

# KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD RECOMMENDATIONS PANEL

Monthly Meeting Minutes  
Friday, September 20, 2024



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

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## Members Present

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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.  
Sheila Bertelsen, Dodge City Public Schools-Bright Beginnings Early Childhood Center  
Dana Book, Kansas Children's Service League (KCSL)  
Jarvis Doleman, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)  
Janine Foth, Cougar Cubs Daycare USD 397 Centre  
Kelly Frantz-Langford, TARC  
Lisa Gehring, Plainville Jr/Sr High School  
Amy Gottschamer, Googols of Learning Child Development Center  
Cathy Gray, Butler Community College  
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)  
Hilary Koehn, Kansas Parents as Teachers Association (KPATA)  
Tanya Koehn, Child Care Aware of Kansas  
Karen MacCrory, Mitchell County Partnership for Children  
Malissa Martin, SparkWheel, Inc.  
Natalie McClane, Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE)  
Cheisa Myles, Blessed Assurance Daycare

Dr. Leigh Anne Neal, USD 512 Shawnee Mission School District  
Patty Peschel, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO)  
Tabatha Rosproy, Kansas Parent Information Resource Center  
Bethany Samuel, Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF)  
Lisa Schmidt, Women's Community Y Child Development Center  
Heather Schrotberger, Kansas Head Start Association  
Natalie Sollo, Kansas Head Start Association  
Cornelia Stevens, Chair, TOP Early Learning Centers  
Marie Treichel, Kansas Association for Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (KAIMH)  
Mandi Waugh, Child Start, Inc.  
Dr. Amber Wheeler, USD 258 Humboldt Schools  
Dr. Stephanie Wiggins, Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities (KCCTO), Kansas Infant Toddler Specialist Network (KITS)  
Christie Wyckoff, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund  
Lindsay Orion, KU CPPR  
Jeanneret Lisa, DCF

# Minutes

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## 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.

## September Meeting Agenda

Natalie McClane moved to approve the September agenda. Sheila Bertelsen seconded the motion, and the agenda was approved unanimously.

## August 18, 2024 Meeting Minutes

Marites Altuna moved to approve the August minutes. Hilary Koehn 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.

## Family Strong Story Collection

Cornelia Stevens introduced Kaela Byers, Associate Director of The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research (KU-CPPR). Kaela was present to seek support for their Story Collection efforts across the state which focuses on Prevention Services in Kansas. These projects aim to understand family well-being, explore what it looks like, and identify ways to enhance it. Additionally, they seek to investigate how families seek help and whether they receive the necessary support. Below is additional information if you would like to help support this awesome opportunity.

The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research recently launched a statewide initiative to learn about family and community well-being directly from families across the state. When you [share a story with us](#), you are helping the entire state work towards a better Kansas for children and families. The survey takes approximately 20 minutes to complete. Their aim is to reach as many families as possible to fully understand the many experiences that impact and shape family and community well-being. CPPR invite you to share stories about your own experiences and share this survey with others. For more information, check out [How We Use Your Story](#).

## Child Care System Improvement Team Update

Cornelia Stevens introduced Derik Flerlage, Bureau Director for Family Health at KDHE. He provided updates related to child care licensing and initiatives from the Child Care System Improvement Team (CC-SIT).

## Regional Roundtable Discussion

A new concept was presented for the upcoming year, involving the hosting of roundtable discussions in each region of the state, open to the public. These discussions will focus on

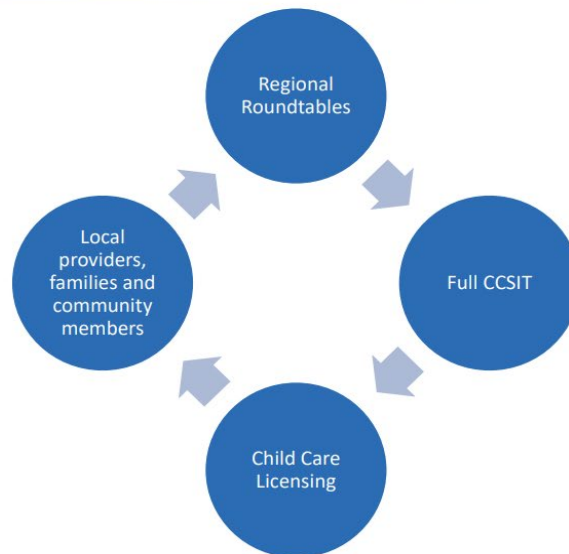
how local providers, families, and communities experience Child Care Licensing. Key areas of consideration will include what is working well, identifying pain points, and exploring how Child Care Licensing and its partners can provide more effective support.

#### The Role of the Panel

- Promote the events within your network.
- Attend events in your region when possible.

### Regional Roundtable Discussion

## REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION



Above is a diagram illustrating the general flow they envision for these upcoming events.

#### 2024-2025 Tentative Schedule

- November 12, 2024 – First roundtable in Abilene (6:00-7:30 pm)(NC)
- January 2025 – Regional roundtable (date and location TBD in SC)
- March 2025– Regional roundtable (date and location TBD in SE)
- May 2025 - Regional roundtable (date and location TBD in SW)
- July 2025 – Regional roundtable (date and location TBD in NW)
- October 2025 – Regional roundtable (date and location TBD in NE)

#### Highlights from Discussion:

- Lisa Gehring (Plainville Jr/Sr High School): expressed excitement about the opportunity and passion for the topic. Lisa inquired about representation on the CC-SIT board related to her specialty (school district/superintendent

representation), specifically for NW Kansas. She is happy to help and willing to host events. Additionally, she is open to moving forward before July if that works for the CC-SIT group.

