

All In For Kansas Kids



Early Childhood Recommendations Panel

Meeting March 27, 2026



Welcome

Thank you for serving Kansas children, their families, and our state's early childhood care and education professionals!

This is a remote meeting.

- Today's meeting materials are posted on the [Panel Meetings webpage](#) on the Children's Cabinet site.
- Panel members will clearly identify themselves when they begin speaking.
- Panel members can use the "raise hand" feature to show they are ready to share.
- The virtual chat will not be used during this meeting in compliance with KOMA and for accessibility purposes.

Recommendations Panel

The Kansas Early Childhood Recommendations Panel serves as an **advisory group** to the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund (Children's Cabinet). The Children's Cabinet was established in 1999 (K.S.A. 38-1901) to assist the Governor in developing and implementing a coordinated, comprehensive delivery system to serve Kansas children and families. Additionally, the Children's Cabinet plays a key role in enabling our state to implement the ***All In for Kansas Kids*** early childhood system strategic plan, respond to challenges, elevate recommendations from communities and stakeholders, and make key decisions to help us achieve the vision outlined in the strategic plan.



Purpose

Today's agenda

- Welcome
- Approval of March Agenda
- Approval of January Meeting Minutes & February EC Gov. Summit Summary
- Panel Introductions
- Kansans' Open Forum / Kansas in the News
- KAN-LINK
- KPoP
- Child Care Provider Market Rate Analysis
- Work Group Summary
- System Updates
- Key Take-Away's
- Adjourn
 - *Work Groups will meet following adjournment*

Action items

Panel members - please clearly identify yourself when you begin speaking to make or second a motion.

- Approval of March agenda
- Approval of January minutes
- Summit Celebration



<https://kschildrenscabinet.gov/ec-governance-summit/>

Kansans' Open Forum

Kansans are encouraged to submit comments through the Kansans' Open Forum Comment Form by 5:00 p.m. 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.

Kansas in the News

CPPR Launches Kansas Future Fellows Fifth Cohort, Deepening Statewide Futures Work



Congratulations to:

- Sarah Behrens
- Tammie Benham
- Holly Frye
- Kimberly Kennedy
- AbdulRasak Yahaya

<https://cppr.ku.edu/news/article/cppr-launches-kff-fifth-cohort-deepening-statewide-futures-work>



Annual Report 2025

Well-Being Welcome

Melissa Schoenberger, Chair

- Empathy
- Connections



KAN-LINK

Meghan Cizek & Jenny Buller, KU-CPPR

Kansas Linking Infrastructure for
Nurturing kids



PARTNERS



Center for Public
Partnerships and Research

Building Early Childhood-Child Welfare Partnerships to Support the Well-Being of Young Children, Families, and Caregivers projects are supported by Grant Number HHS-2023-ACF-ACYF-CA-0011 from the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families/Children's Bureau within the Administration for Children and Families, a division of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Neither the Administration for Children and Families nor any of its components operate, control, are responsible for, or necessarily endorse this website (including, without limitation, its content, technical infrastructure, and policies, and any services or tools provided). The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Administration for Children and Families and the Administration on Children, Youth, and Families/Children's Bureau.

KAN-LINK Vision, Aim, and Focus

VISION

Ensure Kansas families can connect to the services they need to thrive safely in their communities.

AIM

Increase access to early childhood ecosystem supports for all Kansas families to reduce the need for child welfare system intervention.

FOCUS

Family-led policy scans and pilots designed to:

- Identify and introduce opportunities to support family linkage to early childhood ecosystem.
- Test small practice changes in local contexts.

Pillar 1 Ecosystem

- **Goal 1 Strengthen the continuum** of early childhood services through widespread **collaboration across state and local partners.**
- **Goal 2 Connect families** to the right service at the right time through comprehensive networks of resources and programs.
- **Goal 5** Support policies and initiatives that increase capacity, enhance quality, **improve access to services,** and contribute to economic security for families.



**Strategic Plan
Alignment**

**Focused on
upstream
preventative
solutions**

Pillar 3: Experiences of Children & Families

- **Goal 1 Engage families** in opportunities to connect and learn while encouraging family input and **acting on insights from lived experience**.
- **Goal 2 Build awareness of the services available** to help families make informed decisions in support of their child's interests, healthy development, and learning.
- **Goal 3** Improve child well-being by **increasing access to the full range of services** that prioritize safe, nurturing parent/caregiver relationships and strong families.



**Strategic Plan
Alignment**

**State and local-
level engagement**

Family Voice

- Six Lived Experts – compensated
- Quarterly cohort & monthly Steering Committee meetings
- Review data and set priorities
- Impact/findings
 - Gaps in policy intent vs. practice and family experiences
 - Where are gaps in intent/impact?



**Pillar 3: Experiences of
Children & Families**

Family Resource center Pilot Purpose & Goals

Pilot community-based innovation labs to test and address local priorities, infrastructure, and policies.

Strengthen referral coordination and service gaps.

Find out what's working for families and build on those strengths.

Identify local priorities and co-create small, new, safe-to-fail ideas.

Test out new strategies and scale what works.



