

Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council on Early Childhood Developmental Services / Kansas Interagency Coordinating Council

Meeting Minutes

Virtual

February 21, 2025

1:00 PM

Members Present (20 voting members)

Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer, Chairperson & Service Provider

Lisa Collette, Vice-Chair & Insurance Commission Representative

Christie Wyckoff, for Melissa Rooker, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

Nichelle Adams, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF)

Sydney Dringman, Dept. Director of Permanency, Dept. for Children and Families (DCF)

Diana Martinez, Head Start Representative

Linda Buchheist, Children's program manager, KDADS

Bronwyn Fees, KSU, incoming Board of Regents representative

Hilary Crist, Service Provider Member

Susan Bowles, Service Provider Member

Erin Schuweiler, Service Provider Member

Monica Ross, Service Provider Member

Marites Altuna, Service Provider Member

Kim Kennedy, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF) (Ex-Officio)

Members Not Present

Chanda Gross, Medicaid Representative

Ann Elliott, Service Provider Member

Senator Renee Erickson, Legislator

Representative Susan Ruiz, Legislator

Courtney Hochman, Public Member

Jennifer King, SEAC liaison (Ex-Officio)

Lesli Girard, Families Together (Ex-Officio)

Nonmembers Present

Tricia Waggoner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)

Melissa Valenza, for Dr. Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education,

Stacy Clarke, KSDE SICC Staff Person

Beccy Strohm, Early Childhood Admin. Asst.

Misty Goosen, KITS TA Support to Part C

Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Past parent member

Tiffany Bartley, KCSL Healthy Families
Ali Braun
Madeline Wegner, Help Me Grow
Chavis Lickvar-Armstrong, KU-CPPR

Call to order:

Chair Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmyer called the meeting to order.
Introductions were made by all present (it was noted that there was a quorum).

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from the January joint meeting with SEAC were not finalized. We'll review and act on the January minutes during the March meeting.

Meeting agenda:

The agenda for February was reviewed and approved with revisions.
Susan Bowles moved to accept the agenda
Lisa Collette seconded the motion
Motion carried – All members voted yes

Public Comment:

No request came in for public comment.

Letter of Support for Families Together shared

LICC grant applications:

KS10 NEKITS LICC \$2000 for safe sleep training, and promotional materials for community events.

KS21 Leavenworth Co. ICC \$2000 for promotional materials and safe sleep training

KS05 OCCK, Cloud, Republic, Jewel, Mitchel, \$2000 Lincoln for Community Early childhood fair

KS05 Dickinson County \$2000 for conscious Discipline Training for LICC members and parents

Motion made by Bronwyn Fees to approve the grants.

Motion seconded by Monica Ross.

Motion passed.

Nichelle Adams abstained

Sydney Dringman abstained

KS09 Northwest KS – NKESC \$2000 for outreach materials, support professional development, and increasing caregivers' participation.

LICC Grants for 25-26

To allow LICCs to fund summer activities to engage families and provide community awareness and screening events the SICC needs to approve grants for FY26.

Motion made to approve grants by Lisa Collette.

Motion seconded by Susan Bowles.

All in favor

Help Me Grow presentation

Madeline Wagner and Ali Braun

[Help Me Grow KS | Connected Families, Connected Communities](#)



Help Me Grow Kansas is a foundational philosophy to ensure children and families are connected to the right resources at the right time.

Family & Community Outreach

- Outreach & Engagement
- Increase awareness of services available to families throughout communities
- Ease access to resources and services
- Advance rates of developmental surveillance and screening.

Activities

- Develop a Family Leader position
 - Regular feedback
- Increasing family involvement and leadership in the community
- Books, Balls, and Blocks events

Provider Outreach

- Provider training and education opportunities.
- Increase occurrence of closed-loop referrals.
- Advocate for integration of screenings
- Encourage providers to discuss screening results

Activities

- Physician Champion: Interviewing in progress
- Partnership with KSKidsMAP to facilitate provider training
 - Children's Behavioral/Mental Health Training
 - Screening Training (ASQ)
- Establish partnerships with FRCs, community behavioral health centers, MCH Aid To Local, Part C



Centralized Access Point

- Information & Referral.
- “Go-To” place for questions about child development.
- Up-to-date resource directories.
- Community outreach and connection

Activities

- Modifying referral process
 - Short term care coordination, follow up, direct connections
 - Website updates
- Relationship building with services and programs
- 1-800-CHILDREN working with Family Advisory Council on improving search, updating resources, etc.



