

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

The **October 6, 2023**, regular session of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund board meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. and held at the Kansas Association of School Boards, 1420 SW Arrowhead Road in Topeka, Kansas with Chairman 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, Monica Murnan, Tyler Smith, M.D., John Wilson, and Derik Flerlage and Dr. Jessica Piper (KDHE), Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Justice Keynen Wall (Supreme Court).  
Cabinet staff: Melissa Rooker, Amy Meek, Hannah White, Christie Wyckoff, Megan Brohaugh, and Dyogga Adegboire.

### **CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:**

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

### **APPROVAL OF AUGUST 4, MINUTES**

Chairman Hineman asked if there were any corrections to the minutes of August 4. Hearing none, he asked for a voice vote for approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### **CHILD CARE CAPACITY ACCELERATOR GRANTS**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director, remarked the board approved a slate of Child Care Capacity Accelerator grants at its June 23, 2023, special session. The grants were awarded to multiple communities across Kansas using four sources of funding totaling \$43.5 million dollars. Accelerator grants support childcare capacity using capital and operational investments to establish sustainable licensed childcare slots. Federal government American Rescue Plan Act, DCF, Patterson Family and the Preschool Development Grant provided the funding streams. One recipient declined the award. This entity’s board determined it would not be feasible for them to raise the additional funding needed under the short timeline allotted for use of Accelerator funds.

Melissa commented that Lucas Neece, former Grants Coordinator, departed the Children’s Cabinet to accept a new position. Hannah White, on staff, had agreed to step into the role and oversight as Federal Program Coordinator. Hannah was introduced and presented a slate of awards for approval, made possible because Department for Children and Families provided the Cabinet with an additional \$11 million from American Rescue Plan Child Care Development Block Grant discretionary funds. Hannah The new funding provides 27 additional grants totaling \$11,425,000, adds 1,468 slots with \$8.9 million dollars in community match. Hannah noted that the total number of new child care slots created by the two rounds of Accelerator funding totaled 5,655 slots. Chairman Hineman asked if grantees will be monitored to ensure funds are being spent appropriately. Hannah discussed the monitoring process and technical assistance provided to grantees. After discussion, Chairman Hineman entertained a motion. John Wilson commented on the map of grant recipient locations and how well it captures and visualizes how the funding has been dispersed.

MOTION:

John Wilson moved the board approve the slate of Child Care Capacity Accelerator Grants as presented. Motion seconded by DiAnne Graham. Chairman Hineman called for a Roll Call Vote.

John Wilson	Yes
Dr. Tyler Smith	Yes
Terri Rice	Yes
Monica Murnan	Yes
DiAnne Graham	Yes
LeEtta Felter	Yes
Senator Renee Erickson	Yes
Chair, Don Hineman	Yes

There was unanimous approval of the slate of recipients. Motion carried.

**COMMUNITY BASED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION RENEWAL**

Christie Wyckoff, Early Childhood Coordinator presented an update about the 2023-2024 CBCAP grants.

CBCAP funding supports primary and secondary prevention initiatives to help families and lessen the chance of abuse or neglect. At the August meeting, the board approved renewal awards to the existing grantees. The Cabinet staff received the federal award of \$1,623,085 on September 15 and finalized the awards totaling \$1,319,274.

Christie discussed the next steps for grant October 1, 2023, to September 30, 2024. The next timeline for a competitive CBCAP grant RFP will be discussed at the Cabinet board's April 5, 2024, meeting.

**EARLY CHILDHOOD BLOCK GRANT (ECBG)**

Christie Wyckoff discussed the FY 2024 RFP Recommendations. The Cabinet board approved a new slate of awards at its April 14, 2023, meeting. That included eight new recipients and 18 returning grantees. The CIF FY'25 budget recommendation of June 2, 2023 included flat funding for ECBG. It was recommended for a renewal application process for all 26 existing grantees at existing award amounts, pursuant to staff review of project plans. Christie discussed the RFP timeline, application process, deadlines, review team with the anticipation of presenting the slate to the board at its April 5, 2024. The new grants will be for July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025 (State Fiscal Year 2025). The board had no objection to this plan.

**CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND ACCELERATOR**

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director, gave an overview of the Capital Projects grants. The purpose is to award construction of multipurpose community facilities that support work, health monitoring,

education, and childcare needs of families. She discussed expected outcomes. The total award is \$38 million and funded through the U.S. Treasury (broadband funding) for construction-only project. All projects must reflect explicit design consideration with licensed childcare, work, education, and health monitoring and must have operational sustainability plan and 15% asset match dollars. Melissa discussed the application timeline. RFP opened September 5 with two tracks occurring. Co-hort 1 applications are due October 2, 2023 by 5 p.m. and Co-hort 2 applications will be due December 18, 2023. The Co-hort 1 slate of recommended grants will be acted upon at the October 19 Cabinet board's special meeting (to be held virtually at 11:30 a.m.). The second co-hort slate will be presented at the February 2, 2024, Cabinet meeting. LeEtta Felter commended Melissa and the Cabinet team for the work put into this project. Information can be found on the [www.allinforkansaskids.org/communities](http://www.allinforkansaskids.org/communities) website. No other action was needed at this time.

### **AGENCY UPDATES**

Amy Meek, Program Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund reported:

- The Children's Cabinet received the federally funded Preschool Development Grant (PDG) on April 30, 2020 for a three-year term. A one-year no-cost extension was approved and expires April 29, 2024. The Preschool Development Planning Grant overlaps with that grant and was awarded December 2022 and will be wrapping up December 31, 2023.
- In August, the Feds awarded additional funding subject to approval of applications to those states with the planning grants. Kansas received \$860,000 for an additional year. Cabinet team determined that expansion of a pilot program that provides incentives to rural child care providers to incentivize infant care in an urban site would be a beneficial use of the additional PDG funds. Wyandotte County was selected as the new area. Child Care Aware of Kansas and The Patterson Family funds the Baby Steps Program in rural counties.
- Cabinet staff will be applying for a no-cost extension for the PDG Planning Grant in November 2023 to allow more time to complete required grant activities and spend down the dollars. A strategic plan and needs assessments are requirements for receiving this funding.
- The Children's Cabinet received a discretionary child welfare grant, called Kansas Linking Infrastructure to Nurturing Kids or Kan-Link, in late-August for a three-year term totaling \$750,000. Year 1 is in the amount of \$275,000 for October 1, 2023, through September 30, 2024. The grant aids in aligning the child welfare agencies with early childhood systems and program services. John Wilson asked if there was a spreadsheet of the PDG grants that showed timelines, focus, updates, tie-in to the needs assessment and with the All In For Kansas Kids. Melissa responded staff will create one and provide for the board.

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

- KSDE announced the Kansas Early Learning Standards are being updated. Last updates made were in 2013. Current feedback has so far been positive. The KBOE will be acting on final draft at the December 2023 meeting. If interested in reviewing the draft and registering for the October 30 at 4:00 p.m. zoom meeting, go to the KSDE website, at [www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org) Dr. Smith asked if diversity of individuals from multiple sectors were reviewing Standards. It is important that a variety of individuals have opportunity to weigh-in. Amanda responded a cross-section of professionals have been involved in the review process and she would provide a complete list of reviewers to the Cabinet board.
- U.S. Department of Education's Institute for Educational Sciences awarded its next round of Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems grants. It is a four-year grant. The funding will assist how early childhood data is gathered. The KSDE Information Team will be involved in adding users and managing the data system. Amanda thanked Dr. Teri Garstka, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (CPPR) for her efforts with this project. Senator Erickson asked Amanda about links for looking up various terms in a glossary that would be beneficial to parents versus professionals. Amanda replied yes and would provide the links and public opportunities for input later.

