

# Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services

Meeting Minutes  
Topeka, KS and Virtual  
September 16, 2022  
1:00 PM

## Members Present

David Lindeman, Chair & Regents Representative  
Ann Elliott, Provider Member  
Laura Leistra, Medicaid Representative  
Amy Meek for Melissa Rooker, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund  
Melissa Rooker, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund  
Susan Bowles, Provider Member  
Nichelle Adams, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF)  
Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Parent Member  
Julie Rand, Kansas State Dept. of Education (KSDE)  
Monica Ross, Provider Member  
Erin Schuweiler, Provider Member  
Kimber Corn, Head Start Representative  
Gary Henault, KDADS

## Members Not Present

Tricia Waggoner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)  
Lisa Collette, Vice-Chair & Insurance Commission Representative  
Lesli Girard, Families Together (Ex-Officio)

## Nonmembers Present

Kristy Cotton, SICC Staff Person  
Lisa Isaacson, KITS  
Amanda Petersen, KSDE  
Rich Minder, LICC Chair-Douglas County

Kim Kennedy, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF) (Ex-Officio)  
Stephanie Wills, Part C Coordinator- Garden City  
Micah Karl, Part C Coordinator-Riley County  
Erica Figuero, KU-CPPR  
Lynn Schrepferman, Wichita State University  
Shanna Lacey, Part C Coordinator-Sedgwick County  
Maureen Hernandez, Part C Coordinator-Leavenworth County  
Amy Rzaczyński, KSDE  
Jennifer Nicholson, DCF  
Jana Hogan, Art Valley Coop-Valley City Kansas  
Shanna Bigler, KSDE  
Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, Part C Coordinator- Northwest Kansas  
Pat Haas, LICC Chair- Salina

**Call to order:** Chair Dave Lindeman introduced himself and called the meeting to order with introductions of all present (it was noted that there was a quorum).

**Meeting Minutes:**

The minutes from August 2022 were reviewed and approved.

Ann Elliott – Made motion to accept agenda

Laura Leistra– 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion carried – All members voted yes

**Meeting agenda:**

The agenda for September 2022 was reviewed and approved.

Susan Bowles – Made motion to accept agenda

Ann Elliott – 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion carried – All members voted yes

**Public Comment**

None

**State Program Update**

**KSDE- Amanda Petersen**

Amanda Petersen spoke to the Council about Aggregate Statewide ASQ Data.

- ASQ provides a snapshot of children’s development
- Two Different Questionnaires

- ASQ-3 (5 Domains)
- ASQ-SE-2 (7 areas of Social Emotional Development)
- 2015 State Board adopted the Kansas Can vision
- After the Board adopted the vision began working on what they could adopt for the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot
  - Partnered with families for incoming Kindergartners to get a snapshot of where they are in their development
  - Agency wanted to ensure these key ideas
    - Provide a snapshot of where children are upon entry into kindergarten
      - Include 5 areas-Communication, Problem Solving, motor, Social Emotional areas of development
- 2016 Kansas was awarded Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems Grant
  - Began expanding ASQ access in communities
- 2018 First year all preschools were required to partner with families of incoming kindergarten students to do the ASQ screening
- 2020 KSDE and Brookes Publishing signed 2<sup>nd</sup> statewide contract including expanded access to the ASQ.
  - Year Kansas also became a Help Me Grow affiliate
- You can go to the Kansas Children Website [here](#), to learn more about the Kansas needs assessment and the Strategic Plan.
- Amanda shared ASQ data for the state of Kansas. If you would like a copy of this information, you may reach out to Amanda Petersen at [apetersen@ksde.org](mailto:apetersen@ksde.org)

## State Program Update

### Kansas Children's Cabinet-Melissa Rooker

- Melissa started off by giving an update on the MICHEIV re-authorization
- Melissa gave an overview of what the Kansas Children's Cabinet is.
  - Part of their funding come the states share of the Tobacco Settlement
  - They focus on 3 pillars
    - Healthy Development
    - Strong Families
    - Early Learning
- Fund many agencies across the state
- They are responsible for the Early Childhood Block Grant
  - Competitive grant-funds are sent out based on those who meet the criteria in the blueprints

