

# All In For Kansas Kids



## Early Childhood Recommendations Panel



**MEETING** APRIL 19, 2024



# WELCOME

**Thank you** for serving Kansas children, their families, and our state's early childhood care and education professionals!

This is a remote meeting.

- Today's meeting materials are posted on the [Panel Meetings webpage](#) on the Children's Cabinet site.
- Panel members will clearly identify themselves when they begin speaking.
- Panel members can use the "raise hand" feature to show they are ready to share.

# TODAY'S AGENDA

- Welcome
- Approval of April Agenda
- Approval of March Meeting Minutes
- Kansans' Open Forum Overview
- Family Well-Being Measure Tool
- Child Care Family Needs and Preference Study
- AIFKK Tactic Work Group Reports
- 2024-2025 Panel Applications
- Bright Spots & Upcoming Meetings
- Adjourn

# ACTION ITEMS

*Panel members - please clearly identify yourself when you begin speaking to make and second a motion.*

- Approval of April agenda
- Approval of March minutes



# KANSANS' OPEN FORUM

*Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the [Kansans' Open Forum Comment](#) Form by 5:00 p.m. the day preceding each meeting to share written comments or to sign up to share verbal comments with the Panel during this portion of the meeting.*





# Family Well-Being Measure Tool

JARED BARTON & KAELA BYERS, KU-CPPR





**FAMILY  
STRONG**

# Creating a Comprehensive Well-Being Survey Measure: Development of the *Family Well-Being Survey*

Presentation to the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

April 19, 2024

# FAMILY WELL-BEING MEASURE

# NEEDS & GAPS

## NEEDS

- Comprehensive cross-sector assessment to evaluate family well-being across multiple domains
- Assessment to serve as basis for broader community well-being
- Enhance understanding of underlying factors driving health and well-being outcomes to target systems and policy change
- Theoretically grounded tool capturing the range of family experiences

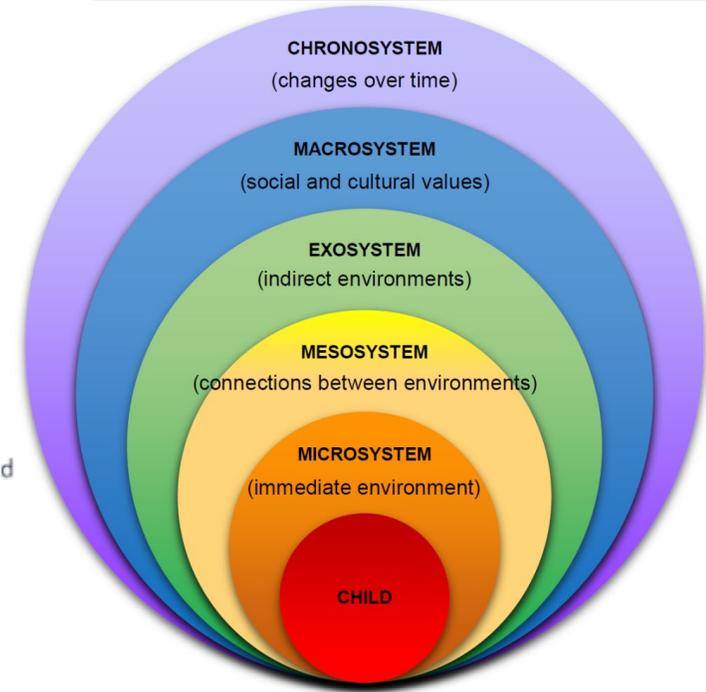
## GAPS

- Existing measures of well-being...
  - Focus heavily on individual domains (e.g., economic security and self-sufficiency)
  - Overlooked critical factors related to social support, access to education, health care, and community resources
  - Lacked examination of structural factors and inequities in favor of prioritizing individual strengths and deficits

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

- Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs
- Strengths Perspective
- Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)
- Protective Factors Framework
- Systems Theory

## Social Determinants of Health



## TOOL DEVELOPMENT

### **STRUCTURE**

- Leveraged three existing tools
  - North Carolina Family Assessment Scale
  - Arizona Family Self-Sufficiency Matrix
  - Protective Factors Survey Version 2 - Retrospective

### **UNIQUE FEATURES**

- Situated in the SDOH
- Five-point scale with specific definitions for each rating
  - 3 is a mid-point representing a baseline level of well-being
  - Poles representing crises/scarcity through abundance/opportunity
- Retrospective
- Captures both provider and individual perspectives that can be aggregated into a community index

## TOOL DEVELOPMENT

### **ITERATIVE & COLLABORATIVE**

- Review of face validity and co-development and refinement
  - Steering committee review including lived experts from the target community
  - Partnership with The Ohio State University evaluators, Ohio's Cross-Sector Implementation Team, and Parent and Family Council (lived experts)
  - Federal grantee peers, project officers, and technical assistance providers

