

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

Meeting Minutes

Virtual

April 19, 2024

1:00 PM

Members Present

David Lindeman, Chair & Regents Representative

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

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

Sydney Dringman, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF)

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

Lisa Collette, Vice-Chair & Insurance Commission Representative

Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Parent Member

Courtney Hochman, Public Member

Susan Bowles, Service Provider Member

Ann Elliott, Service Provider Member

Erin Schuweiler, Service Provider Member

Monica Ross, Service Provider Member

Marites Altuna, Service Provider Member

Lesli Girard, Families Together (Ex-Officio)

Members Not Present

Diana Martinez, Head Start Representative

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

Taylor Bremer, Medicaid Representative

Jennifer King, SEAC liaison

Hilary Crist, Service Provider Member

Senator Renee Erickson, Legislator

Representative Susan Ruiz, Legislator

Gary Henault, KDADS

Nonmembers Present

Stacy Novak, KSDE SICC Staff Person

Barbara Kramer, KITS

Tammy Dreiling, Part C Coordinator

Andrea Sorrels KCCTO KITS

Call to order:

Chair Dave Lindeman introduced himself and called the meeting to order.
Introductions were made by all present (it was noted that there was a quorum).

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from March 2024 were reviewed and approved.
Motion made by Courtney Hochman to accept minutes
Seconded by Lisa Collette
Motion carried – All members voted yes

Meeting agenda:

The agenda for April 2024 was reviewed and approved with revisions.
Lisa Collette moved to accept the agenda
Ann Elliott seconded the motion
Motion carried – All members voted yes

Public Comment:

No request came in for public comment.
No public comments made

State Program Update:

Lesli Girard, Families Together
Presented on the FAST program

Darla@famielsttogetherinc.org is the contact person.



CONNECTIONS

Peer-to-Peer

- Family Resource Specialists are parents & foster parents of children with disabilities
- Family retreats
- Family trainings & support groups- Tuesday Topics & Talks
- Parent Leadership Conference

Community Partnerships and Referral Sources

- DCF
- Family Preservation
- Family Resource Centers
- CDDOs
- Infant-Toddler Networks
- Speciality Service Providers
- Schools

UPON REFERRAL:

FAST staff contacts within two business days the family by phone. Twice the first week and once for the following three weeks to attempt to reach the family.

- 01** Introductory call is to introduce the services of FAST, make a peer connection and inquire about family's current struggles and how we might assist.
- 02** Call is followed up by sending the family a program agreement and release of information. A request for the child's IEP is made.
- 03** Second contact is an in-person or virtual meeting with the parents to determine family goals and to prioritize actions.
- 04** FAST staff continues to work with the family toward goals and check-in regularly. All families are mailed the Families Together Monday Memo, invited to monthly virtual gatherings, and regional

INDIVIDUALIZED ASSISTANCE WITH FAMILIES & YOUTH:

- review IFSP, IEPs, 504s, & BIPs
- use Charting the LifeCourse Framework
- build team relationships
- connect with community resources
- focus on mental wellness & community activities with youth

Questions & Comments:

- Great opportunity for families waiting for the IDD waiver.
- How do you meet the needs for Spanish speaking needs? – They have 5 Spanish speaking staff members.
- Families Together has a translator on staff that translates all information quickly.
- Referral sheet attached and a family can call Families Together
-

State Program Update:

Andrea Sorrels, KCCTO – KITS ITSN

Information gathered from Community Conversations

Why Community Conversations?

- Established designated time and space for collaboration
- Awareness of services available in specific cities or counties
- Discussion of current concerns in child care environments and community supports available

Systemic Solutions

Increase recognition of the value and professionalism of early childhood educators and leaders.

Continue to offer site specific coaching supports in the areas of social, emotional, and behavioral development.

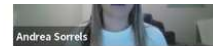
Continue to offer PD for early childhood educators and leaders on topics related to mental health.

Increase the availability of Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation and supports to all early care and education settings.

