

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

Meeting Minutes

Virtual

March 14, 2025

1:00 PM

Members Present *(20 voting members)*

Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer, Chairperson & Service Provider
Christie Wyckoff, for Melissa Rooker, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
Tricia Waggoner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Melissa Valenza, for Dr. Watson, Kansas Commissioner of Education,
Nichelle Adams, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF)
Sydney Dringman, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF)
Chanda Gross, Medicaid Representative
Rebecca Bell, KDADS
Bronwyn Fees, KSU, incoming Board of Regents representative
Hilary Crist, Service Provider Member
Susan Bowles, Service Provider Member
Erin Schuweiler, Service Provider Member
Marites Altuna, Service Provider Member
Courtney Hochman, Public Member
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF) (Ex-Officio)
Laci Paige for Lesli Girard, Families Together (Ex-Officio)

Members Not Present

Jennifer King, SEAC liaison (Ex-Officio)
Lisa Collette, Vice-Chair & Insurance Commission Representative
Diana Martinez, Head Start Representative
Ann Elliott, Service Provider Member
Monica Ross, Service Provider Member
Senator Renee Erickson, Legislator
Representative Susan Ruiz, Legislator

Nonmembers Present

Stacy Clarke, KSDE SICC Staff Person
Tiffany Bartley, KCSL Healthy Families
Kelly Frank-Langford, TARC Part C Coordinator

Michelle Calvert, Sedgwick Co ICC
Tammy Dreiling, Kid-Link KS19 Part C Coordinator
Rachel Raydo, KS10 Part C Coordinator
Amanda Petersen, KSDE Director of Early Childhood

Call to order:

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

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from February were reviewed and approved.
Motion made by Susan Bowles to accept minutes
Seconded by Courtney Hochman
Motion carried – All members voted yes

Meeting agenda:

The agenda for March was reviewed and approved with revisions.
Marites Altuna moved to accept the agenda
Christie Wyckoff seconded the motion
Motion carried – All members voted yes

Public Comment:

Michelle Calvert expressed appreciation for the LICC grant to support the community engagement event. 323 people attended last year. Over 400 have already signed up to attend.

Letter from KS37 Wyandotte County LICC to the SICCC

The letter is regarding difficulties with transitions between Infant Toddler Services of Wyandotte County and the USD#500 Special Education Part B program.

“Over the past two years, we have witnessed persistent challenges regarding the transition process for children turning 3, specifically between WCITS and USD 500 Special Education Part B staff. Despite tremendous efforts made by WCITS staff to improve communication and collaboration with Kansas City, KS Special Education Part B staff, there continue to be concerns about the lack of effective implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed on November 5, 2024.”

Two significant issues continue to be a barrier to a smooth transition:

1. Delayed Response to Families’ Questions
2. Timely Development and Implementation of IEPs

“In light of these concerns, we respectfully request that you investigate the issues raised and take immediate steps to ensure the following:

- Timely and effective communication between WCITS staff and USD 500 Special Education Part B staff to better support families during the transition process.
- A renewed commitment to ensuring children who are eligible for services receive an IEP developed and implemented by their third birthday.
- A review and reinforcement of the MOU to ensure it is followed consistently and that both WCITS and USD 500 Special Education Part B staff are held accountable for their roles in the transition process.
- An investigation to address the hostile work environment and to foster a more collaborative and supportive relationship between WCITS staff and USD 500 Special Education Part B staff."

LICC grants to approve:

- **KS37 Wyandotte County LICC, \$2000**, for promotional items to increase community awareness.
- **KS33 Shawnee County Early Childhood Collaborative, \$3000** to hire a strategic planning facilitator so they can target meaningful ways to impact early childhood in their community.
- **KS12, Geary County LICC, \$2000** for promotional items to increase community awareness
- **KS31, Reno County LICC, \$2000** for promotional items to increase community awareness
- **KS09, NKEEC EC3, \$2000** for outreach materials, professional development workshops, and caregiver reimbursement
- **KS36 Central KS, \$2000** for increasing child find for ASQ materials and informational handouts for the community

Discussion about granting more than \$2000 to KS33.

Christie Wycoff & Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer expressed concerns for equity in grant determinations.

Bronwyn Fees asked for details about grant review and spending.

Discussion about next year's grant amounts. Stacy Clarke will work to identify the amount of available funds for grants next year. The LICC may take action to increase the grant amount for 25-26 at the April LICC meeting.

Motion was made by Courtney Hochman to approve ALL 6 grants at \$2000.

Christie Wycoff seconded the motion.

Discussion

Motion passed by majority.