Pillar 1: Ecosystem

Pillar 2: Experiences of Children and Families

Local Innovation Labs

Family Resource Center (FRC) pilots for small tests of local practice change for connecting families to ECE services:

**Health Insurance
Navigation
screening/referrals**

**Perinatal/postnatal
Care Linkage**

**School district ECE
screening/referrals**



Test – Iterate - Scale

Pony Express Partnership for Children

- USD (Marysville) Partnership and pathway/shared referral and service tracking form
- Family-led outreach advisory council and referral pathways
 - Organically emerged, increased connections with hard-to-reach families
 - Skill building, using pilot to train members in data collection, reporting, etc.
- Marshall and Washington county



Schools Linkages

Turner USD

- New Turner USD screening and referral process at enrollment and kindergarten round-up, to reach siblings
- Wyandotte County, Kansas
- Next step: Expanding to other schools



**School District
Linkages**

Livewell Northwest KS



- Screen families with children under age 5 for ECE needs during insurance navigation appointments at [LiveWell FRC](#). Refer to resource navigators.
- Bonus: Explore “self-referral” ideas via UPC code on flyers and IRIS network.
- Cheyenne, Rawlins, Decatur, Norton, Sherman, Thomas, Sheridan, Graham, Wallace, and Logan county



**Health Insurance/
System Pathway**

Community Children's Center



- Lawrence Memorial Hospital
 - Labor and delivery pathway to start, hoping to create model for other stages/departments
 - Launched pilot/share batch of flyers/coupons with LMH labor and delivery March 4th
- Mi Apoyo Prenatal (a Douglas County Family Support Program)
 - Prenatal connections



Perinatal/Postnatal
Care Linkages

Kansas Children's Service League

- KU Wichita Pediatrics
- Developed flyer with clinic and family council input, adding UPC code for self-referral/outreach
- Focus on 1-month visits
- Clinic sees about 100 a month, with many challenges and needs



Pediatric Pathways

Sharing/Reflection

- What's one FRC pilot idea that stands out to you?
- Where do you see possibilities of scaling these models on other areas of the state?
- What learnings/knowledge would be helpful to leave behind for the ECE ecosystem when it comes to engaging families with experience navigating systems?



KAN-LINK

Questions & Contact Information



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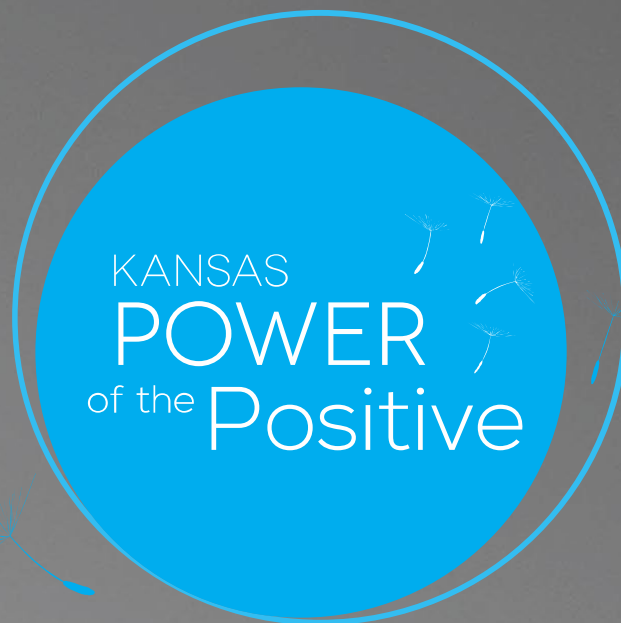
mcizek@ku.edu

K-PoP

Vanessa Eberle & Sophia Ringering

Kansas Power of the Positive





Recommendations Panel KS Essentials for Childhood Project

Vanessa Eberle | Sophia Ringering | March 2026

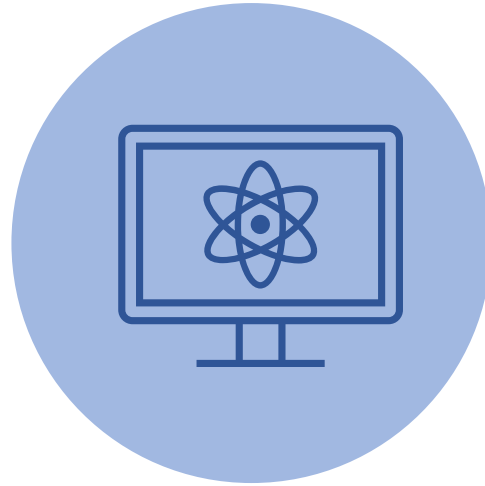


Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

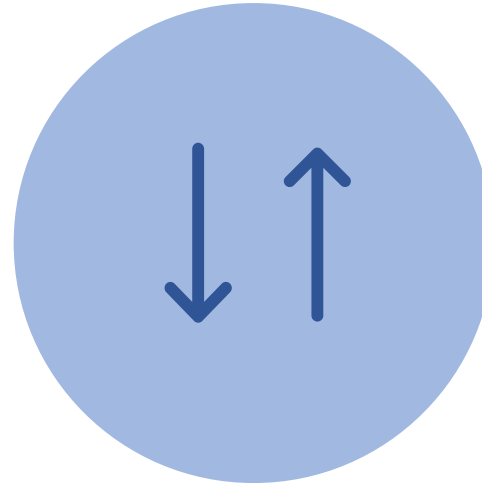
The Kansas Essentials for Childhood vision is that all children thrive in a safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments.



