

KANSAS CHILDREN’S CABINET AND TRUST FUND MINUTES

The **February 7, 2025**, regular session of the Kansas Children’s Cabinet and Trust Fund Board virtual meeting commenced at 9:00 a.m. with Chair Don Hineman presiding. There was a quorum. Proper notice was published in the Kansas Register.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Don Hineman, Chair, Senator Renee Erickson, Dr. LeEtta Felter, DiAnne Graham, Monica Murnan, John Wilson, Dr. Tara Wallace, Amanda Petersen, (KSDE), Derik Flerlage (KDHE), Amy Dean Campmire (KDHE), Brandi Wells (KBOR), Justice Melissa Standridge, (Supreme Court), Tanya Keys, (DCF).
Staff: Melissa Rooker, Christie Wyckoff, Dyogga Adegbore.

CHAIRMAN’S REMARKS:

Don Hineman, Chair, called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone. The meeting will be brief compared to other meetings and without action items. Chairman Hineman asked that questions to be reserved until the end of the presentations.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER MINUTES

The board received a copy of the December 6, 2024, minutes. Chairman Hineman asked if there were any edits. Hearing none, in the absence of an objection, Chairman Hineman adopted the December 6, 2024, minutes by acclamation. There were no objections. The minutes were adopted.

WELL-BEING & PREVENTION EFFORTS

Chairman Hineman remarked the next presentation was at the request of the board at the December meeting. He welcomed Dr. Kaela Byers.

Dr. Kaela Byers, Associate Director, KU Center for Public Partnerships & Research (CPPR) gave an update on the national landscape of child and family well-being and why it is important in Kansas. Linking children to early childhood services and other prevention services early on produces overall well-being and prevents early adverse experiences. She provided information on Kansas’ participation in the national Thriving Families, Safer Children initiative, the impact of the Family First Prevention program and discussed the benefits of investing in Early Childhood Block Grants, Community-Based Child Prevention Grants, and Kansas Linking Infrastructure for Nurturing Kids (KAN-LINK). Dr. Byers also demonstrated the interactive Well-Being Pathway portal developed as part of our Community Based Child Abuse Prevention grant program.

EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVISORY COUNCIL

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director gave a membership update for Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. Tanya Koehn, Child Care Aware of Kansas stepped down because of a position change. Christi Smith, Child Care Aware of Kansas Executive Director and is

recommended to replace Tanya Koehn on our Panel.

Chairman Hineman asked the board if they preferred to make a formal motion to adopt the change of membership. The board accepted Christi Smith as a replacement for Tanya Koehn on ECAC without objection.

AGENCY UPDATES

Amanda Peterson, Director, Early Childhood Kansas State Department of Education.

- Everyone wanting to stay current on what is happening at KSDE, subscribe to the KSDE Weekly which is e-mailed to subscribers on Thursdays. It is a weekly newsletter pulling together significant happenings in education at KSDE and in the state. Sign up link is www.ksde.gov.
- Kansas Preschool Pilot is a program that provides funding to schools and community partners who partner with schools offering high quality preschool services. The program was first established in 2006. CIF funds \$4.2 million is appropriated with another \$4.1 million funded through TANF dollars. A slate of recommended recipients for next school year will be presented to the State Board of Education in mid-February, and those awards will be pending Kansas Legislature approval of the budget. The program is still called a pilot because it is still identified by that name in the state budget.
- Kansas Parents as Teachers grant applications are available. This program is also funded through CIF at \$9.4 million and there continues to be strong demand from current PATs for grant funds. There is the requirement for a local match for these grants. Several programs achieved the prestigious Blue-Ribbon status. KPAT started in 1990, and over the past ten years, there had been 155-170 school districts on average participating. The high point was 219 around 2009-2010 and then dropped off. We look forward to reviewing the applications. Any questions, feel free to contact Coordinator, Lisa Williams, lisa.williams@ksde.gov or Amanda.Petersen@ksde.gov.