Nichelle Adams abstained

Reviewed all LICC grants:

LICC / Infant Toddler program	# of counties served	Amount	Purpose
*KS01 Arrowhead	13	2000.00	Early Intervention Awareness and Child Find Activities
KS02 Butler County Family & Child Development Task Force	1	2000.00	Community child development event & screen time and language development training
KS03 RCDC SW KS ECC	13	2000.00	Training for Autism
KS05 OCCK ITS	5	2000.00	Community child development event
KS05 OCCK ITS- Dickinson County Early Childhood Council	1	2000.00	Conscious Discipline Training
*KS09 NKESC EC3	11	2000.00	Outreach materials, professional development workshops, and caregiver reimbursement
*KS10 NEKITS	6	2000.00	Safe sleep training & promotional materials for community events
*KS12 Geary Co EC Family Network	1	2000.00	Community outreach materials and child development events
KS16 ITS of Johnson County	1	2000.00	Community outreach materials and child development events
*KS19 Kid-Link Hays	7	2000.00	Community Event and materials for community awareness
KS21 Leavenworth ICC	1	2000.00	Professional materials & Safe Sleep training
KS23 <u>McKids</u> Advisory	1	2000.00	Parent participation reimbursement & community outreach materials
*KS26 Franklin Osage Co	2	2000.00	Community events, educational activities, parental involvement and feedback
KS30 REACH ICC- Winfield	3	2000.00	Family Engagement Event and Community Awareness
KS31 Reno Co LICC	1	2000.00	Community outreach materials and child development events
KS32 Sedgwick County ECCC	1	2000.00	Community & family engagement event
*KS33 Shawnee Co Early Childhood Collaborative	1	2000.00	Consultant for LICC strategic planning
KS35 Sumner County LICC	1	2000.00	Community outreach materials & training on screen time and language development
KS39, Central Kansas LICC	5	2000.00	Increasing awareness and access to developmental screening
KS37 Wyandotte County LICC	1	2000.00	Community outreach materials and child development events
*7 New applicants for 24-25			
Totals (20)		\$40,000	Including approval of 6 grants in March
Updated 3/14/25			

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee-

Reviewed the letter from Wyandotte Co LICC and grant applications.

Inclusion Workgroup

Discussion on terminology and if the committee needs to change its name. The SICC then had a SICC discussion about how to navigate terms that have been negatively labeled.

KSDE currently uses the word "inclusion" with clarifying words to explain the type of inclusion being discussed.

Tiffany Bartley – KCSL is working to be compliant with by changing terms with the same intention.

Tricia Waggoner – AI is being used to review language and terms. She noted that AI does not use other words around the term to determine the meaning.

Nichelle Adams- Concerns about using terms in agreements between agencies.

Kathy K.O. -Council for Exceptional Children has made a proclamation regarding this topic. That information will be shared with the Inclusion workgroup.

LICC Support Committee

Exploring topics for the retreat: effects of screentime, language development, and board games

The LICC Retreat is scheduled for October 24, 2025

The structure of the retreat may be adjusted.

Concerns about using Teams meeting for the retreat due to lack of accommodations for people with disabilities.

Next meeting: April 10, 3:45 pm – remote

SICC Systems & Services Committee

Will meet next week.

Medicaid Workgroup

KU-CPPR is working, under an agreement with KDHE, to identify efficiency needs around Medicaid billing. That project has been delayed which is delaying the work of the committee.

There was a Medicaid billing training for Part C coordinators that provided overview of entering claims. The attendees also asked important questions that they hope to get answers to.

Cat. Aid Workgroup-

We looked at 5 ITS programs claimed vs eligible CatAid and we've heard from 3 of them and all staff were coded correctly. I'm waiting to hear from the other 2 ITS programs and will share next month. The committee is now working on a Part C CatAid Guideline document that includes information for Part C coordinators on when/who/what we can ask our CatAid reporting agencies to ensure our staff are being coded correctly for name, discipline, FTE, and ITS building code #.

Early Childhood Updates in Kansas-

Amanda Petersen, KSDE Director of Early Childhood

Proposed Office of Early Childhood

- **House Bill 2294** was referred to the House Committee on Calendar and Printing on March 11. Typically this means a bill will not move forward this session.
 - Visit kslegislature.gov and under "Find Bill" search for 2294 to view the bill.
 - [Here is a link to testimony from the House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development on Feb. 27.](#)
 - **Senate Bill 132** was introduced in the Senate Federal and State Affairs Committee before being referred to the Public Health and Welfare Committee. As of March 13 it has not received a hearing this session.
 - Neither bill proposed changes to Part C or Part B lead agencies in Kansas.
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- The KSDE **Dispute Resolution** webpage includes resources, including the helpful one-page **Comparison of Complaint Resolution Services Available to Parents and Schools**, to explain the difference between mediation, formal complaint, and due process hearings.
 - Families Together can assist Kansas families:
 - English Toll Free Line (800) 264-6343, Spanish Toll Free Line (800) 499-9443, Email contactus@famielstogethertnc.org, or visit famielstogethertnc.org and click "Get Help Now"
 - Any individual or organization may file a formal complaint if they believe that the school district is not complying with Federal or State laws or regulations relating to special education. The formal complaint may be mailed, emailed, or personally delivered to the Special Education Services Team at the Kansas State Department of Education. The Special Education Services Team at the Kansas State Department of Education must resolve a formal complaint within 30 calendar days from the date the complaint is received in the office, unless exceptional circumstances exist.
 - Redacted Special Education Formal Complaint Decisions are posted on the KSDE **Legal (Special Education Law)** webpage.
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Amanda Petersen- KSDE cannot share specifics but wanted to let the SICC know that there have been formal complaints filed with KSDE regarding the same concerns in Wyandotte County concerning Part C to Part B transitions. Refer to the links above to better understand KSDE Formal Complaints.

