program.

Key takeaways from this process were:

- CIF funding and the programs it supports continue to provide crucial services for the healthy development of Kansas kids and their families,
- CIF funded programs and the Early Childhood Care and Education System continue to encounter challenges related to workforce,
- CIF served families continue to report resiliency, but their basic needs often remain unmet,
- CIF funded programs experienced higher than normal emergency requests for additional mental and behavioral health services for Kansas kids and their families and staff.

Monica Murnan remarked on the stellar job put into the presentation and reporting. She added that no other funding stream can produce this kind of accountability data at this level. Monica also called out the key takeaway bullet #4 on mental health and surmised that availability of providers at the local level is making it difficult to provide these services.

John Wilson commented on key takeaway bullet #3. It reminded him of a Cabinet recommendation from last year to encourage the governor and legislature to support policies that help families meet basic unmet needs. Without support, it will make it more challenging to continue to accomplish objectives in serving families. He wanted to highlight that bullet point.

Melissa pointed out the Cabinet prep materials focused solely on the budget recommendation. She asked John if he was interested in renewing that recommendation regarding basic needs. John responded he wanted to highlight that bullet point had been identified at previous board meetings. Melissa remarked the board has August, October, and December to consider renewing that recommendation or any others, if they chose to do so.

Chairman Moore thanked Dr. Cox for his presentation.

### **BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director gave an overview of the budget recommendations and overview of the state budget process. The CIF recommendations are included as part of KSDE's budget because KSDE serves as fiscal agent for the Children's Cabinet. Kansas Board of Education accepts the Children's Cabinet CIF budget recommendations at its July meeting for inclusion in the agency budget before submitting it to the Division of the Budget office. See CIF Recommendations.

### **MOTION:**

Monica Murnan moved the Cabinet accept the CIF budget recommendations as presented. Motion seconded by Deliece Hofen.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call Vote:

John Wilson	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Melissa Rooker outlined the membership process and requested board approval for the slate of members to the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Some individuals are returning members and others are new to the Panel. Executive Order 20-02 established the Children’s Cabinet as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care which was a requirement of federal Head Start legislation. The Early Childhood Recommendations Panel was created as a standing committee of the Children’s Cabinet to advise the Children’s Cabinet board in its role as State Early Childhood Advisory Council. Dr. Smith asked what the criteria for membership are for the panel. Melissa shared that the federal law requires certain membership requirements and that a review team reviewed applications to consider expertise, background, and organizational structure the candidate possessed. Candidates came from a large array of backgrounds and demographics in the state. Service terms will be from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024. Chairman Moore asked for a motion.

**MOTION:**

Deliece Hofen moved the board accept the slate of recommended Early Childhood Advisory Council Panel candidates. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham.

Chairman Moore asked for a Roll Call vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Deliece Hofen	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
Tyler Smith-Howells, M.D.	Yes
Chairman Kim Moore	Yes

Motion carried.

**AGENCY UPDATES**

Amy Meek, Early Childhood Director, Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund reported:

- Christie Wyckoff joined the Children’s Cabinet team on May 1 as the Early Childhood Coordinator. Christie oversees the Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) and Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) grants. She came to the Cabinet from the KSDE School Finance office. As the ECBG begins a new grant year on July 1, Christie will be meeting with the program contacts and setting up training through WSU for the eight newest grantees.
- Current ECBGs finished entering data into the DAISEY portal as they finish this grant year. The data will be pulled by Dr. Lynn Schrepferman, WSU, and her team to analyze and compile the a report to the board at the August Cabinet meeting,

- Christie and Amy attended the annual CBCAP State Lead Grantee meeting in Baltimore, MD on May 23-25. Peers from around the country and CBCAP federal project officers attended to discuss CBCAP topics and share information,
- Amy reported the Cabinet's Annual CBCAP federal application was submitted last week as part of the process for continuing to receive CBCAP federal funding.