**Statewide
Coalition**



**CDC Cooperative
Agreement**



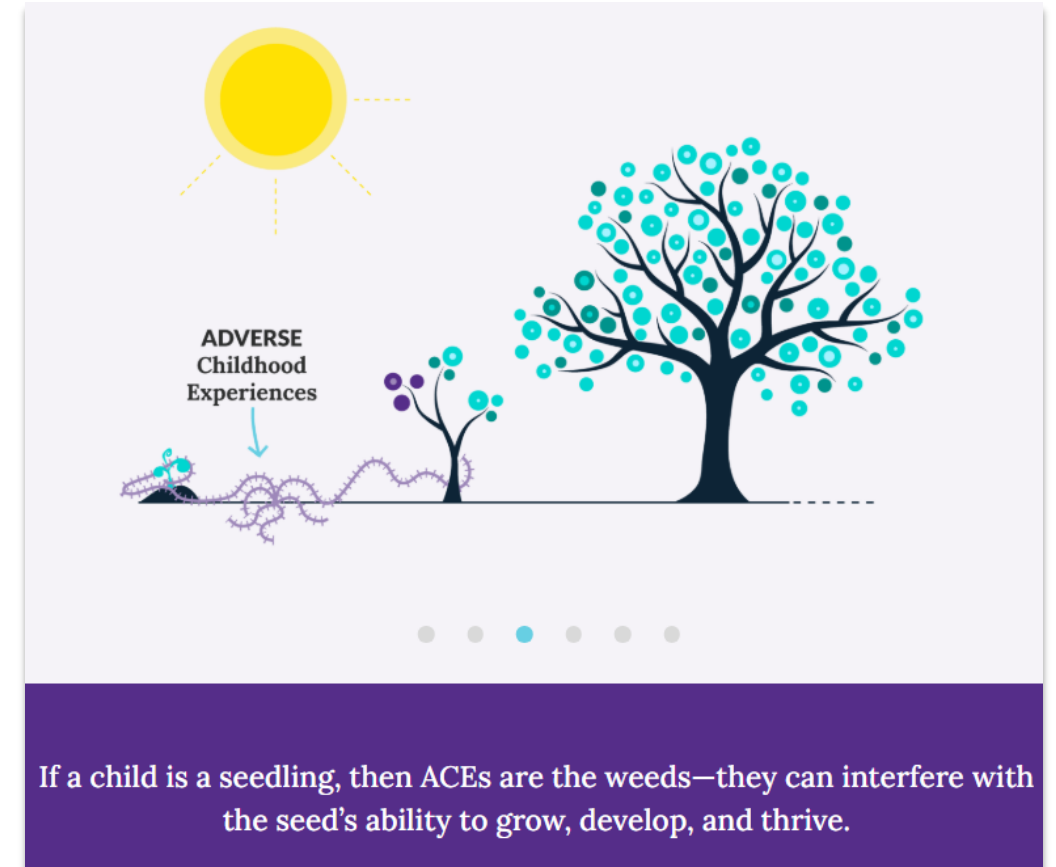
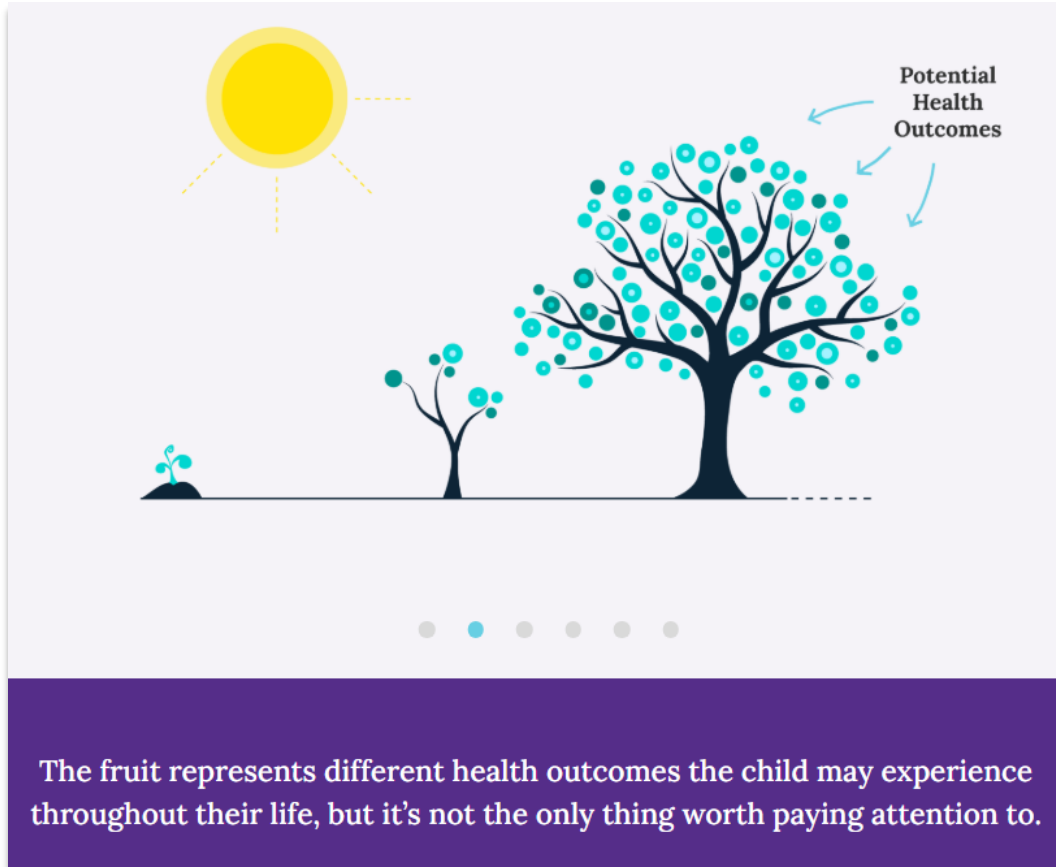
**Reduce ACEs &
Promote PCEs**



**Evidence Based
Upstream Approach**

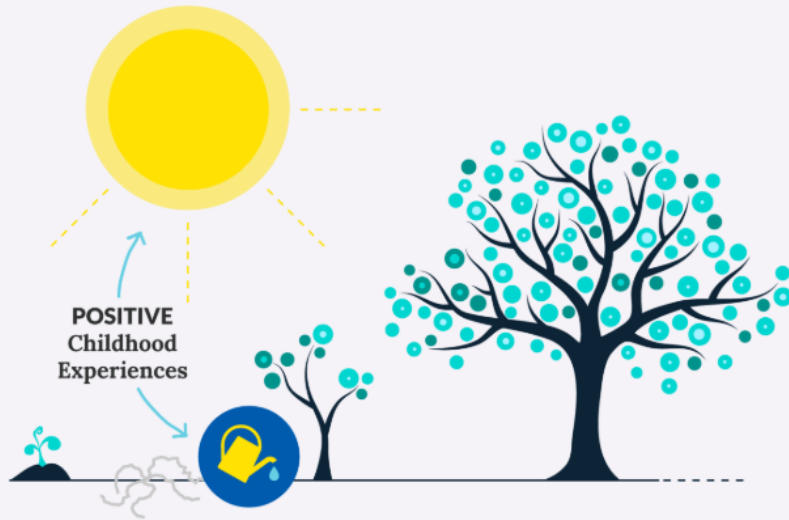
Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Consider the full context.



