

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, December 16, 2022



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, DCF
Jennifer Adhima, Kansas Head Start Association
Marites Altuna, Kansas State Schools for the Deaf & Blind
Mallory Arellano, Newman University School of Education
Tiffany Bartley, KCSL Healthy Families
Emily Barnes, Family Child Care owner/operator
Eldonna Chesnut, Johnson County Child Care Licensing
Kelly Davydov, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Jarvis Doleman, KDHE
Tabitha Ewing, Susanna Wesley Child Care
Jennifer Forker, Hutchinson Community College
Jennifer Francois, Kansas Institute of Early Childhood Education
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning
Crystal Henry, Family Conservancy
Callie Hoffman, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association
Kim Kennedy, DCF/Head Start Collaboration Office
Dominique Lewis, Guidepost Montessori
Amy Meek, KCCTF
Pam Noble, KCSL
Stephanie Parks, KU Special Education
Patty Peschel, KCCTO
Dannah Schatz, Russell Child Development Center
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Logan Stenseng, Zero to Thrive Kansas Coalition
Cornelia Stevens, TOP Early Learning Center
Tara Taylor, Head Start and Local Education Agency
Tricia Waggoner, KDHE
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 agenda and Eldonna Chestnut seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the agenda as presented.

November 18, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Amy Meek moved to approve the November minutes and Megan Smith seconded, with a unanimous vote to approve the minutes as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments:

No comments submitted.

Juniper Gardens Children's Project

Cornelia introduces Jay Buzhardt and Charles Greenwood to give an overview on the Juniper Gardens Children's Project.

Jay explains the Juniper Gardens Mission is to promote children's social well-being and academic achievement by improving the quality of their care and education using evidence-based practices. Some areas of research include learning and development in young children. Social, behavioral, and academic school success. Improving evaluation and practice in home, classroom, and community settings.

One of Juniper Gardens' projects is the Infant-Toddler Growth to Individualize Services Individual Growth & Development Indicators (IGDIs) which measures a child aged 6-42 months response to intervention over time. The four outcomes targeted are early communication indicator, early movement indicator, early social indicator, and early problem-solving indicators. Nearly 110,000 assessments have been conducted to date, with 23 states participating.

Jay introduces Charles Greenwood who provides an overview of the KC Brain Builders program. The primary goal of this program is to empower families to support their children's learning right from birth.

Please reach out to Jay Buzhardt at jaybuz@ku.edu or Charles Greenwood at greenwood@ku.edu if you have any questions. KC Brain Builders, brainbuilders@gmail.com

Year at a Glance

Cornelia introduces various State of Kansas Early Childhood agencies to the Panel for agency highlights for the year 2022.

Cornelia presents on behalf of Amanda Petersen and explains that Kansas State Department of Education aligned Kansas Preschool Pilot & Early Childhood Block Grant preschool requirements. Continued statewide Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) implementation; shared data with the State Interagency Coordination Council (SICC) Partnered to launch the review and revision of the Kansas Early Learning Standards (KELS)

Cornelia welcomes Nichelle Adams from Kansas Department for Children and Families.

In 2022, many changes were made including increasing the initial income limit for child care assistance to 250% of the federal poverty level from 185%. They also increased the maximum DCF provider rates for all age groups to 85% of the latest market rate survey. From April 20, 2020. – Sept 30, 2022, DCF ran the Hero Relief Program for Essential Employees which is a child care assistance program. Relief funds were also used to purchase access to ECE Shared Resources which is live and contains over 2500 readymade resources for providers. They also have the P-EBT, the emergency water program, Emergency Food Assistance Benefits, Pandemic Emergency Assistance Program.

Cornelia welcomes Jarvis Doleman and Melissa Schoenberger from Kansas Department of Health & Environment.

The Child Care Systems Improvement Team (CCSIT) put 14 recommendations forward, These recommendations are now at various stages of implementation. Surveyor timeliness has continued to improve over the last few months since recovering from closures and the pandemic. Another big achievement for 2022' was the implementation of the Live Scan digital fingerprinting system across Kansas. KDHE was able to announce the introduction of various Live Scan (Digital fingerprinting) stations which will lessen the wait time for providers.

Cornelia gives an overview on behalf of Melissa Rooker of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund.

Some of the major accomplishments at KCCTF in 2022' were the development and finalization of the Career Pathway, and progress on the Workforce Registry project. Another big win was expanding the Dolly Parton Imagination Library as state partner and receiving additional funding through the Children's Initiative Fund (CIF).

Cornelia welcomes Kelly Davydov of Child Care Aware of Kansas.

Key accomplishments for Child Care Aware of Kansas in 2022 include expanding the Child Care Health Consultant Network (CCHC), launching the Child Care Quality Improvement & Support (CCQIS) system, child care sustainability grants, expansion of community outreach and engagement community partnership grants, and launching the Child Care GO Team.

Cornelia welcomes Patty Peschel of Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities.

Big accomplishments for KCCTO during 2022' were centered around workforce development. Innovations included expanded course formats and expanded scholarship opportunities for provider accreditation and directors credentials support.

KCCTO-KITS Kansas Infant Toddler Specialist Network. ITSN Staff: Program for Infant/Toddler Care (PITC) Trainer Institute

Work Groups went into their breakout sessions

- Child Care Recruitment & Retention + Quality & Environments
- Family Partnerships

Work Group Reports

Child Care Recruitment & Retention + Quality & Environments – Spoke about information gathering. Are there any large providers that exist that don't necessarily fall in within the KDHE approved credits. If you have had a meaningful professional development, what made it meaningful? Some type of application with that learning. Where there are gaps within the professional development system and around advocacy for a provider or how they navigate the policy from the backend.

Family Navigation – Discussed the career pathway and the registry and all the workforce efforts. What type of information should be shared to families and where to share that. Types of information like education levels, training levels, what kind of experience you have in diverse backgrounds. Talked about leveraging the existing materials for families, such as what should you be asking for in a provider. We don't want to overwhelm families with more information, we just want to have something with more detail to help. How do we meet families where they are. Trying to figure out what the right amount of information is valid in the moment they are in. A lot of materials can be utilized but make sure that everything aligns and its digestible and meaningful for families.

Bright Spots

- Amy Gottschamer shared her experience being able to teach the children at her early learning center about Hanukkah. She says it was a wonderful experience for the kids.
- Eldonna Chesnut shares that she is excited for a new collaboration opportunity with the Family Conservancy.

- Cornelia shares how successful their legacy scholarship program has been over the years. TOP Early Learning offers higher education scholarships for enrollees parents, they have seen generations use this opportunity at this point.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, January 20, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Meeting – Friday, February 3, 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Stakeholders Group Meeting – (TBD), 1:30 – 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:13am