Data Collection & Analysis

- Quality improvement
- Evaluation
- Better collection and usage
- Identify systemic gaps
- Bolsters advocacy efforts

Activities

- Exploring how data collection protocol and reporting can be modified for greater fidelity with Help Me Grow
- Family and Provider feedback loop
- Care Coordination Survey
 - Families and Care Coordinators



Help Me Grow Vision

- Promote and educate on developmental screenings.
- Expand referrals and linkage.

- Connect establish community collaboratives.
- Health provider engagement
- No wrong door approach with follow up to make sure every child, youth, and family get the services they need to support health growth and development.

CAPE workforce registry presentation

Hailey Heynek, KCCTO

- Cape aims to solve some of the biggest challenges the Kansas early childhood workforce faces by empowering and connecting professionals to tools and resources to support their professional and career development.
- Cape is our state's response to a longstanding need in the early childhood ecosystem—the need to streamline and improve access to resources for early childhood professionals.
- Cape is part of a broader system building effort through All In For Kansas Kids.
- Cape represents several workforce investments by the state, including core competencies (for early childhood/child care and home visiting) and a career pathway.

Why Cape?

- Empower you to manage your own professional development and career growth.
- Support you as you progress along a career pathway.
- Align and streamline processes across systems and organizations to reduce burden and duplication of effort. Reduce reliance on paper forms and other documents while prioritizing user privacy and portal security.
- Gather insights from aggregate data about Cape use.
- Operationalize these insights to improve offerings, inform policy, and guide investments for the early childhood workforce.

What Can You Do in Cape?

- Create a profile that reflects your education and learning and tracks your goals, training, and experience.
- Access professional development opportunities and resources that guide you toward your goals. Cape organizes offerings from Kansas Child Care Training Opportunities, Child Care Aware of Kansas and more into a single portal for easy access.
- Search courses by location, subject matter, delivery language, and more.
- Register and pay for courses directly in the Cape portal.
- Request technical assistance and mentorship through Cape.
- Navigate the Career Pathway to access learning, credentials, and degree opportunities all along your journey.

Like many workforce data systems across the country, Cape is designed to strengthen workforce preparation and exists to support, recognize, and represent those who care for children in early childhood settings.

<https://www.registryalliance.org/about-us/workforce-registries/>

Career Tools

 <p>Kansas Core Competencies</p> <p>This comprehensive framework reflects the latest research and best practices, empowering you to meet the evolving needs of young learners. Use it to guide your growth, align with professional standards, and enhance the quality of care you provide.</p> <p>Learn about the competencies</p>	 <p>Kansas Early Learning Standards</p> <p>Elevate your early learning environment with the Kansas Early Learning Standards. This versatile tool supports the development of high-quality programs and practices, ensuring every child has the opportunity to thrive.</p> <p>Learn about the standards</p>
 <p>Career Pathway</p> <p>Take control of your professional journey with the Career Pathway for Kansas Early Childhood Care and Education Professionals. Whether you're just starting out or planning your next step, this optional resource helps you map out the knowledge, skills, and experiences needed to achieve your goals and advance in your career.</p> <p>Explore the pathway</p>	 <p>Individualized Professional Development Plan</p> <p>Reflect on your strengths, explore areas for growth, and set personalized goals to expand your knowledge and expertise. This guided process provides a clear roadmap for achieving professional success and making a meaningful impact in the lives of children and families.</p> <p>Learn about IPDP</p>

*Note that SICC meetings will be moving to the Teams platform

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

Concerns in a Part C program about lack of staffing.
The SICC sent a letter of concern to the LICC.

Inclusion Workgroup

Chavis Lickvar-Armstrong

- Finalized strategies and actions to support children being provided services in the natural environments and least restrictive settings.
- Our process will assist in being able to identify gaps, barriers, and opportunities to develop core practices, resources, core terminology, or at least identify areas where clarification might be needed for our families, especially in Kansas.
- Created a working space in Google.

LICC Support Committee

- Many ideas for the Fall LICC Retreat.
- Possible presentation on board games and decreasing screen time.
- We are also still looking for potential presenters for:
 - Behavior
 - Infant mental health
 - Feeding
 - Autism
 - Vagas nervous system
- The evaluations from 2024 report attendees valued having hands on resources.
- Working to maximize break-out session effectiveness
- Will keep it remote.
- Date to be announced soon.
- Exploring providing slides ahead of time for participants

SICC Sytems & Services Committee

- Trying to align actions with All in for Kansas Kids strategic plan and making sure we're not overlapping with work that's happening around the state.