- Community Based Child Abuse Prevention Fund-receives about 1 million a year
- Preschool Development Grant (PDG)-Federal grant that was awarded as a 1 year planning grant that was awarded to the state in 2019
  - Partnership between the Kansas Children's Cabinet, DCF, KSDE and KDHE.
  - Had to go in the community to do a needs assessment with families across the state of Kansas
  - Used the results to apply for a 3-year renewal grant that Kansas was awarded in Spring of 2020
- Does annual needs assessment every year to compare pre-pandemic years vs pandemic years.
  - Used to see how the pandemic has affected the trajectory of things
- PDG is a grant aimed at the system
  - Used for transformation of our system
  - Funds can't be used to expand the number of slots for kids in programs
  - The funds are to help activate the All In For Kansas Strategic Plan goals and turning them into reality
  - 3-year renewal that is about 8 million dollars a year
  - 1/3 of the grant has been used as sub grants to help improve access to services
  - Used to help fund the 1-800-Children help line
  - Contracted with a company named Aunt Bertha
    - Helped with national resources for families
    - Updated Kansas level Resources
- PDG help fund an effort called Community Level Adaptive Technical Assistance
  - Helped to grow the Iris Network
- Worked with KDHE pilot a program called Bridges
- Provided Funds for Childcare Health Consultant Network
- PDG helps fund many other programs across the state of Kansas.
- You may find more about this information at the [Kansas Children's Cabinet](#) website.

### **Committee Reports:**

#### Social Emotional Workgroup

- Committee met August 25
- Written Report Items:
  - Provided a brief description of new/ongoing activities of the committee

- The group brainstorming ideas to make the Socio-Emotional SICC website useful for parents.
- Want to add infant/toddler mental health resources
- Nichelle and Elizabeth provided resources for Social Emotional Development
- The committee would like to find a speaker to share with the Social Emotional Committee and Social Emotional Initiatives in infant/toddler mental health, attachment therapy and behavioral health
- The committee decided that they would work on finding resources that already exists and really do a big push on those resources by sharing it with Pediatrician offices, Websites, WIC offices, and different Early Childhood Centers.
- Committee meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of every month

#### SPP/APR Committee

- No written report provided

#### Workforce and Funding Committee

- No written report provided
- Lisa called Kristy and stated that there would be no meeting for September
- Kristy will get the funding survey out to Part C Coordinators
- Will meet in October to go over results of survey

#### LICC Support Committee

- Committee met September 8
- Written Report Items:
  - The LICC Retreat will be on September 23 from 8:30-12:30
  - Worked on finalizing information for the retreat
  - Registration to the event has been sent out twice for people to sign up
  - The speakers for the retreat are Dr. Peggy Kemp (Parent Engagement) and Dr. Leni Swails (Social Emotional/Behavioral Health ages 2-5)
  - The committee is working on finishing the certificate for the retreat and the final evaluation questions
  - LICC committee is looking for three to four people to help facilitate breakout sessions during the retreat

#### ECLRE Committee

- Committee did not meet during the month of August or September

- Written Report Items:
  - Continue collection of information from community childcare providers and their experiences with including children with disabilities and interaction with school based special education programs.
  - Solicit additional providers to complete online survey
  - Plan additional focus group
  - Continue conversation with KSDE staff to coordinate efforts related to LRE

#### Executive Committee

- Executive Committee met September 8.
- Approved the draft agenda for the meeting today

#### **Agency Reports:**

##### KSDE Report

- Kansas Early Learning Standards Update
  - A core group of 10 early childhood partners across the state have working on updating the Kansas Early Learning Standards since February
  - The group is focused on filling in standards for ages that didn't currently have standards listed
  - The group is now reaching out to content area specialist for each of the 8 content areas covered in the Kansas Early Learning Standards
  - You can email Natalie McClane ([nmccclaned@ksde.org](mailto:nmccclaned@ksde.org)) with questions or comments
- Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot Update
  - All Kansas elementary schools are required to partner with families of incoming kindergarten students to complete the Kansas Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot (The Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2) by 9/20/22. All data must be submitted in ASQ online by 10/10/22. The snapshot data helps schools prepare to support the social emotional and academic success of each student.
  - For additional information you can read the following articles: [Preparing for the Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot](#) and [Practical Tips for engaging families through Kindergarten Readiness Snapshot.](#)
- As part of the [All in for Kansas Kids strategic plan](#) for early childhood, the state of Kansas is providing statewide access to ASQ Online.
- For community partners that would like to sign up or for more information, [contact you local community Part C ASQ Account Administrator](#)

- KSDE Preschool Funding Updates
  - Preschool-Ages At-Risk program in Kansas school finance formula: Beginning in the 2021-2022 school year 3-year-old preschool at-risk students will be funded in the school finance formula. The program requirements are available on the [KSDE Preschool Programming webpage](#). The Kansas State Board of Education has approved 262 school districts to operate Preschool-Aged At-Risk programs 2022-2023.
  - Audited preschool enrollment for 2021-2022 school year is included [on page 309](#) of [FY 2024 KSDE Budget Request \(Submitted September 2022\)](#), on the KSDE [Fiscal Services and Operations](#) webpage. 22,576 preschool students were enrolled in public school districts on Count Day for the previous school year.
- Upcoming Professional Development Opportunities
  - The 2022 KSDE Great Ideas in Education Conference is October 19-21 in Wichita. The theme for this is year is **The Art of Teaching**.
  - For more information see the [Great Ideas in Education Conference webpage](#).
- [The Early Childhood Personnel Center](#) (ECPC) is gathering information about the early childhood workforce in IDEA Part C and Part B (619) programs.
  - They would like for Kansas to participate by distributing a 10-minute online survey to Preschool Special Education Teachers Related to Service Providers serving Preschool Age Children services in our state's IDEA Part C and Part B (619) programs.
  - Julie Rand asked the Council if this is something that we should do. The Council stated that they think that this would be a good idea.
  - The Council decided to vote on whether to support the participation of the Part C and Part B program doing the ECPC survey
    - Laura Leistra -made a motion to support the ECPC survey
    - Susan Bowles – 2<sup>nd</sup> motion
 Motion carried- All members voted yes

