

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Recommendations Panel Appointments
7/1/2023 – 6/30/2024



Executive Order 20-02 from Governor Laura Kelly established the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund as the State Advisory Council on Children’s Education and Care (in accordance with Public Law 110-134 The Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007) and created the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel as an advisory group appointed by the Children’s Cabinet.

- **Panel Chair:** Cornelia Stevens, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers
- **Panel Term:** One-Year Term from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024
- **Meeting Details:** Monthly Meetings on 3rd Friday of the month, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.

Overview of Review Process and Timeline

**Apr 1 – May 5,
2023**

Application period to apply to the Recommendations Panel. Application information was listed on the Children’s Cabinet website and promoted at the Early Childhood Recommendation Panel April 15 meeting, on biweekly webinars and in the *All In for Kansas Kids* weekly email update. Required positions include:

- Representative(s) of local school districts
- Representative(s) of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas
- Representative(s) of local providers of early childhood education and development services
- Representative(s) from Head Start agencies located in the State of Kansas, including migrant and seasonal Head Start programs and Indian Head Start programs
- Parent(s) of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas
- Other representatives determined to be relevant by the Cabinet and as determined by the Governor

May 5 – 26

Applications reviewed by the Children’s Cabinet staff for eligibility

- June 2** Slate of recommendations, including selection of new Chair, submitted to the Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board for approval

- June 2-16** Pending Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board approval, Panel positions announced and communicated.

- July 1** New members begin their one-year term, July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024.

FY24 Recommendations Panel Slate

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| Representatives of the Kansas Department for Children and Families | <p>*Nichelle Adams, Early Education and Child Care Services Assistant Director, Kansas Department for Children and Families</p> <p>Bethany Samuel, QRIS Supports Manager, Kansas Department for Children and Families</p> |
| Representatives of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment | <p>*Jarvis Doleman, Child Care Licensing Director, Kansas Department of Health and Environment</p> <p>Cora Ungerer, Family & Consumer Partnership Program Coordinator, Kansas Department of Health and Environment</p> <p>*Tricia Waggoner, Part C Coordinator, Kansas Department of Health and Environment</p> |
| Representative of the Kansas State Department of Education, early childhood education and early childhood special education | <p>*Natalie McClane, Education Program Consultant, Kansas State Department of Education</p> |
| Representative of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund | <p>*Christie Wyckoff, Early Childhood Coordinator, Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund</p> |
| Representatives from Head Start agencies located in Kansas | <p>Sheila Bertelsen, Education Specialist, Dodge City Public Schools, Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center</p> <p>Heather Schrotberger, Executive Director, Kansas Head Start Association</p> <p>*Tara Taylor, Director of Head Start, USD 470 Arkansas City</p> |
| State Director of Head Start Collaboration | <p>*Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families</p> |

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| Representatives of local school districts | <p>Karen MacCrary, School Readiness Specialist, Mitchell County Partnership for Children</p> <p>Leigh Anne Neal, Chief of Early Education/Sustainability, USD 512 Shawnee Mission</p> <p>Jateice Vieux, At Risk Preschool Teacher, USD 226 Meade Elementary and Junior High School</p> |
| Representatives of institutions of higher education in the State of Kansas | <p>*Mallory Arellano, Assistant Professor / Early Childhood Unified Program Coordinator, Newman University</p> <p>Bronwyn Fees, Professor and Associate Dean / Kansas State University</p> <p>*Stephanie Parks, Associate Teaching Professor in Early Childhood Unified, University of Kansas</p> |
| Parent of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas | <p>Kristen Alhareedi, Parent, Healthy Babies Program Manager, Sedgwick County Health Department</p> <p>Kristina Cullison, Parent, Pre-K Teacher, Frontenac Public Schools</p> <p>Lyda Fincham, Parent, Owner/Therapist, Hopeful Beginnings Counseling Services, LLC</p> |
| Representatives of local providers of early childhood care and education services | <p>*Emily Barnes, Owner / Operator, Barnes Childcare</p> <p>*Tanya Bulluck, Executive Director, Child Start Inc.</p> <p>Nick Engels, Owner, Littles Early Learning</p> <p>Kelly Frantz-Langford, Director of Children’s Services and Assistive Technology, TARC</p> <p>*Amy Gottschamer, Executive Director / Owner, Googols of Learning Child Development Center</p> <p>Stephanie Haney, Technical Assistance Specialist, KCCTO-KITS Infant-Toddler Specialist Network</p> <p>Katrina Lowry, Early Childhood Programs Director, Russell Child Development Center</p> <p>Cheisa Myles, Owner, Blessed Assurance Daycare</p> <p>Brett Schmidt, Executive Director, Learning Cross Inc.</p> <p>*Lisa Schmidt, Executive Director, Women’s Community Y Child Development Center</p> <p>*Cornelia Stevens, Executive Director, TOP Early Learning Centers</p> |
| Other Representatives | <p>*Marites Altuna, Statewide Birth to 3 Program Coordinator for Vision Services, Kansas State School for the Blind</p> <p>*Brenda Bandy, Co-Executive Director, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc</p> <p>Dana Book, Training Specialist, Kansas Children’s Service League</p> <p>*Eldonna Chesnut, Division Director of Child Care Licensing, Johnson County Department of Health and Environment</p> <p>Kerri Falletti, Grassroots Strategy Developer, Kansas Department of Commerce – Office of Rural Prosperity</p> <p>Hilary Koehn, Interim Executive Director, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association</p> <p>Tanya Koehn, Director of Families and Community Services, Child Care Aware of Kansas</p> <p>*Dominique Lewis, Office of Equity and Diversity Education Team, Children’s Mercy</p> <p>*Malissa Martin, President-CEO, Community in Schools of Mid-America</p> <p>*Patty Peschel, Director, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities</p> |

Tabatha Rosproy, Early Childhood Project Coordinator, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center

Dana Stanton, Childcare Program Specialist, Northwest Kansas Economic Innovation Center, Inc.

***Logan Stenseng**, Policy & Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, Thrive Allen County

Marie Treichel, Program Manager, Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)

**2022-2023 Panel Member*