

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 17, 2025



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

Members Present

Nichelle Adams, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Marites Altuna, Kansas State School for the Blind
Mallory Arellano, Newman University
Brenda Bandy, Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc.
Dana Book, Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)
Jarvis Doleman, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Kerri Falletti, KDC-Office of Rural Prosperity
Teresa Houston, Envision Inc.
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center
Janine Foth, Cougar Cubs Daycare USD 397 Centre
Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC
Holly Frye, Kansas Department for Health and Environment (KDHE)
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning Child Development Center
Cathy Gray, Butler Community College
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Christi Smith, Child Care Aware of Kansas
Leigh Anne Neal, Shawnee Mission School District
Malissa Martin, SparkWheel, Inc.

Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)
Stephanie Wiggins, KCCTO Infant-Toddler Specialist Network
Bethany Samuel, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)
Amber Wheeler, USD 258
Cornelia Stevens, Chair, TOP Early Learning Centers
Marie Treichel, Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)
Christie Wyckoff, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
Jeanneret Lisa, DCF
Talia Juiliano-Myers, Child Care Aware of Eastern KS
Mandi Waugh, Child Start, Inc.
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y
Karen MacCrory, Mitchell County Partnership for Children

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.

January Meeting Agenda

Natalie McClane moved to approve the agenda. Marites Altuna seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

December 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Brenda Bandy moved to approve the December minutes. Dana Book seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Kansans' Open Forum - Written and Verbal Comments

Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the [Kansans' Open Forum Comment Form](#) by 5:00pm 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.

All in For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan Progress Update

Cornelia Stevens introduced Sara Garner, Assistant Director of KU-CPPR, who provided an update on the All in For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan. She encouraged feedback on monitoring methods and discussed the development of quality indicators in areas like family engagement, healthy development, workforce development, program quality and family well-being.

Sara also shared updates on the PDG, including health insurance stipends, Thrive Allen County's navigation support, and the Childcare Zones pilot project. She announced the upcoming Childcare Regional Roundtables, the Future Fellows cohort application coming soon, and Regional Care Conferences in Northwest and Southwest Kansas, urging participants to engage in these initiatives and share opportunities with their communities.

For a detailed breakdown of the information presented by Sara Gardner in this section, please refer to the January Early Childhood Recommendations Panel, timestamp: [6:23 – 20:46](#). If you have any questions or have information that you would like to share, feel free to contact Sara Gardner at sgardner10@ku.edu.

Kansas ASQ Overview

Cornelia Stevens introduced Amanda Petersen and Stacy Clarke from the Kansas State Department of Education, who provided an overview of the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) findings in Kansas. Amanda led a discussion on the ASQ in Kansas, highlighting its role in supporting the early childhood system. She noted its use from birth to kindergarten entry and its adoption by the Kansas State Board of Education, during which a timeline visual aid was provided. Efforts to expand ASQ access to community partners and share information about healthy development and screenings were also

discussed. She also introduced the Help Me Grow Kansas initiative, which aims to develop and expand screening events. Below is a snapshot of this initiative. For more information or questions, you can contact Madeline Wegner with the Kansas Department of Health and Environment at madeline.wegner@ks.gov.

Help Me Grow Kansas

- Help Me Grow Kansas will be developing and expanding “Books, Balls, and Blocks” screening events using Preschool Development Grant funding.
 - These events will use ASQ and provide information, resources, and referral support to families
 - Piloting in 2025 with child care programs.
- The Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas will be presenting on using the ASQ in a health setting during the [Maternal & Child Health Third Thursday series on February 20 from 1:30-2:30 p.m.](#) – [click here to register](#).
- Contact Madeline Wegner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment Child Health Consultant, with questions or ideas: Madeline.Wegner@ks.gov.



Upcoming training opportunities were mentioned to help build professionals' confidence in administering the ASQ effectively. Below is a snapshot of the upcoming ASQ Trainings.