[ACEs & PCEs Data to Action | VetoViolence](#)

Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)



PCEs, meanwhile, are nourishing water and sunlight—they encourage and are critical to the seed's growth, even if weeds are also present.

But we must also observe the



WEEDS,



SOIL,



SUNLIGHT, and



WATER

across the whole garden—ACEs and PCEs across the entire community or population.

That way, we can understand how to prevent obstacles to growth and encourage healthy outcomes for everyone.

[ACEs & PCEs Data to Action | VetoViolence](#)

KPoP Strategies



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Strategy

Strengthen economic supports to families

Change social norms to support parents & positive parenting

Provide quality care & education early in life

Enhance parenting skills to promote healthy child development

Intervene to lessen harms & prevent future risk

Approach

-Strengthening household financial security
-Family-friendly work policies

-Public engagement & education campaigns
-Legislative approaches to reduce corporal punishment

-Preschool enrichment with family engagement
-Improved quality of childcare through licensing & accreditation

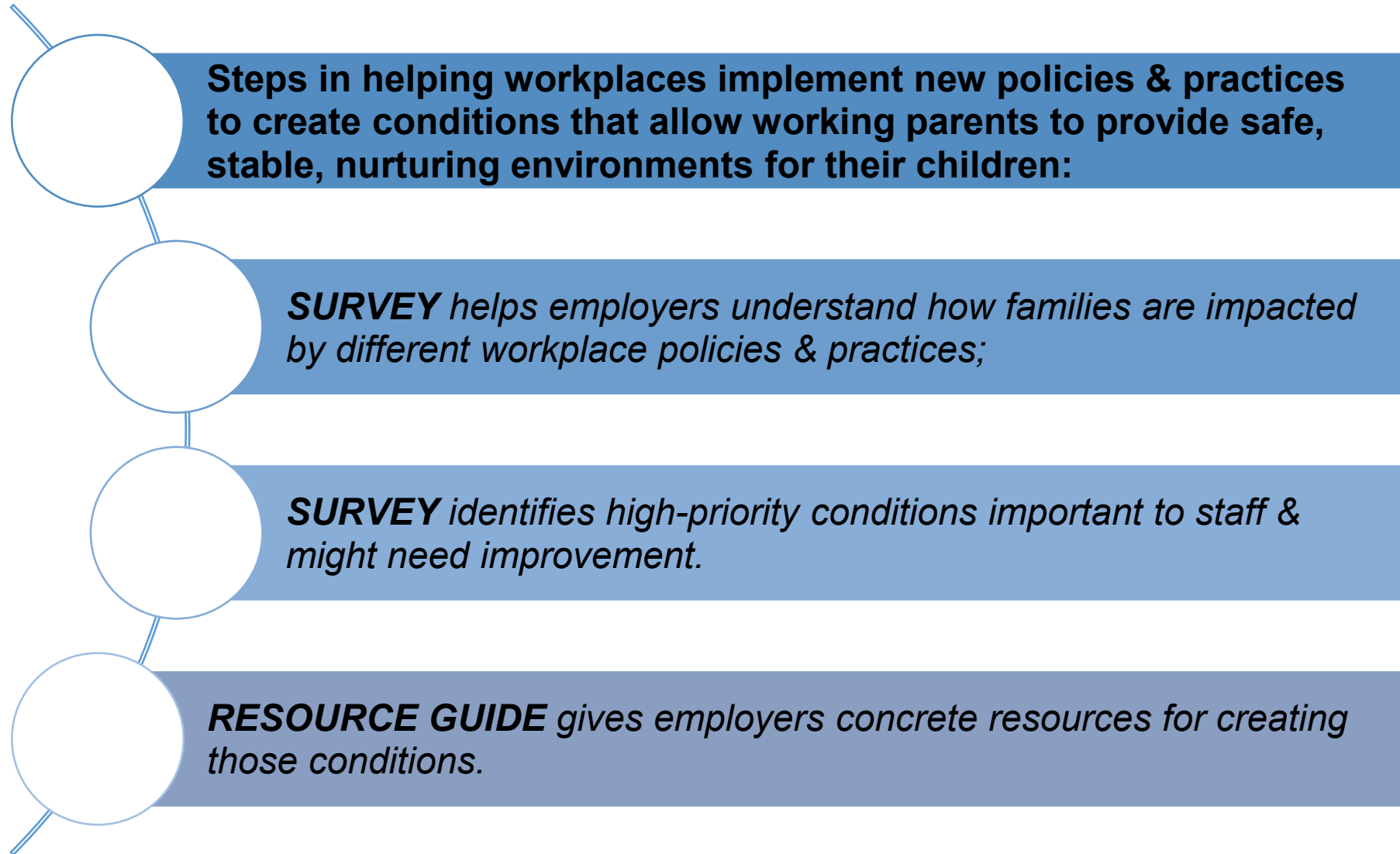
-Early childhood home visitation
-Parenting skill & family relationship approaches

-Enhanced primary care
-Behavioral parent training programs
-Treatment to lessen harms of abuse & neglect exposure
-Treatment to prevent problem behavior & later involvement in violence

PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)



Benefits for employers.

The family-friendly work policy benefits EMPLOYERS...

Recruits and retains the best employees.

Reduces employee absenteeism,
turnover and on-the-job injury.

Increases employee satisfaction,
productivity, commitment to the
company and performance.

Develops the future workforce.