### **ONGOING DEVELOPMENT & VALIDATION**

- Piloting of *Family Well-Being Survey* using Amazon Mechanical Turk
- Additional face validity and refinement with lived experts including steering committee, statewide family council, and accountability cohorts
- Administration of tool across 3 initiatives in Kansas reaching statewide
- Administration of tool for Ohio's FSPP initiative
- Further validation studies to support evidence of validity based on the tool's internal structure (i.e., factor analyses)

# FAMILY WELL-BEING SURVEY

Economic Well-Being							
ITEM	1	2	3	4	5	This time last year	Today
<b>Employment</b>	I am NOT currently working because I struggle to find job opportunities where I live.	I am employed, but my pay and benefits are NOT adequate.	I am employed AND my pay and benefits ARE adequate.	I have stable employment with adequate pay and benefits, AND I have opportunities for advancement.	I have stable employment with adequate pay & benefits. If I needed to find a new job I have MANY options.		
<b>Regular Income</b>	I do not have a source of regular income.	I have a regular income BUT it is not enough to meet my family's needs.	I have a regular income that is enough to meet my family's needs.	I have a regular income that is MORE than enough to meet my family's needs.	I have a regular income that provides for my family's needs and many of our wants.		
<b>Food</b>	I have NO access to a variety of quality food.	I have LIMITED access to a variety of quality food.	I have regular access to a variety of quality food.	I have regular access to a variety of quality food that is more than enough to meet my family's needs.	I can access any food my family needs and many of our wants.		

Neighborhood and Built Environment							
ITEM	1	2	3	4	5	This time last year	Today
<b>Housing Quality</b>	No housing options in my neighborhood meet livable standards (i.e., decent, safe, sanitary).	Fewer than half the housing options in my neighborhood meet livable standards (i.e., decent, safe, sanitary).	Most housing in my neighborhood meets livable standards (i.e., decent, safe, and sanitary).	All housing in my neighborhood meets livable standards (i.e., decent, safe, sanitary).	All housing in my neighborhood EXCEEDS livable standards (i.e., decent, safe, sanitary).		
<b>Neighborhood Safety</b>	I NEVER feel safe in my neighborhood.	I RARELY feel safe in my neighborhood.	I feel safe in my neighborhood.	I feel VERY safe in my neighborhood.	I ALWAYS feel safe in my neighborhood.		
<b>Neighborhood Safety for Children</b>	I feel so uncomfortable that I NEVER let my children play outside.	I don't feel comfortable letting my children play outside.	I am comfortable letting my children play outside.	I am VERY comfortable letting my children play outside.	I am ALWAYS comfortable letting my children play outside.		



**FAMILY  
STRONG**

# CONTACT INFORMATION

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# Child Care Assistance Study

TARA GREGORY, WSU





# 2023 Child Care Assistance Study

Conducted on behalf of DCF by Wichita State University's

- Center for Applied Research and Evaluation
- Public Policy and Management Center



# Purpose

Investigate why eligible parents may not apply for the Department for Children and Families (DCF) Child Care Assistance Program, as well as ways to improve the process for all applicants



# Methods

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## Caregiver Survey

- Developed in collaboration with DCF
- Distributed through “trusted organizations”
- 770 responses from Kansas parents meeting Child Care Assistance Program eligibility

## Interviews

- Questions based on survey findings
- Recruitment via survey and outreach to trusted organizations
- 6 parent interviews, 6 child care-related professional interviews

# Overall Findings

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770 survey responses and 12 interviews found:



Some struggle with the application



Lack of awareness of the program



Transportation is a barrier to access



Service providers could help with recruitment



Lack of quality, affordable child care

Note: Some responses showed confusion re: policies and programs in DCF



# Survey Results

- Responses from at least 60 counties across the state
- 75% had applied for Child Care Assistance (84% currently receiving benefits)
- 97% had at least some awareness of the program; of those who were not aware, 42% were likely to apply
- 57% had an issue in the last 6 months with reliable child care
- 46% don't own a vehicle; of those, 63% don't have access to transportation



# Survey Results (continued)

- Top three factors in choosing child care:
  - Cost (30%)
  - Whether child likes going (27%)
  - Whether it is licensed (25%)
- “Optimal price point” is \$291.84 per child per week (range of \$196.02-\$492.23)



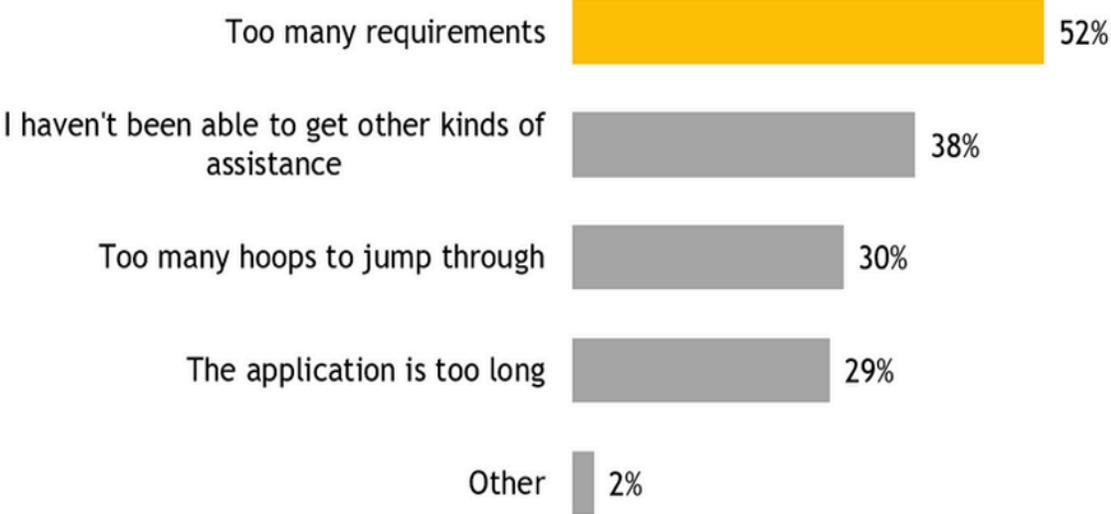
# Survey Results (continued)