Upcoming ASQ Trainings

- The Kansas State Department of Education and the Kansas Parent Information Resource Center will offer a 3-hour live virtual “Introduction to ASQ” training on January 24 from 9AM-12PM.
- “Using ASQ to Engage with Families and Support Child Development” will be on March 7 from 9AM-10:30AM. This is for professionals who already have a basic understanding of the ASQ.
- Visit ksdetasn.org/events to register.
- Contact Stacy Clarke (sclarke@ksde.org) with questions.

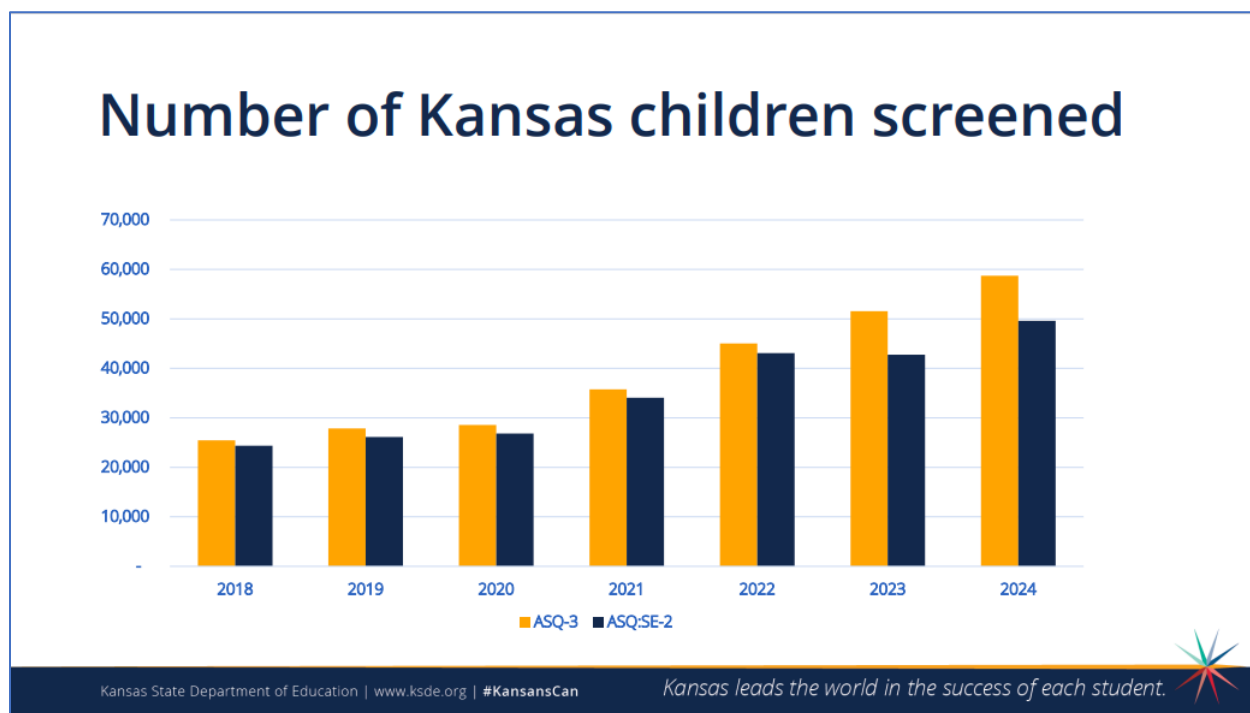


Looking at the data – keep in mind:

- The Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2) are screening tools, not diagnostic tools. They provide a developmental snapshot of a child at a specific point in time. These screenings help detect developmental delays and celebrate milestones.

ASQ Screening and Data Overview

During this section of the meeting, the group discussed the Ages and Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) screening tool for detecting developmental delays in young children. The panel had the chance to look at aggregate data from the statewide ASQ Online System, which included the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot and accounts administered by Part C programs. Amanda shared that nearly 59,000 ASQ-3 screenings and 50,000 ASQ-SE-2 screenings were completed statewide in 2024, with a significant number for children aged 60-72 months. The data indicated that fine motor skills were a common area of concern across the state.