#### DCF Report

- No written report provided
- Nichelle provided an oral report of what is still ongoing
  - Still doing sustainability grants for childcare providers
  - Still providing appreciation bonuses to the childcare workforce

#### KDHE Report

- Met on 9/16/22

- A new name and logo for the State Part C program has been chosen and in the coming months will launch awareness campaign on social media and other outlets.
- The new name is Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services (KECDS)
- The KECDS team decided to not go forward with Welligent as a contractor for the new Part C database. Decision was made based on feedback from stakeholders, key staff, and partners
- A workgroup is being formed which will help inform the RFP for a new database system
- The KECDS Coordinator attended the Improving Data, Improving Outcomes Conference, learning a lot that will guide development of a new database and survey methodology for family surveys
- Now that the new name and logo have been adopted KECDS can use funds set aside for promotion to advertise the services provided to Kansas families so more families can be aware and seek out needed services.
- Personnel shortages continue to be a problem at the state and national level. Below is a summary of ITCA's recent survey results related to shortages for Part C personnel:
  - 2020 85% of states reported personnel shortages
  - 2021 98% of states reported personnel shortages
  - 2022 100% of states reported personnel shortages
  - **In 2022:**
  - 52% of states reported a shortage of Service Coordinators
  - 72% of states reported a shortage of Special Educators
  - 74% of states reported a shortage of Occupational Therapists
  - 86% of states reported a shortage of Speech Language Therapists
  - 83% of states reported a shortage of Physical Therapists
  - Reasons cited: schools and Part B pay more, health systems pay more, health and safety concerns, college debt.
  - We wish the council to consider ways to address these shortages in Kansas.
- The council should be aware that current federal budget proposals include significant increases of federal funds for Part C. Below is a summary of proposed increases and proposed policy changes:
  - President's budget: 932 million about 87% increase
  - U.S. House budget: 621.3 million about 25% increase
  - U.S. Senate budget: 591.3 million about 19% increase



- Proposed federal policy changes:
  - 10% of budget dedicated to address equity (in president and house proposals, option in senate), moderate impact
  - Prohibit charging fees to families (in all proposals), no impact - Kansas currently does not charge
  - Add poverty consideration to funding formula (only in president proposal), moderate impact
  - Additional funding for at risk (president and senate proposals), moderate impact
  - Addition of prenatal services (in all three), significant impact
  - Make it harder to change eligibility (in all three), low impact
  - \$5 million for birth to 5 study (president and senate proposals)

#### KDADS Report

- No written report provided
- Gary gave an oral report during the meeting.
  - Hired a new person in the Youth and Engagement specialist position
  - Has some family resource positions opening here in the future
  - Lowest point they have seen on the PRT wait list in four years
  - Lot of conversation going on about Medicaid codes for the 0-5 population

#### KCCTF Report

- [The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund](#) meets six times per year, Friday mornings, 9am-noon. The next meeting will be held October 7.
- [The Early Childhood Stakeholder Group](#) meets six times per year, Friday afternoon, following the KCCTF meeting. The next meeting will be held October 7.
- [The Early Childhood Recommendations Panel](#) will meet on the third Friday of each month from 9am-11am. The next meeting will be October 21.

#### **Other Reports:**

##### Staff

- Shared information about previous and upcoming conferences
- Shared information on LICCs visited
- Shared information about LICC Retreat
- Shared information about Membership Openings
- Shared information about resignations of Parent members

### Chair Report

- Reiterated that we need to get the word out for parent members to join the Council
- There was an opportunity presented to put in an application to the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (based in North Carolina) to put together a team to look at mental health and early intervention services.
- Focusing on Part C program and Mental Health
- Application has been submitted and there have been three people who have stated that they would be apart of the group should Kansas be chosen
- Will be some activities facilitating these activities.
- Mentioned the KDEC conference next February

### **Adjournment:**

Gary Henault – Made motion to adjourn the meeting

Ann Elliott – 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Motion carried – All members voted yes.

Meeting adjourned at 3:48 pm.

The next State ICC meeting will be on Friday, October 21, 2022.