Agency Reports:

KSDE Report

- April is Child Abuse Prevention Month – KCSL resources: [Kansas Children's Service League offers resources for recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention](#)

Month - Kansas State Department of Education

- Dr. Ben Proctor, KSDE Deputy Commission of the Division of Teaching and Learning, is returning to Hesston to resume his role as superintendent of schools. Dr. Renee Nugent, current superintendent of Atchison School District, will take over the role on July 1, 2025. Dr. Nugent was named the 2025 Kansas Superintendent of the Year.
- At the April Kansas Board of Education meeting, the Board will take action on funding Kansas Parents as Teacher Grants for 2025-26.
- Free access to Spanish ASQ-3 and ASQ:SE-2 screeners are available to all school systems and programs in the Infant Toddler Enterprise account.

Question: **Seal of Literacy** – LETRS is currently the most common path to meeting the Science of Reading requirements. Timeline to add the seal: 2028 for specific staff and EC preschool teachers. FREE training is coming to an end. There are other options including testing to add the Seal of Literacy. KSDE teacher licensing team can answer any questions.

DCF Report

- Sun Bucks (shared last month)
- LEAP Applications (shared last month)
- EES – Applications for assistance are up to date and applications are currently being processed quickly.

KDHE Report

- KECDS participated in the Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference, including a joint presentation with KSDE and KITS. We had a table providing information to attendees.
- The Annual In-Person Coordinators' Meeting was moved to April due to weather.
- KECDS completed and submitted the Exiting Data Report which was due to OSEP March 5th.
- Local Program Grant Packets have been distributed and KGMs is open for the current grant period.
- The Federal Grant Packet is out, and we are completing the application.
- The Wyandotte County/KCK Public School continues to have transition (C to B) issues. The LICC wrote a letter to the SICC detailing some of the concerns

and KECDS is following up.

- A team of stakeholders continue to work on rewriting our Procedure Manual.
- The MOA between KSDE and KDHE has been signed by all parties. When we submit our grant application next year we will have to submit this MOU along with it.
- KECDS is meeting with KSDE and with KSDE and Families Together, Inc. once a month to work on improving C to B transition in the state.
- We continue to work towards the goal of getting a new database. We meet with the vender several times a week for 3-4 hours at a time. KECDS working on data mapping for this process.
- Universal contracts are being drafted for all 29 local programs.
- We have uploaded five years' worth of compliance and fiscal data to a file sharing hub so local programs have easy access to it.
- Our Outreach Specialist has been participating in Career Fairs talking to interested people about careers in Part C and early childhood.
- Our Outreach Specialist participated in the Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Conference March 9-11.

Question: The SICC is aware of staffing shortages for KS13 Harvey Co. Has the Lead Agency been able to fill open positions? Answer: no. Stacy from the SICC and Heather from KDHE are working closely with Harvey Co. LICC.

Anna Foster, Part C Coordinator for Leavenworth County Infant Toddler program, recently passed away. Anna worked with children nearly her entire life and positively impacted many lives. She will be missed.

KDADS Report

Mental Health Advocacy Day and Youth Mental Health Advocacy Day were held at the Kansas State Capitol yesterday, March 13, 2025.

Approximately 150 youth plus many more adults were present to speak to legislators regarding the importance of mental health support for people of all ages.

Linda and Rebecca attended KDEC for the first time and were very impressed. They learned a lot.

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

Families Together-

Step Ahead at Age 3 in Spanish are being printed and will be available soon.

SEAC – no report

Other Reports:

Staff Reports:

- ASQ training: KDEC conference, ESOL staff, home visitors, and school administrators.
- KDEC Conference – presented on transitions from Part C to B
- SICC presentation about LICCs to Harvey County LICC
- Medicaid billing webinar
- Part C to B state meeting
 - Discussed concerns from Wyandotte County LICC
 - Transitions FAQs will be updated
- Part C Manual work
- Met with DCF leaders to discuss child development training and developmental screening usage in their agency.
- Attended a meeting on screening practices in Kansas infant toddler programs

*SICC members will be receiving a survey to provide feedback about my role and performance.

SICC work is approximately 55% of my responsibilities.

Chair Report

KDEC conference was excellent!

The SICC Executive Committee decided that Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer, as chair, should write a response to the Wyandotte Co LICC.

Kathy was informed that formal complaints have already been filed with KSDE regarding the same concerns. With Kathy's experience as a Special Education Director for many years, she has faith that KSDE will investigate the complaints thoroughly, take appropriate action, and a report will be posted online.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Amanda Petersen to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Marites Altuna.

Meeting adjourned at 2:35 pm by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer

All in favor

The next State ICC meeting will be April 18, 2025, at 1 pm