A total of 30 professionals attended 3 Community Conversations including:

- Early Childhood Professionals (Family Child Care, Center Based Teachers, Leadership)
- Child Care Licensing Specialists
- Parenting Support Specialists
- Agency Leaders
- Social Workers, School Counselors, or Licensed Therapists

What We Learned



- 100% of EC participants that were surveyed reported that they are currently working with children experiencing social, emotional, and/or behavioral challenges.
 - Concerns for children who are serially expelled from child care programs and limited number of resources available to support these children
 - Participants commented on still seeing the impact of COVID-19 and the responses to the pandemic on children in early care and education settings.
 - Family-Child Care partnerships are important but can be difficult to establish but in child care professionals reported they often get dismissal, denial, or pushback when concerns are raised in some cases.
 - Some parents do not have an understanding of the process for getting support or do not know where to start.
-

Inclusion Conversations:

Who Was Involved?



A total of 21 professionals attended the initial 2 Community Conversations including:

- Early Childhood Professionals (Family Child Care, Center Based Teachers, Leadership)
- Child Care Licensing Specialists
- Part B Professionals
- Part C Professionals

What We Learned



- Children born during the pandemic face unique challenges, such as developmental and social delays.
- Concerns about expulsions from childcare settings have increased, requiring more resources to prevent.
- Rural settings pose challenges like limited resources, transportation issues, and a lack of specialists.
- Childcare providers resist outside involvement due to disruption and inconvenience.
- Communication barriers hinder collaboration, with childcare providers fearing state involvement and lacking clarity on whom to contact.
- Childcare providers lack information about services children receive.

Next Steps

Educate

- Educate and empower parents about services and resources through training nights
- Distribute CDC brochures and information about screen time to parents

Collaborate

- Consider training opportunities such as the annual two-day event, offering KDHE hours, CEUs and collaboration opportunities.
- Aim for more "whole team" meetings involving parents, childcare providers, and early education providers.

Empower

- Invite childcare providers to join task forces and disseminate information through various channels.
- Include childcare providers in Release of Information documents.

Questions and comments:

- Including childcare providers in IFSP and IEP meetings and/or share the information with caregivers.
- Why are so many expulsions from childcare happening? Answer – lack of resources for childcare providers and families when dealing with behaviors.

- There is a need to support childcare providers so they can serve children with disabilities. It would also be good if childcare providers had to take children with special needs.
- Johnson County has begun including childcare providers in meetings based on the conversations with KCCTO-KITS-ITSN and it has been a huge success.
- Childcare providers can reach out to KCCTO-KITS to support providers. They cannot support a specific child, but rather the provider with skills and tools needed.
- DCF pays \$7.25 per hour payment to childcare providers who receive additional training to support children with special needs. It may not cover the cost of a one on one paraprofessional, but it can help offset expenses.
- It's difficult to find qualified people to support children with behavioral needs.

Grant request amendment: Consensus vote to allow Butler County LICC – change from internet hotspots to community engagement activities to inform and recruit families to the LICC.

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee

Approved meeting agenda

EC / LRE Workgroup

No report

LICC Support Committee

- Fall Retreat November 1st
- Schedule is being developed
- Working on speakers
- Improving parent engagement – promote social emotional learning
- Working with children with Autism in childcare settings
- May 9th 3:45 pm – next meeting

Social Emotional Workgroup

- March 28th TASN Mental Health Initiative Team presented
- Co-regulation in preschool
- Toxic stress from trauma and how it affects caregivers
- Facilitation guide on well-being
- Liz discussed playing board games and how this can lead to self-regulation and other SEL skills
- Continuing to work to identify a committee goal

SPP/APR

Clarification is open

Only 1 indicator had an OSEP comment. That doesn't require a response.