- Participants were mostly neutral about their experiences with Child Care Assistance (but more positive than negative)
  - Ease of applying (44%~;37%+)
  - Ease of continuing (50%~;40%+)
  - Ease of finding providers (51%~;35%+)

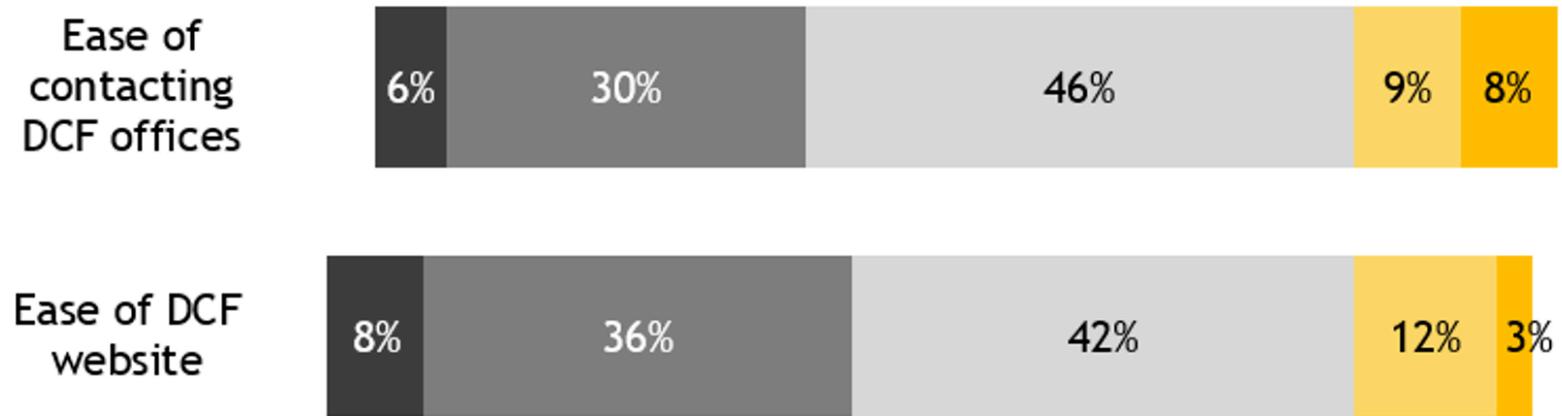


# Survey Results (continued)

Figure 30: Reasons for Believing Applying is Difficult



**Figure 31: Ease of Contacting DCF Offices and Using the DCF Website**



**Survey Results  
(continued)**



## Interview Results: Key Themes

1

Lack of availability of providers

2

Lack of providers that accept DCF Child Care Assistance

3

Extensive and confusing paperwork

4

Unclear processes and deadlines

5

Inconvenient procedures



## **Interview Results: Key Themes (continued)**

6

Stigma and shame

7

Unpleasant interactions with DCF staff

8

Fear of repercussions

9

Lack of knowledge of the program/criteria



**Questions?**

# AIFKK TACTIC WORK GROUPS

- **Strategy 4.2:** Promote family-friendly workplaces throughout the public and private sectors.
- **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.
- **Tactic 6.1.1:** Develop recommendations to increase compensation and benefits for early childhood care and education professionals.
- **Tactic 6.1.5:** Document and address recruitment and retention challenges (includes all early childhood care and education professionals).

Reports



# 2024-2025 PANEL APPLICATIONS

Open to any Kansan interested in serving on the working group for the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council, known as the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel.

- Accepting applications April 1 through May 3, 2024
- One year term – July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025
- Panel members encouraged to re-apply and share with others
- Visit the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Website](#) to learn more

**Application**



# BRIGHT AND SPOTS UPCOMING MEETINGS

**\*\*Bright Spots – Panel members are invited to share\*\***

## **Reminder:** Agenda Items

- [Agenda/Resource form](#) available on Panel SharePoint Hub

## **Upcoming Meetings:**

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – May 17, 9:00 a.m.
- Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund – June 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Livestream via [KCCTF YouTube](#)





# Adjourn





[All In For Kansas Kids Newsletter](#)



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