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

- Derik Flerlage introduced himself as co-director of the Bureau of Family Health who monitors childcare licensing and women, infants, and children (WIC) program.
- Childcare Licensing services include the operations services. Operations staff in Topeka, process the applications and the field specialists housed at KDHE or contracted, apply the laws through monitoring centers, daycare homes, group daycare homes, family daycare homes, and other facilities, and is supported with federal funding through DCF called Child Care Discretionary Fund (CCDF).
- Work currently underway to revise the child care licensing rules and regulations to update in alignment with federal requirements and a desire to modernize our approach to licensing. Updates are comprehensive and cover training, ratios, and other elements. The package is moving through the promulgation process as a high priority.
- Other child care licensing barriers involving fingerprinting and background checks are being addressed by the agency to speed up that process for providers.
- Number of facilities declined over last few years, however, KDHE experiencing the highest increase seen in 15 years. The total licensed slots is 142,807. The increases have been attributed to operation improvements and additional funding for providers.
- Increase in outreach efforts and staff presented at the annual Kansas Health Care Association in Mulvane recently.

- Dr. Jessie Piper introduced herself as co-director along with Derik Flerlage in the Bureau of Family Health at KDHE. Jessie monitors programs such as Children & families, Title V-Maternal & Child Health, Part C, Infant & Toddlers, Screening & Surveillance including newborn screening, home visiting, and aid to local programs.
- Received notice of funding renewal for three years for the Kansas Kids Map program. The program supports and educates primary care providers supporting zero to 5 years,
- Child Abuse Review & Evaluation Program seeing increases in its care program. KDHE and other state agencies participate in this group. New provider program was offered in September, with total of 52 trained providers having completed the program.
- MIECHV home visiting program staff mailed award letters recently. Some of the recipients received reduced funding for various reasons. KDHE staff working with program contacts so that awards can be returned to original levels. Team members will be conducting site visits in next few months as part of strategic planning,
- Part C, Infant Toddler Services encountered issues with the database vendor supporting that program. KDHE Information Technology team quickly moved into action in response. KDHE working with OSEP to stay in compliance with federal requirements. Part C team members are diligently working to navigate the situation.

Justice Keynen Wall, Kansas Supreme Court reported:

- Justice Wall is a liaison justice to the Kansas Child Support Guidelines Committee. Every four years, the child support guidelines must be updated according to federal laws. Kansas Child Support Guidelines Committee is tasked with updating the guidelines. The updates are complete and available for release and feedback from by public. If interested in reviewing the updates and sharing the news, go to [www.kscourts.org](http://www.kscourts.org). There is an online survey tool that can be accessed to solicit comment on the proposed updates. The solicited comments will be taken under advisement for consideration for inclusion in the updates. Final approved guidelines will become effective January 1, 2024.
- Attended Midwest Summit in Ann Arbor, Michigan last week. Teams of justices, judicial administrators, pro bono agencies, and legislative representatives from the Midwest and upper Midwest participated in the Summit. The key topic was rural justice and shortages of rural attorneys and effect on access to judge justice by families living in those communities. It was interesting to hear the problems that other states are challenged with in their rural communities.

Melissa Rooker reported on behalf of Dr. Karla Wiscombe, Kansas Board of Regents.

Dr. Wiscombe was attending the Kansas Core Outcomes Groups Conference, hoping to get four additional courses for Systemwide Transfer.

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Melissa Rooker updated the board on the following items,

- Earlier in the meeting, board heard updates about the PDG and PDG Planning Grants and additional funding. The PDG Needs Assessment draft will be presented to the board at the December meeting and the Strategic Plan draft will be presented at the February 2024 meeting.
- Cabinet is the lead on the Workforce Registry design and build project. Entering final phase this fall. Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO) will be updating their professional development workforce platform to be connected to the registry.
- Cabinet will be collaborating with the KSU 105 Project. It is a project that fosters new business development. KSU received additional funding from Kansas Legislature for this initiative.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

The Children’s Cabinet will be conducting a virtual special session Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 11:30 a.m. to discuss and act on a slate of recommended Capital Project Fund 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. The final meeting of the year will be virtual and is scheduled December 1, 2023. Dates of the 2024 Meeting Schedule are 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 11:43 a.m.