Chairman Hineman remarked the drop in participation may have been due to the budget crunch around that time. Amanda responded that would be a fair assessment. Board member Terri Rice commended Amanda and KSDE Communications team for the informative weekly newsletter.

Tanya Keys, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department for Children and Families

- Announced the Summer SUN bucks (formerly called Summer EBT) program is open for application for families. The program was created to assist families buy food for their school-aged children during the summer months. Eligible families receive a one-time benefit of \$120 per year per child for the purchase of groceries. Some families automatically receive benefits, while others must apply through the DCF portal.
- One of many DCF bills in the legislature this session is the Thriving Families program. The program looks at the characterization of neglect in Kansas and how best to support

families through prevention services. A hearing was held last week but no action taken yet.

Justice Melissa Standridge, Supreme Court

- As a follow-up to the Child Welfare Summit held in April 2024, the multidisciplinary districts have scheduled meetings within their judicial districts streamline communications between agencies and courts, adopted protocols, establishing training for courtroom caseload workers, providing at-a-glance courtroom reports to highlight key information, conducting quarterly meetings of all 31 districts to deliberate on successes and ongoing challenges.
- Discussed two important initiatives established and led by legislators with collaboration between the three branches of government. One is called Child Welfare Reimagined, aimed at redesign of child welfare system to prioritize family well-being, equity, and prevention through a proactive approach to support families and strengthen communities. The second initiative is the Families Ad Astra, a judicial branch project in the planning stages. Training will be developed for judges, attorneys, and court professionals emphasizing adaptive and technical learning relative to children placed in state custody and how to provide guidance to parents to help them navigate a complex system understanding their rights and connecting them to essential resources.

Melissa Rooker said Brandi Wells, Kansas Board of Regents, was experiencing technology issues at the moment. Brandi wanted to share that the Blueprint for Literacy task force has been busy at work, and she looks forward to giving updates about the task force's progress to the Cabinet at future meetings.

Amy Dean Campmire, Co-Director, Bureau of Family Health, Kansas Department of Health and Environment reported:

- KDHE was awarded the Transforming Maternal Team Health Grant, a \$17 million dollar, 10-year grant. The grant intended for improving maternal health outcomes and addressing disparities, enhancing quality of access to care, supporting innovative strategies, and service delivery. The grant is focused on system level changes and workforce development, and evidence-based interventions to reduce maternal mortality of the underserved populations. Information will be sent out.

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

- CAPE, early childhood workforce registry went LIVE in mid-January. Kansas Child Care and Training Opportunity Foundation Center led the development of the registry. Approximately 800 people registered last month and could be well over 1,000 now. Kansas is one of the last states to have a workforce registry for providers. KDHE is partnering with KCCTF, DCF, and KSDE. See. www.YourCAPE.org.

- For the past year, KDHE received a CIF appropriation of \$1.3 million dollars for its Health and Safety grants. Application deadline ended and all funds are expended. KDHE appreciated the funding to offer the grants.

(Matthew Billinger, Kansas Department of Corrections and Juvenile Justice, was unable to provide an update due to legislative matters.)

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Melissa Rooker, gave updates:

- KSDE (including KCCTF) e-mail domain has changed to firstname.lastname@ksde.gov in compliance with new state statutory requirements. This went into effect January 15th. Notifying everyone because there have been issues with e-mails coming through to staff. The Children's Cabinet website also changed to www.kschildrenscabinet.gov; no longer .org.
- Now operating under only one PDG which is the Preschool Development Grant Renewal Grant. The award is \$7 million dollars per year for three years. This is Year 1. As with all federal awards, the future funding for grant years 2 and 3 are subject to Congressional appropriation.
- Completed the PDG Planning Grant the end of December 2024. Submitted annual narrative and financial reports to the feds. We fully expended all planning grant funds. The final report will be submitted the end of April.
- At the April board meeting, staff will present a slate of ECBG grant recommendations for approval.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

The next meeting is Friday, April 4, 2025. 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. Future meetings scheduled: June 6, August 1, October 3, and December 5, 2025.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business for discussion, Chairman Don Hineman adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.