KDADS intent is to identify the trainings, that they need to be able to provide those services to infants and children. Most of them have at least one play therapist. But a play therapist may not be the best person for what a child needs. So, the whole intent is to increase trainings, to help prepare their professionals, to be able to provide mental health services for families of infants and toddlers. KDADS is not sure what that looks like or what those trainings need to be. We're working with several organizations to identify the needs.

Medicaid Workgroup

KU-CPPR has been hired by KDHE to do a Medicaid Reimbursent project. The intent is to streamline infant toddler and MCH Medicaid Billing and align with federal requirements. KU-CPPR is about to begin the research. This committee is on hold until the project gets started.

Cat. Aid Workgroup-

- o Identify errors in Categorical Aid funding for infant toddler programs.
- o 34% of infant toddler funding comes from categorical aid funding.
- o Looking closely at 4 program's categorical aid funding to look for errors.
- o Connecting I.T. programs to their fiscal agent and KSDE categorical aid consultant.
- o Question- Should the SICC share changes in categorical aid payments with I.T. programs?

Agency Reports:

KSDE Report

Renewed contract with Brookes Publishing this spring

All Kansas ASQ online programs will now have access to Spanish ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2

Amanda Petersen, KSDE Director of Early Childhood, presented to the Kansas Board of Education on the Kansas Preschool Pilot. This month the Board learned about the KPP, next month they will act on approving them.

The Kansas State Board of Education has been learning about preschool services.

- A child's earliest years are an incredible opportunity to support later success.
- More than 90% of a child's brain architecture develops by age five.
- One million new neural connections happen every second during the first few years of life.
- Early relationships, environments, and experiences all play a huge role in this rapid period of brain development.
- Families are children's first and most important teachers. More Kansas families are counting on early childhood care and education programs to support their children's learning. In many Kansas families with young children, all available parents are working – that's true for 7 out of 10 Kansas children under age 6.
- Kansas communities offer excellent, high quality preschool programs for children. Many Kansas school districts recognize that students who experience high-quality preschool programming early are better prepared to succeed in kindergarten and beyond.

DCF Report

SUN Bucks open application period. If a household did not receive a letter from DCF in January regarding SUN Bucks eligibility, and they believe their child is eligible, they will

need to apply. SUN Bucks applications will be accepted from Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, through 5 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 29, 2025. Families will need to use their existing DCF self-service account or create an account to apply through the DCF online self-service portal, dcfapp.kees.ks.gov. Benefits will be issued beginning in April 2025.

More information here: <https://www.dcf.ks.gov/Newsroom/Pages/Sun-Buck.aspx>

Kansans needing assistance with winter energy bills will be able to begin applying for its **Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP)** until 5 p.m. March 31, 2025.

More information here: <https://www.dcf.ks.gov/Newsroom/Pages/LIEAP-OpensEarlyInKansas.aspx>

An executive order was signed by Governor Laura Kelly last month. That will have the department for children and families stop utilizing children in the custody of the Secretary's Federal benefits for the cost of their care by July 2025. This means is, when young people receive SSI social security and disability payments and come into the custody of the state, those funds will go into an ABLE account for the child.

The ABLE accounts will keep children from going over the resource cap. Ideally, when the child returns home to their families, their parents, or whoever becomes their payee, will be able to have access to that ABLE account and use those dollars on their current and future disability needs when they receive SSI.