Workforce / Funding Committee

- Didn't meet
- May 8th next – Tammy Wallin – Early Childhood Mental Health Group will share information about Medicaid codes for mental health services
- Converting the request letters to gratitude letters
 - Tricia clarified - Database isn't finalized yet

Part C Manual ad hoc committee

- Rewriting and updating a Part C Manual and Policy Manual – there will be two separate manuals

Agency Reports:

KSDE Report

attached

DCF Report

KDHE Report

- DMS: Reviewed the Part C System in Kansas with OSEP. OSEP commented that they are impressed with the resources being committed to Early Intervention (Part C)
- Local Program determinations are out
- \$2M in additional funding for increase in Part C services from the general fund
- Federal grant application is finalized, it's waiting for the final budget from the state government.
- Assistive Technology work being done. It's AT month
- Part C to B meetings ongoing with KSDE

KDADS Report

No Report

KCCTF Report

Early Childhood Recommendations Panel is accepting new member applications

Families Together

- Working with Part C and B preparing for the DMS visit
- Step Ahead Training has been provided
- Chase Festival for children 10 and up – April 27th in KC area

SEAC Report (quarterly)

No report

Other Reports:

Staff Reports:

Working on identifying a new chairperson with the governor's appointment office – 2 are interested

May is SICC membership training

June 21 is in person to strategic plan for the next year 10 am – 3 pm

Topeka – Landon Building

ASQ work in KC area

Kindergarten Readiness work across Kansas State Department of Education

Thank you for agency and committee reports this month

*****June 21st will overlap with the Early Childhood Recommendations Panel – affects 5 people & Part C training in Wichita also. A change of date will be made for the strategic planning meeting. Stacy will send a Doodle survey. Information will be shared soon.***

Chair Report

No Report

Other materials provided prior to meeting via email:

Adjournment:

Motion made by Tricia Waggoner to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Lisa Collette.

Meeting adjourned at 2:58 pm by Dave Lindeman

All in favor

The next State ICC meeting will be TBD.

Families Together, Inc.

Partner with us for Kansas families.

We share the same goal. Let's work together.

OUR MISSION

To empower and strengthen families so children can remain in their family homes.

OUR WORK

Special education and accessing disability services can add additional stress to families. Funded by DCF, the Family Advocacy, Support, and Training (FAST) program focuses on supporting families who have a child with an intellectual/developmental disability (I/DD) or a dual diagnosis of I/DD and mental illness.

Through intensive educational support, we help parents understand their role and rights in special education. We attend IEP meetings, and provide peer to peer support. We help families connect to resources in their communities and provide opportunities for family members to connect with one another, reducing the feeling of isolation.

Together we can help Kansas families stay together.

FAST Family Advocacy, Support, & Training

REGIONAL TEAM

The FAST program employs regional Family Resource Specialists who are familiar with the communities they serve allowing for community partnerships.

CONNECTIONS

Community partnerships and connections with other families are fostered through FAST, so families know they aren't alone.

FUNDING


The FAST program has funding available to cover additional costs that often come with raising a child with a disability. Funds are used to help cover costs to improve families' ability to care for their children.

Contact: Darla@familiesTogetherInc.org
www.FamiliesTogetherInc.org

The graphic features a blue background with a white puzzle piece design. The puzzle pieces are arranged in a way that some are missing, creating a sense of incompleteness. The text is white and blue, providing a high-contrast, professional look.

FAST
*Family Advocacy,
Support, & Training*

FAQ

Families Together, Inc.


Q. Does FAST cover my county?
A. FAST is a statewide program that covers all 105 counties in Kansas.

Q. Can a family participate in family preservation services and FAST at the same time?
A. Yes, we can partner with other preservation efforts to keep families together.

Q. How do I refer a family to FAST?
A. Simply complete and submit the electronic referral form, and it will be directed to the appropriate regional staff.

Q. Can a family refuse to participate in FAST?
A. Yes. The family has to agree to accept the assistance of FAST.

Q. Can FAST serve children in foster care who are working toward reintegration?
A. No, FAST is a preservation program with the goal of keeping children with their families.

Q. Can FAST serve adoptive families at risk of re-entering care?
A. Absolutely. We will serve any family that is at risk of out of home placement.