The group shared strategies to address these identified needs, including providing activity books to families and providers, conducting mini learning experiences, and using classroom tracking forms. Great discussions and examples were shared. For more information on ASQs and the various data findings as well as charts shared, please refer to the January Early Childhood Recommendations Panel, timestamp: [20:44-1:03:38](#).

Work Group Reports

Cornelia Stevens opened the floor for a representative from each work group to provide an update on the work they have done since last month's meeting.

Family Friendly Workplaces

Brenda Bandy spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: Since the last meeting, a few members had the opportunity to meet with the team that developed the North Carolina Family Forward certification program. They gained valuable insights into the process of establishing the program, including what the team would have done differently. Moving forward, their discussion will focus on further exploring the assessment of national practices and their goal of establishing a meaningful family-friendly designation in Kansas.

Workforce: Exit Interviews

Stephanie Wiggins spoke on behalf of their group.

Update: Shared their plans to analyze data from the workforce survey and collaborate with partners within the next upcoming months.

Workforce: Mental Health Supports

Marie Treichel spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: Shared their focus on the 8 dimensions of wellness and their plans to research more about using this model into their plan.

Workforce: Targeted Journey Recruitment

Amy Gottschamer spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: Discussed their plans to focus on building workforce capacity and their plans to research potential partners. Additional information shared that they were able to connect with Taylor Spangler from KSDE and will be meeting with them to learn more about programs offered to high school students. They also had the opportunity to review the Strategic Plan Pillar Goal #2 and how it aligns with their efforts.

System Progress Communications

Kelly Frantz-Langford spoke on behalf of their group.

- Update: Shared their progress in building an inventory document of current organizations and work groups across Kansas. From there, they will be able to identify ways of communication.

Early Childhood Advocacy Day

- February 5, 2025 | 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. | Topeka, KS
- o Network with early childhood advocates and meet with lawmakers
 - o Lunch provided
- Only 150 spots available!
 - o 1/17/2025 Note: All registration spots for the 2025 Early Childhood Advocacy Day have been claimed.

Early Childhood Governance Summit

- February 21, 2025 | 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. | Virtual
 - During the regularly scheduled Panel meeting.
 - Optional: Work groups can meet following the Summit
- Goal - Bring early childhood governance groups together to:
 - Discuss opportunities for how we can work together to best accomplish the goals of the All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Plan.
 - Share and celebrate each group's progress to date and discuss group goals and potential challenges in 2025.
 - Make connections across the early childhood system for current and future work.

Bright Spots

Cornelia Stevens opened the floor for panel members to share any updates and highlight bright spots.

- Brenda Bandy shared that a new group has formed in Kansas called Paid Leave for All Kansans. They are bringing information and education to the state about paid family and medical leave. The group is interested in hearing from childcare providers with experience in caring for newborns at 6 weeks of age versus 4 to 6 months of age, and how those differences impact care. This will help them educate others and policymakers about the benefits.
 - Link: <https://paidleaveks.org/>
- Dana Book from the Kansas Children's Service League shared information about their training team and their 40 virtual trainings for the first quarter.
 - Link: <https://www.kcsl.org/what-we-do/education/training/>
- Marites Altuna: Shared that if anyone's center or organization wants information about accommodations or visual impairment, or has children in the area with visual impairment, the Family Infant Toddler Services at Kansas State School for the Blind can provide a free presentation or webinar in your area.
- Christi Smith shared the success of their "go team" in supporting a provider in Pittsburgh and their plans to tackle challenges in communities.

Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund – Friday, February 7, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Early Childhood Governance Summit– Friday, February 21, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.
- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – Friday, March 28, 9:00 a.m. -11:30 a.m.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.