Improves the company's public image.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Benefits for children and families.

The family-friendly work policy benefits children and families...

Access to stable child care.

Continued breastfeeding for optimal child development.

Provides for children's basic needs.

Reduces maternal depression and parental stress.

Access to medical care for children.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

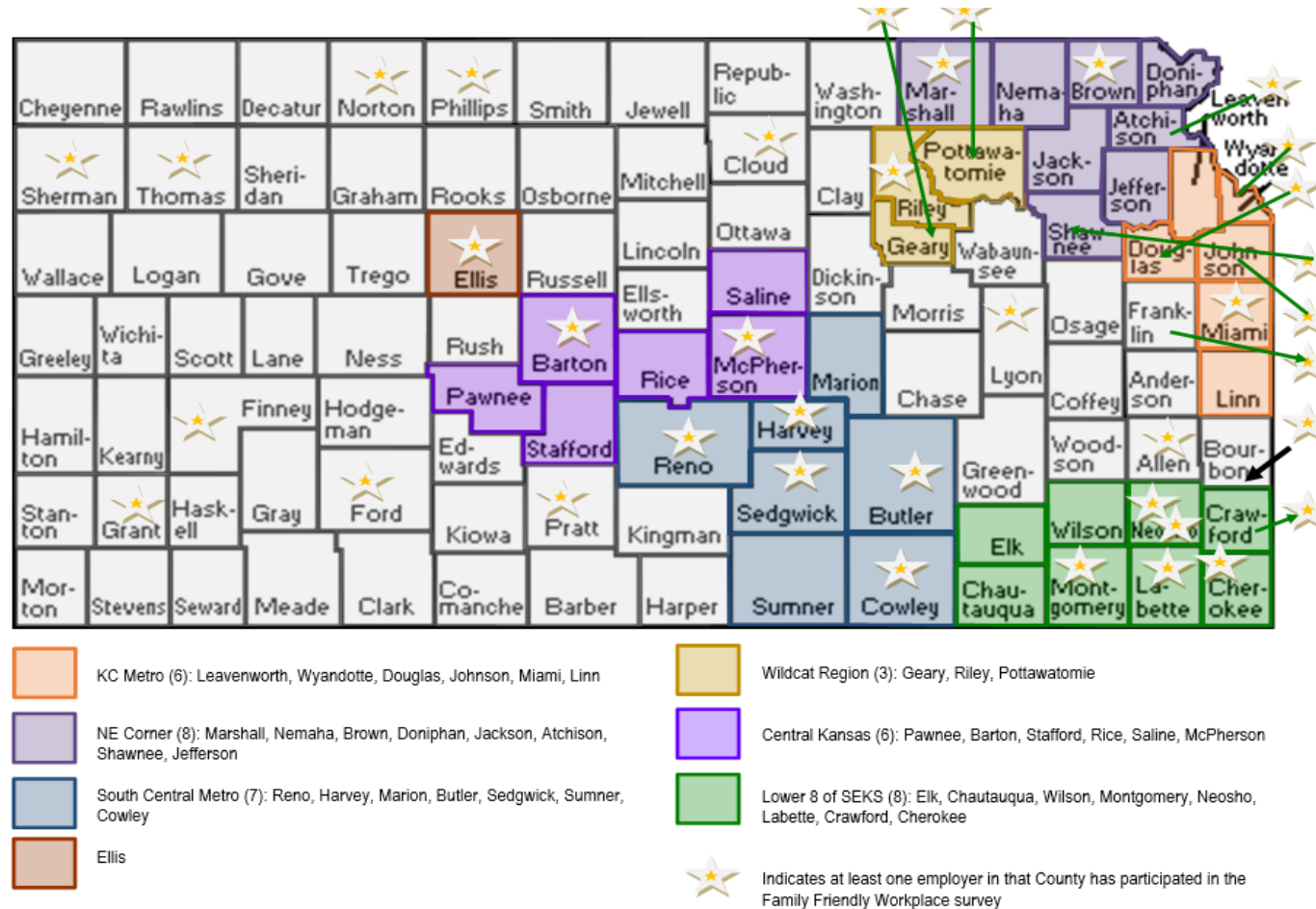
Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Sample of report for workplace administration.

Click each condition below to view the related Resource Guide	Average Workplace Rating ⓘ	Average Importance to Staff ⓘ	Please select at least one item for planned quality improvement ⓘ	Allow Peer Mentoring? ⓘ
A flexible work schedule to allow time for family issues	Excellent	Extremely important		☐
The ability to bring infants to work the first six months of life	Poor	Not at all important	☐	
The ability to bring my child(ren) to onsite child care	Poor	Moderately important	☐	
The ability to telework when needed	Poor	Extremely important	☐	
Workplace access to parenting education and support	Poor	Slightly important	☐	
Consistent, predictable work schedule	Excellent	Extremely	☐	☐

Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Employers implementing the survey in Kansas.



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)



**Flexible Work
Schedule**



**Child Care
Access**



**Paid
Parental
Leave**



**Continued
Breastfeeding**



**Comprehensive
Employee
Wellness**



**Supportive
Services &
Resources**



**Predictable
Work
Schedule**



**Livable Wages &
Career
Development**

Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Policy Change → Community Impact



To date, **28 policy changes** have been implemented toward creating a family friendly work environment.

Most common policy changes:

- Ability to telework.
- Access to parenting education and support.
- Support and facilities for breastfeeding.
- Domestic violence policies.



Estimated number of **12,000 employees** impacted.

»» 8 employers agree to be peer mentors.

Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Family Friendly Workplace Designation

**COMING
SOON...**



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

Strategy

Strengthen economic supports to families

Change social norms to support parents & positive parenting

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PREVENTING CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

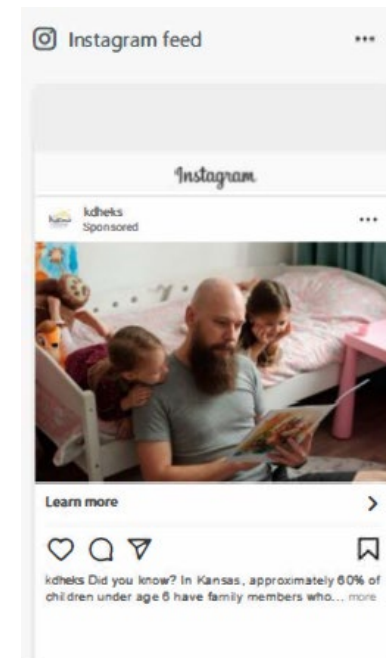
Changing social norms → getting connected!



...Isolation and loneliness a top health priority, calling on everyone to promote social connectedness as a prevention strategy.

- U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Vivek H. Murthy,
2023 report

Essentials for Childhood 2025 Social Media Campaign



Social Connectedness



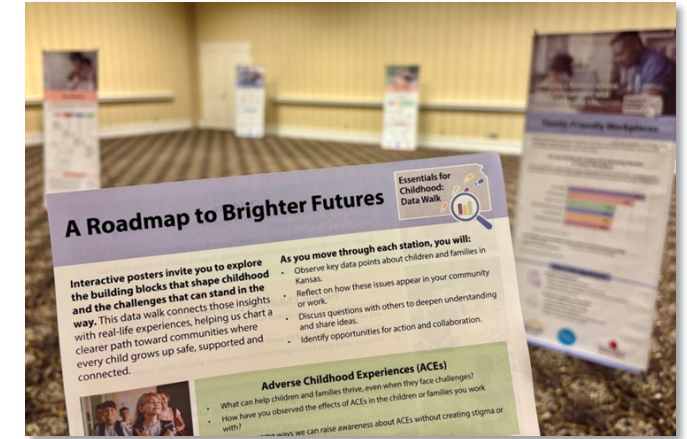
HOPE

HEALTHY OUTCOMES
FROM POSITIVE EXPERIENCES

Data Collection and Data-to-Action

Essentials for Childhood Program Goals

1. Build or **improve data collection** infrastructure and capacity.
2. Implement and sustain ACEs prevention strategies.
3. Conduct ongoing **data-to-action activities**.



Importance of Youth Data Collection

Data for Informed Decisions

- Provides insight into youth behaviors, experiences and needs.
- Measures progress overtime.
- Supports decision-making and resource allocation.
- Elevates youth voices.

Current Challenges:

- Decreased participation.
- Legislative barriers restrict data collection efforts.



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)

PCEs Reduce Economic Burden in Four States

From the 2015 to 2020 BRFSS data in Kansas, Montana, South Carolina, and Wisconsin among adults who report having 3+ PCEs.



\$216B
SAVED in four states

\$3.1
BILLION

Lower Medical
Spending

\$212.8
BILLION

Savings due to additional
healthy life years

\$28,000

Saved per adult with
3+ PCEs annually

\$782,000

Saved per adult
over their lifetime

Source: Sege RD, Aslam MV, Peterson C, et al. Positive Childhood Experiences and Adult Health and Opportunity Outcomes in 4 US States. JAMA Netw Open. 2025;8(7):e2524435. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2025.24435

How you can get involved

- Connect with businesses to take the Family Friendly Workplace (FFW) survey.
- Become a YRBS champion.
- Host a Data Walk.
- Share the Essentials for Childhood policy brief with a legislator.
- Join KPoP.
- Take a Connections Matter or HOPE training.
- Share/comment on our social media posts.
- Take the Community Health Worker's learning module.



Kansas Power of the Positive (KPoP)



Vanessa Eberle

Essentials for Childhood Program Manager

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Thank You/Questions



Child Care Provider Market Rate Analysis

Ivy Doxley Martin & Megan Smith



2026 Kansas Child Care Market Rate Analysis Kick-Off

Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council,
Recommendations Panel

