

KANSAS EARLY CHILDHOOD GOVERNANCE SUMMIT SUMMARY

Friday, February 21, 2025



Overview

Welcome

Cornelia Stevens, Early Childhood Recommendations Panel Chair, thanked our presenters for serving Kansas children, families, and early childhood care and education professionals and welcomed attendees to our 2025 Early Childhood Governance Summit. The Early Childhood Recommendations Panel exists as a standing committee of the Kansas Children's Cabinet in its role as the state's designated Early Childhood Advisory Council. A designation created by Governor Kelly in her first term to bring us into compliance with federal law (Federal Head State Act) and to help assist in all of the work that goes on in the portfolio that we refer to as All In For Kansas Kids. The meeting was livestreamed on the Children's Cabinet [YouTube channel](#).

Early Childhood Legislative Update

John Wilson, Kansas Action for Children, provided a legislative update on early childhood issues in Kansas, covering key bills and the budget process. The current legislative session, which was scheduled to end on April 12th, passed a key deadline recently.

- Two significant bills were SB 132 and HB 2294, which aimed to consolidate early childhood programs into a single state agency (Office of Early Childhood), and SB207 and HB 2383, which provided benefits to childcare providers (telehealth services, monthly stipend for prescription medicine etc.).

CHILD CARE & EARLY LEARNING BILLS

- [SB 132](#) and [HB 2294](#) (identical bills) would consolidate programs currently in four different state agencies into the Office of Early Childhood. *No hearing scheduled yet.*
- [SB 207](#) and [HB 2383](#) (identical bills) would offer [child care](#) providers telehealth services, a monthly stipend for prescription medicines, a state match for the gap between the CACFP Tiers, and more. *No hearing scheduled yet.*

Legislative Update



- Additional bills focused on child tax credits, affordable housing, health insurance eligibility, and SNAP benefits were shared during the summit.

ECONOMIC SECURITY

- **HB 2210** would establish a state child tax credit for ages 0-3. *No hearing scheduled yet.*
- **SB 179** would establish a state child tax credit for ages 0-5. *No hearing scheduled yet.*
- **HB 2119** would eliminate the Kansas affordable housing tax credit. *Passed the House 85-36.*
- **HB 2074** would include renters in the Homestead Property Tax Credit. *Hearing held in House Commerce.*

Legislative Update



In addition to providing information related to what is happening within legislation, John provided information regarding the [Senate Committee on Ways and Means](#) as well.

Welcome Address

Melissa Rooker, Executive Director, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, welcomed everyone to the 4th Annual Governance Summit for the Early Childhood Care and Education System sponsored by the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel. The Early Childhood Recommendations Panel exists as a standing committee of the Kansas Children's Cabinet in its role as the state's designated Early Childhood Advisory Council. A designation created by Governor Kelly in her first term to bring us into compliance with federal law (Federal Head State Act) and to help assist in all of the work that goes on in the portfolio that we refer to as All In For Kansas Kids.

During our welcome address, Melissa emphasized her strong commitment to the work we do and her deep belief in the importance of what we deliver for the well-being of children and families across the states. She also expressed appreciation for the ongoing efforts throughout the year that help create the spaces experienced during the summit, where attendees can learn about initiatives aligned with the 'All in for Kansas' Strategic Plan. Melissa wants everyone to know that she values the opportunity to gather together each year.

Meeting Agenda, Presentation Slides, and Recording

- [Agenda](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)
- [Recording](#)



Governance Group Presentations

Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

Presented by Cornelia Stevens, Chair
TOP Early Learning Centers, Executive Director
cstevens@topelc.com

Lindsay Orion, Panel Support
KU CPPR, Research Project Manager
lindsayorion@ku.edu

Workforce Development Advisory Group

Presented by Chelsea Schulte
KCCTO, Associate Director of Programs
Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities
(785) 532-7197
cmitch@ksu.edu

Child Care Systems Improvement Team

Presented by Melissa Schoenberger
KDHE, Director of Systems & Field Services
Child Care Licensing
Bureau of Family Health
(785) 207-0623
melissa.schoenberger@ks.gov

Family First Prevention Services: Interagency and Community Advisory Board (ICAB) and The Family Council

Presented by Kaela Byers PhD, MSW
KU CPPR, Associate Director
kaela@ku.edu

Meghan Cizek, MA, LCSW
KU CPPR, Assistant Director
mcizek@ku.edu

Kansas Maternal Child Health Council

Presented by Jennifer Miller, DrPH
KDHE, State MCH Director
(785) 296-1205
jennifer.m.miller@ks.gov

Family Advisory Council

Presented by Ali Braun
KDHE, Family Systems Consultant
(785) 559-1297
aletheia.braun@ks.gov

State Home Visiting Leadership Group

Presented by Holly Frye
KDHE, Home Visiting Program Consultant
(785) 296-1308
holly.m.frye@ks.gov

Lisa Williams
KSDE, Parents as Teachers Coordinator
lwilliams@ksde.org

Kansas Early Learning Standards

Presented by Natalie McClane
KSDE, Preschool Programs Coordinator
(785) 296-5081
nmcclane@ksde.org

Family Leadership Team

Presented by Cora Ungerer
KDHE, Title V CSHCN Director
cora.ungerer@ks.gov

Ali Braun
KDHE, Family Systems Consultant
aletheia.braun@ks.gov

Kansas State Interagency Coordinating Council

Presented by Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer
SICC Chair
kansasicc@ksde.gov

Kansas Early Childhood Data Trust Governance Board

Presented by Jared Barton PhD, MSW
KU CPPR, Director
jaredlee@ku.edu

Quality Recognition and Improvement System Advisory Board

Presented by Sarah Minshull
Child Care Aware, Director of Innovation,
Programs, and Strategy
info@ks.childcareaware.org
website: ks.childcareaware.org

Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council's Children's Subcommittee

Nanette L. Perrin, PhD, BCBA-D, LBA

Senior Director, LifeShare and Social Determinants of Health

nanette.l.perrin@sunflowerhealthplan.com