Amanda Petersen, Director, Early Childhood Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) reported:

- The Kansas Board of Education continues to discuss and set goals for the next few years. At the May board meeting, KBOE approved four goals that would drive its work for the Kansas CAN vision between now and December 2024, Those goals revolve around enhancing the quality of Kansas educators in all districts, improving students' prospects for post-secondary school success, enhancing engagement for families, communities, business partners, and stakeholders, and providing safe environments in schools.
- May KBOE meeting, the board approved preschool aged at-risk programs and approved Kansas Preschool Pilot grants for upcoming year.
- July KBOE agenda will include information on helping students achieve postsecondary success. There will be a presentation on the four fundamental elements of effective postsecondary education. The focus will be to help school districts help students prepare for postsecondary education through structured literacy, use of assessments and data to support instruction, alignment with standards and high-quality instruction in classrooms and other environments.
- Sunflower Summer launched May 26 through August 13. This program allows families and their children to explore over 100 Kansas attractions free of charge. The Sunflower Summer App can be downloaded.

Derik Flerlage, Co-Director, Bureau of Family Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported:

- Derik, along with co-director Dr. Jessica Piper also present at this meeting, are still getting settled in their new roles after being on the job for only a few months while making new connections.
- Involved in fiscal year-end closing tasks specifically ensuring Aid to Local funding determinations finalized and inputted.
- Announced Dave Thomason, State WIC Director will be retiring at the end of June 2023 after 25 years. Derik commended Dave for his years of great service. Currently recruiting for interim director.
- Promoting media campaign for Child Care Licensing and the hashtag is #childcare matters. Social media, television and radio advertising will be occurring soon.
- Child Care Regulatory review and promulgation are ongoing. Several regulations were identified for revision based on feedback from partners. Working with outside consultants on the regulatory reviews and ensuring compliance with federal requirements.

Melissa commented that the work of the outside consultants for Child Care Licensing was underwritten by the PDG funding. Monica Murnan commented on the KDHE's Child Care Licensing division's process changes and re-organization have been positive changes and helpful to her in her work in directing people to childcare services.

Justice Keynen Wall, Kansas Supreme Court reported:

- The Judicial branch will host an inaugural child welfare summit in April 2024 in Topeka. It is a three-branch collaborative endeavor to create lasting improvement in child welfare. The planning committee is comprised of people who work in the child welfare system, childcare professionals, and staff from all three judicial branches.
- Rural Justice Committee initial is in full operation. A great group of people are invested in the work and there has been substantial media coverage. Still determining the challenges of dealing with the issue. The committee will be beginning a road tour, first to Great Bend to gather feedback on issues encountered in that part of the state. Based on feedback, a decision on policy changes and solutions can then be discussed.

Matthew Billinger, Juvenile Justice Oversight Committee Coordinator, Kansas Department of Corrections reported:

- Updates from the legislative session impacting DOC Evidence-Practiced Program fund, a fund that came from reducing out-of-home placements for youth, new legislation opens up more opportunities for youth and families,
- Working with DCF on assessments of youth as part of the prevention of criminality and incarceration efforts,
- Creating more opportunities for community organizations that are eligible to participate in the assessments,
- Much interest in and discussion about the use of Juvenile Crisis Centers as a place for disruptive youth to be sent for guidance and assistance, instead of other out of home placements or detention centers,
- KDOC is working on family engagement program for the families of youth under ongoing supervision.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Melissa Rooker updated the board on the following items:

- CIF budget for SFY 2024 was approved by governor and legislature,
- The Governor's Early Childhood Transition Task Force, under the guidance of the Hunt Institute, held two meetings. First meeting held end of March. Representatives from KDHE, DCF, KSDE and Children's Cabinet reported on early childhood programs they each administer. The second meeting was held May 16. Representatives from Missouri and Colorado reported on early childhood state agency creation activities from their

states. August and October meetings are planned, with the final meeting tentatively scheduled December 11, 2023, to adopt a final report for presentation to Governor Kelly.

- Child Care Capacity Accelerator RFP process completed. There were 105 applications from school districts, licensed childcare providers, non-profs, business, and economic development organizations,
- Child Care Capacity Accelerator requests totaled \$117,890,861 and overall projects totaled \$225,337,808. The total number of new childcare slots proposed is 8,870. The slate of recommended grantees will be presented to the board at the June 23 special session,
- Dolly Parton Imagination Library current coverage map was shared with the board. Over 49,000 books are distributed to Kansas children around the state each month.
- The extension for PDG funding is through April 29, 2024.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The Cabinet board will be conducting a virtual special session Friday, June 23, 2023, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to discuss and act on the slate of recommended Child Care Capacity Accelerator grants.

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. Meetings dates are August 4, October 6, and December 1, 2023.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Moore asked for a motion to adjourn.

DiAnne Graham moved for adjournment. Motion seconded by John Wilson. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.