3/27/2026

Agenda

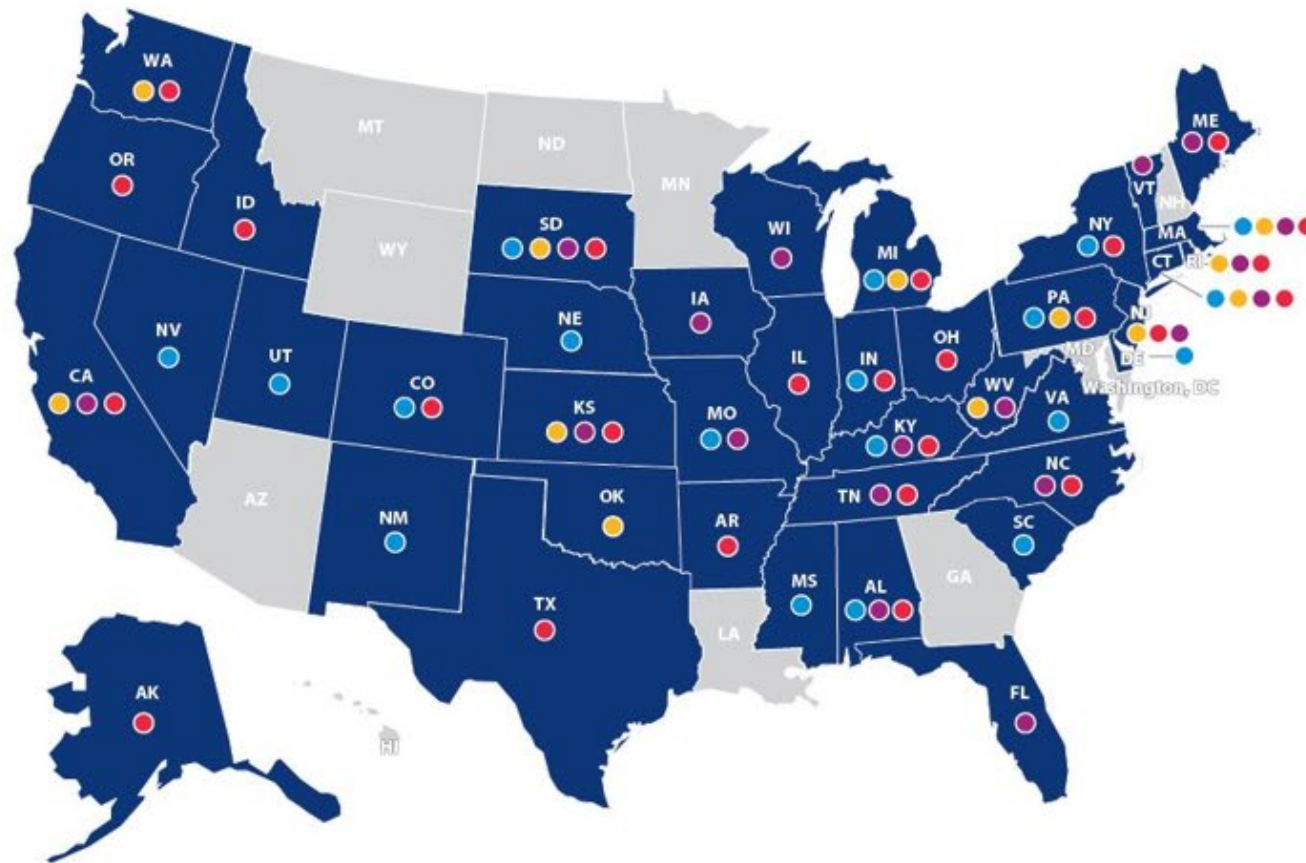
- Intro to Public Consulting Group
- PCG Project Team
- Project Scope
- Project Timeline
- 2024 Market Rate Survey Feedback



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Public Consulting Group

PCG: A National Leader and Partner in Early Childhood Services



- Market Rate and Cost
- Licensing and QRIS
- Strategic Development
- Workforce

NATIONAL IMPACT: PCG BY THE NUMBERS

2k

PCG has helped to improve service quality by conducting planned and unplanned site visits to 1,850 early childhood providers

90k+

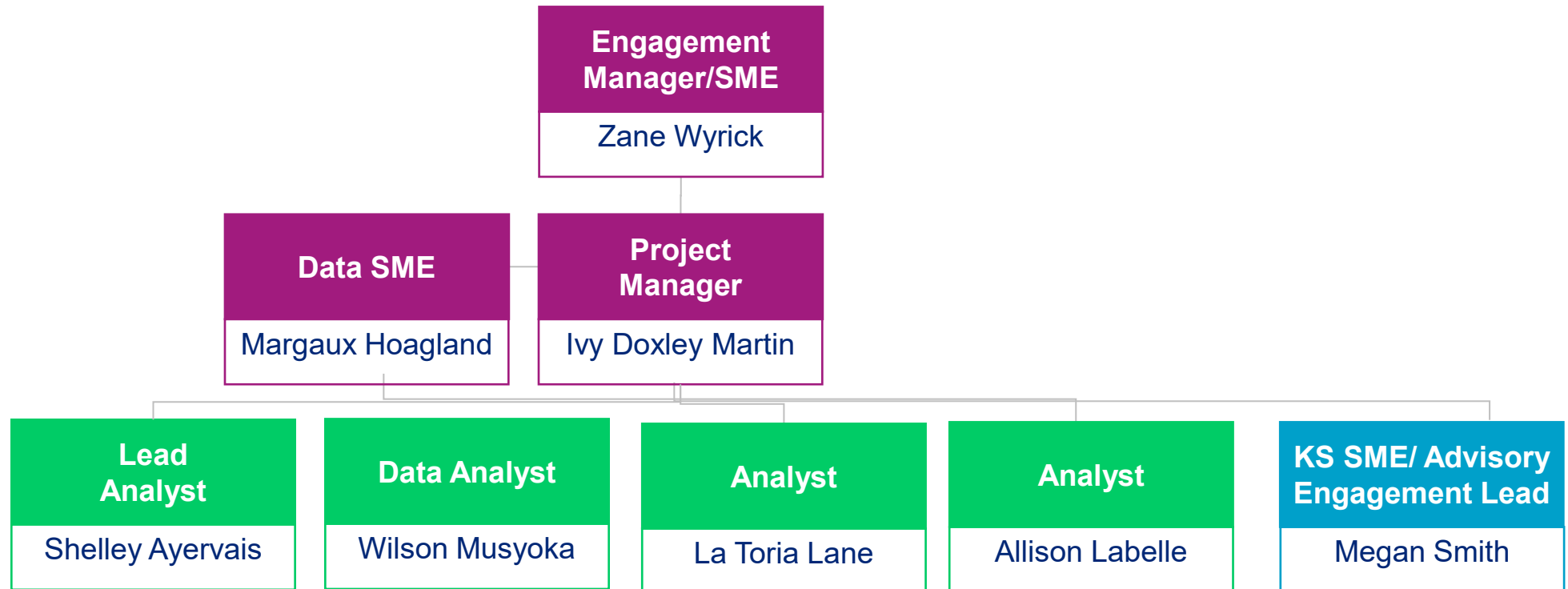
PCG training/professional development services and state-wide workforce registries have supported over 90,000 early childhood professionals

3.5 mil

PCG projects impact over 3,490,000 children and families across the US

2024-Child Care Market Rate Studies MO, WY, and RI

PCG Project Team Roles



High Level Overview of Project Scope

Market Rate & Cost Analysis

- Quantify regulated providers by type and county
- 75th percentile Private-pay rates
- Assess accuracy of county rate groupings
- Compare subsidy payments to actual cost of care