- Marites Altuna (Kansas State School for the Blind): expressed interest in hosting events at their facility when the time comes and inquired about how to request information to share details about the roundtable in the chamber newsletter.
- Consideration: Is there room for additional representation from members of the Early Childhood Panel?

For a more detailed breakdown of the helpful information related to the upcoming roundtable discussions and the tentative schedule shared by Derik Flerlage, please refer to the September Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp: [10:06-34:14](#). Additionally, if you would like to host this new roundtable opportunity with CC-SIT or participate in some way, please reach out to Lindsey Orion at [lindsayorion@ku.edu](mailto:lindsayorion@ku.edu) or contact the members of the CC-SIT team Meghan Kluth [mkluth@ku.edu](mailto:mkluth@ku.edu) and Clayton Jarrard [claytonjarrard@ku.edu](mailto:claytonjarrard@ku.edu).

## 2024 Strategic Plan Deep Dive

Cornelia Stevens introduced Sara Garner, Assistant Director of KU-CPPR, who provided an overview of the 2024 Strategic Plan. In this discussion, we took an in-depth look at the 'All in For Kansas Kids' Strategic Plan document. During this segment, Sara highlighted key parts of the booklet, which contains insightful information. If you would like a physical copy, please reach out to Lindsey Orion at [lindsayorion@ku.edu](mailto:lindsayorion@ku.edu) or visit the [website](#) and click on the "contact" option and let the team know that you would like a physical copy.

### All in For Kansas Kids Strategic Plan

The 5-year time horizon is designed to address the needs identified in the 2024 Needs Assessment, which is available online, with hard copies upon request. It incorporates input from governance groups and professionals in the field. Key resources include the full document and a one-page summary, both accessible on the AIFKK website. The plan will be continuously monitored, and hard copies will soon be distributed to all Panel members.

Highlights to look forward to in the booklet include:

- Importance of Early Childhood (before TOC and p. 7): Do your communities know this?
- Ecosystem (p. 14-15): Who? Where? Are you connected? What questions do you have?
- Needs Assessment Highlights (p. 10-11): High level key findings. Do these resonate? Much more to pull from in the full NA.
- Key Data Points (p. 7, 19, 27, 33): Can you use these in your materials to raise awareness?
- Call-outs (multiple - example p. 29): Help deepen understanding of a concept.
- Definitions and Sources (p. 49-52): Navigate the acronyms, sources, and program names.

- Pathways and Funding (p. 41-44): Build understanding of the 'system' of Early Childhood

For a more detailed breakdown of the information presented by Sara Garner, please refer to the September Early Childhood Recommendations Panel timestamp: [34:19-56:18](#).

### Work Group Overview:

Cornelia Stevens our Chair member of the panel provided an overview of the work groups and how they will operate throughout the year. At the August 16 panel meeting, members engaged in two discussion groups to brainstorm work group topics that align with the new Strategic Plan. Members were also invited to submit additional ideas via email. A Work Group Preference Survey was conducted, enabling members to select their top three topics and express their willingness to serve as co-leads.

### Work Groups

Each work group must confirm co-leads to facilitate meetings and designate a note-taker and a reporter for the full Panel. At each monthly meeting, work groups will share updates on their progress, allowing the full Panel to engage with questions, input, and feedback. Below is the list of work groups for the 2024-2025 panel year:

- Family Friendly Workplaces
- Work Force: Exit Interviews
- Work Force: Mental Health Supports
- Work Force: Targeted Journey Recruitment
- System Progress Communications

For more detailed related to the various work groups please refer to the timestamp from the September Early Childhood Recommendations Panel: [56:40-1:16:00](#).

### Work Group Orientation:

Cornelia Stevens reintroduced Sara Garner, Assistant Director of KU-CPPR, who provided a workgroup orientation to prepare members for their roles in this space. In the meeting, key strategies were outlined for effective planning.

- Building a comprehensive work plan is essential, with a specific definition of success by June 2025 and realistic monthly milestones.
- Teams should identify connection points for engagement and clarify roles for Co-Leads and Note-takers.
- Look ahead at calendars, identify notetaking and report-out format.
- SharePoint will be used for document sharing, and facilitation support will be provided to assist in developing the work plan.

### Bright Spots:

- Kelly Frantz-Langford (TARC): All previously known Tiny K programs for children birth to three years old across the state have agreed to unite under the new name:

[Infant Toddler Services of Kansas](#). The website has a fresh and exciting new look, and it will now operate under the same program across the state, with 29 different offices.

- Heather Schrotberger (Kansas Head Start Association): Shared that Successful Beginnings with County Head Start has been selected as one of twelve programs in the nation to earn the National Head Start Association's Program of Excellence accreditation.
- Marites Altuna (Kansas State School for the Blind): Shared that September is Cerebral or Cortical Visual Impairment Awareness Month. CVI is the leading cause of childhood blindness and low vision; it is a brain-based visual impairment caused by damage to the visual pathway or processing areas of the brain. The Family Infant Toddler Service is launching the CVI Early Intervention Initiative. If you have CVI or know someone who does, let them know, and they will help connect them to resources.
- Brenda Bandy (Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Inc): Shared that Kansas has been selected to send a state team of early childhood professionals to the Prenatal to Three Policy Impact Center conference in December in Denver.

#### Upcoming Meetings: (all via Zoom)

- Early Childhood Recommendations Panel meeting – Friday, October 18, 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
- Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund meeting – Friday, October 4, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
  - Livestream via [KCCTF Youtube](#)

#### Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.