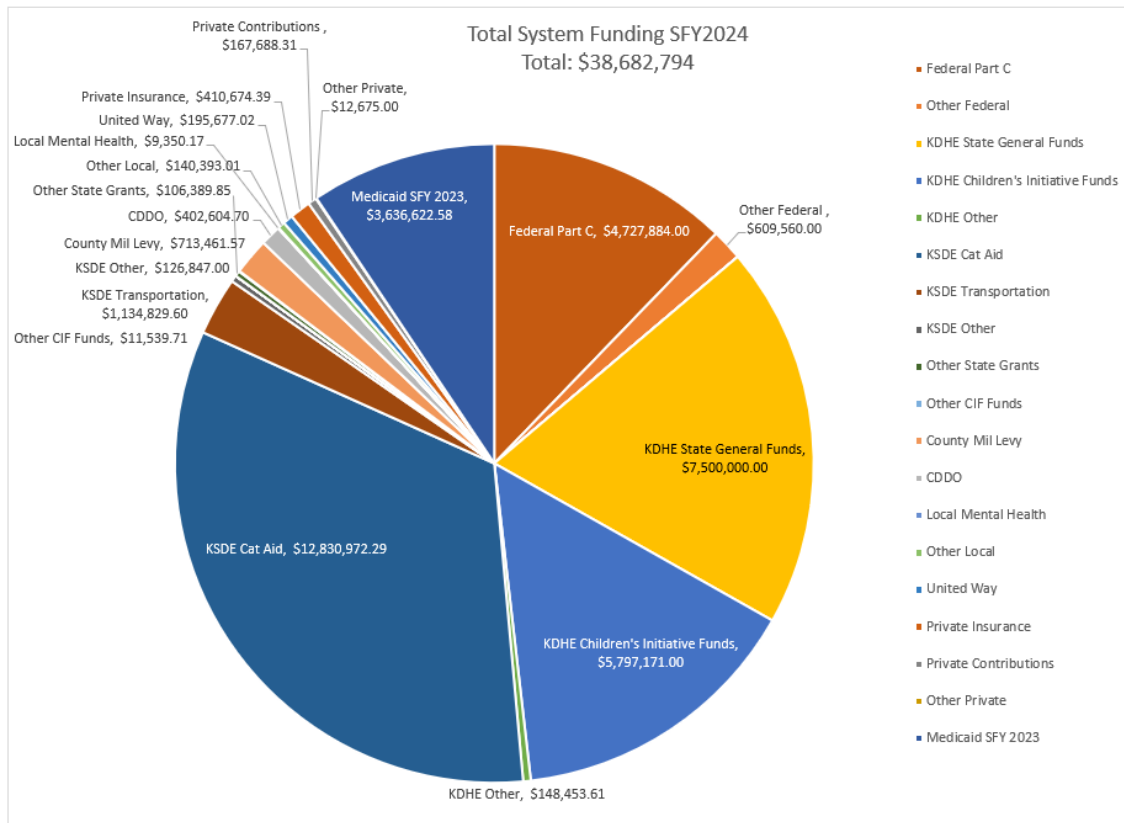
SSI has a \$2000 resource cap. SS will reduce benefits to a payee if the cap has been met. The resource cap has not been increased in many years. Money in an ABLE account doesn't count towards the resource cap.

A Kansas ABLE account is a tax-advantaged savings account that allows Kansans with disabilities to potentially grow tax-deferred earnings and withdraw savings tax-free for qualified expenses.

KDHE Report

- We continue to work towards the goal of getting a new database, we are meeting several times a week with the contractor to customize it to our needs.
- We are instituting some of our process changes due to the onsite OSEP visit. The rest will wait until we get our official letter of findings from OSEP which should come any time now.
- A team of stakeholders continues to work on rewriting our Procedure Manual.
- The SPP/APR was submitted to OSEP January 21st.
- Exiting Data was submitted to OSEP February 8th.

- We are waiting for the annual Part C grant application packet; we are putting together as much as we can to prepare for the packet release. We must have the grant application posted to our website by March 20th for the public comment period.
- The annual in-person Coordinators' Meeting (scheduled for February 20th) was moved to April 17th, due to weather.
- We have uploaded five years' worth of compliance and fiscal data to a file sharing hub so local programs have easy access to it.
- Tricia Waggoner gave a joint presentation with Tammy Wallin and Stacy Clarke at KASEA.
- Heather Staab has been participating in Career Fairs talking to interested people about careers in Part C and early childhood.
- Heather Staab and Liz Schardine provided hearing screening training to providers February 5th.
- System funding has been calculated for SFY2024. This included both public and private revenue sources that help fund Part C services in Kansas (See chart next page). Robust funding allows for improved service provision and the ability to identify and serve more children. It is essential for recruiting and maintaining the Infant Toddler workforce.



KDADS Report

- o 1st in-person parent-peer meetings in Wichita
- o Partnering with KDHE, Cora Unger, to form an Autism Coalition. Will begin meeting in March.

KCCTF Report

Working on Reviewing applications and creating slate of ECBG recommendations for the Cabinet voting members to review and vote on during the April 4 meeting

EBCAP Child Abuse Prevention RFP coming in May

Families Together

Quarterly report was provided at the January meeting.

Other Reports:

Staff Reports:

- SICC Membership – searching for parent members
- ASQ training for health dept providers
- Kansas Association of Special Education Administrators – Part C to B transitions presentations
- Transitions from Part C to B
- KDEC next week
- KSDE is transitioning to TEAMS meetings

Question: Has a Part B 619 been hired? Yes, Angel Spann is going to start on July 1, 2025. She's coming to KSDE from KCK school district.

Concern- Teams isn't always easy for people with disabilities. Stacy is working to learn the ADA supports.

Chair Report

Looking forward to the KDEC conference in Wichita next week.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Monica Ross to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Lisa Collette.

Meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer

All in favor

The next State ICC meeting will be on March 14, 2025..

(One week early due to spring break.)