Provider Characteristics

- Accreditation status
- Professional development participation
- Alternative hours of care
- Part-time vs. full-time rate structures

Subsidy & CCDF Participation

- Share of eligible children served
- Barriers to participation
- Use of subsidy slot caps

Required Cost & Fee Analysis

- Narrow Cost Analysis (base rates vs. cost of care)
- Cost of Links to Quality participation
- Enrollment fees, discounts, and additional charges

Advisory Group Consultation and Reporting

- Consult with Advisory Group as deemed necessary
- Comprehensive final report
- Additional Plain language summary

Project Timeline

Timeframe	Phase	Key Activities & Deliverables
March 2026	Project Initiation	Project kickoff; governance & project plan; Begin Advisory partners consultation planning
April	Survey Development, Testing and Translation	Survey design and DCF approval; advisory group engagement; develop provider outreach materials
April–June 2026	Survey Launch & Engagement, Preparing for Data Analysis	Survey administration for 4–6 weeks, listening sessions by 6/15/2026,
June–July 2026	Data Collection & Analysis	Survey administration; data validation; market rate analysis; narrow cost analysis and developing any cost model update recommendations
August 2026 Final Report Draft due by 8/31/26	Draft Reporting	Draft report development with advisory partner feedback incorporated;
Sept–Oct 2026	Public Review, Feedback collection & Finalization	Public posting and review; response to public comments; final revisions and approvals
Oct 31, 2026	Final Delivery	Presentation of findings, Final Report, Executive Summary, and Plain-Language Summary



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Consultation with Key Advisors and Partners

Advisory Group Contributions and Schedule

Advisor Contributions

- Ad hoc work group within the KS Early Childhood Recommendations Panel
- Provide input and feedback on key project deliverables
- Share their experience and expertise on child care subsidy in Kansas
- Complete any work prior to meetings to be prepared for each work session and discussion. (e.g., feedback surveys, interactive whiteboards, document/report reading, etc.)
- Actively engage in discussions

2026 Collaboration Schedule

Month	Focus
March (Full Panel)	Discuss gaps in knowledge from the 2024 Market Rate Study and opportunities for the 2026 Market Rate Survey
April	Survey design feedback and initial outreach strategies for survey/listening sessions
May	Discuss initial survey findings and additional outreach strategies for survey/listening sessions, if needed
August	Data validation discussions
September	Review and provide feedback on initial drafted report
October	Presentation of drafted final report

Strengthening the 2026 MRS Survey

Build on Prior Findings

Are there findings or topics in the 2024 Kansas Child Care Market Rate Analysis report that you suggest PCG explore further for the 2026 survey or upcoming listening sessions with providers?

Refine Survey Content

Are there additional topics to consider for the survey – keeping in mind that best practice is to keep the survey brief and focused?

Increase Participation and Reach

What specific individuals, groups, or organizations could help us promote positive messaging around the 2026 survey and boost participation?

Center Underrepresented Voices

Looking ahead to the April Panel working group session, which groups/provider types should be considered for inclusion in listening sessions, particularly those representing underrepresented voices? And are there ideas for how to best reach them?

Strengthen Survey Effectiveness

Are there any additional insights or considerations we should be aware of that could further enhance the effectiveness of the survey?

Next Steps

Please complete the survey:

2026 Kansas Child Care Market
Rate Survey: Advisor Insight
Survey #1



[2026 Kansas Child Care Market Rate Survey: Advisor Insight Survey #1 – Fill out form](#)

Key Contacts



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Megan Smith

Advisory Group Engagement Lead
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Questions?



Solutions that Matter

Work Group Preparation for April

Melissa Schoenberger, Chair



2025-2026 Work groups

April Meeting Request: Workgroup Check-In

- What is your work group exploring?
- Any “aha moments” in your work groups?
- Unforeseen barriers?
- What can the Panel assist your work group with?



Overview

All In For Kansas Kids



System Updates



Statewide Opportunities

- **KAIMH Conference**, *RESILIENCE: Building Children's Capacity to Bend Without Breaking*. April 23-24 in Wichita. Registration:
<https://kaimh.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/kaimh/eventRegistration.jsp?event=44&>
- **Care and Wellness Conferences**, Family Driven Connections. This **FREE** event brings together Kansas early childhood professionals, mental health providers, and families to focus on mental health and special healthcare needs.
Registration : https://kusurvey.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_06qYoiUsTz6y0ES
 - May 6: Wichita, Wichita State University's Eugene M. Hughes Metroplex
 - May 7: Salina, Tony's Pizza Event Center
 - June 26: Olathe, KVC Ball Event Center, 21350 W 153rd Street



System Updates

Key Take-Aways

Key Take-Aways: Empathy & Connections

- The value of a lived expert is critical to work with families. A lived expert help the system work better because they help it stay grounded in real human experiences. They ensure the work is connected to the people it's meant to serve.
- We need social connectedness – being seen and understand it a core tenant for all human beings. It reminds us we are a part of something larger – like the work and make up of the Panel.



Lessons Learned

2026-2027 Panel Applications

Early Childhood Recommendation Panel 2026-27 membership applications will be accepted from **April 3 - May 4, 2025** on the Children's Cabinet website:

- Any Kansan interested in applying is welcome
- June 5, 2026 – membership recommendations presented to KCCTF Board for approval
- The membership year will extend from July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027
- Contact Lindsay Orion(lindsayorion@ku.edu) with questions

<https://kschildrenscabinet.org/apply-for-the-early-childhood-recommendations-panel/>



Application

Meeting Schedule

Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

- April 3, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Livestream via [Children's Cabinet YouTube](#)

Panel Meetings

- April 17
- May 14 (3rd Thursday)
- June 26 (4th Friday)



Upcoming Meetings

Stay Up to Date



[All In For Kansas Kids Newsletter](#)



[Follow All In For Kansas Kids](#)



[kansaschildrenscabinet YouTube](#)