Q. Is FAST available to Spanish speaking families?
A. Yes, at least one of our staff will be able to provide our services in Spanish.

Q. How do I learn more about FAST?
A. Contact us! We are happy to answer your questions, provide materials, or do a presentation for your staff.

Contact: Darla@familiesTogetherInc.org
www.FamiliesTogetherInc.org

FAST Referral Form

Family Advocacy, Support, & Training

All fields are required



1. Parent/Guardian First Name MI Parent/Guardian Last Name
2. Parent/Guardian Phone Number Parent/Guardian Phone Number
3. Family Street Address City Zip
4. Parent/Guardian Email Parent/Guardian Email
5. Check all boxes that apply to at least one child in the home:
 - a. I/DD diagnosis or dual diagnosis of I/DD and mental illness
 - b. Suspected I/DD or dual diagnosis
 - c. No I/DD waiver services (on waiting list or has not applied)
6. Additional information you feel is helpful for us to know about this family.

Submit completed form to Darla Nelson-Metzger at Darla@families-togetherinc.org

KSDE Agency Report

Detailed written reports should be provided for distribution on the Monday prior to the SICC Meeting.

April Meeting:

- **Provide a brief description of new/ongoing activities related to children age five or under and their families.**

Through funding with KCCTO, **Educate Kansas is working on a billboard campaign and corresponding webpage within the Educate Kansas site** dedicated to early childhood teacher recruitment. The billboard campaign will be in JOCO and the Wichita Metro area.

<https://educatekansas.org/>

FREE Marketing tools for Recruitment from Educate Kansas State Department of Education

[Free recruitment poster offered by Educate Kansas - Kansas State Department of Education \(ksde.org\)](#)

KSDE and KDHE continue to meet monthly to collaborate on creating smooth and effective transitions from Part C to Part B programs. They meet on the first Thursday of the month.

KSDE is preparing for Differentiated Monitoring and Support (DMS) visits from the Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

As outlined in the DMS Framework, OSEP will examine the state's policies and procedures and state-level implementation of these policies and procedures regarding the following components of general supervision:

- Monitoring and Improvement
- Data, including the State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report (SPP/APR)
- Fiscal Management
- Dispute Resolution

In addition to the core general supervision monitoring components, OSEP will focus on select topics or additional areas, based on the results of OSEP's review of publicly available and state provided information, protocol analysis and local and stakeholder interviews.

KDHE Kansas Early Childhood Developmental Services Report

Detailed written reports should be provided for distribution on the Monday prior to the SICC Meeting.

Meeting Date: 4/19/2024

- **Provide a brief description of new/ongoing activities related to children age five or under and their families.**
 - Kansas is preparing to have its onsite OSEP visit. This includes several months of presentations, interviews, document requests and in person meetings. We will be meeting with OSEP 2 times a month until their onsite visit in September. This is the first onsite visit in over 10 years.
 - On 4/5/2024 KECDs give a presentation to OSEP with an overview of the program.
 - Local Program Determinations are out, and any compliance findings have been cited. Programs have until the end of April to submit Corrective Action Plans.
 - Local programs have requested 2 million in additional state funding for the program and so far the funding is in both the house and senate bills.
 - The Federal Grant application is written and signed by the Secretary. We are waiting for final budget numbers from OSEP before we submit.
 - KECDs staff participated in a signing ceremony with Assistive Technology for Kansas in recognition of Assistive Technology Month.
 - KECDs staff is assisting with working through transition related issues in Wyandotte County between the local Infant Toddler Program and Kansas City Public Schools.
 - Clarification for the SPP/APR is open and Kansas has an opportunity to provide additional information. The final version of the SPP/APR is due April 23, 2024.

- **Provide a highlight of agency initiatives on the horizon or are ready to be initiated.**
 - Nothing to report.

- **Does the agency need the Council to act in its advise and assist role?**
 - Nothing currently.

DCF Written Report

- **Provide a brief description of new/ongoing activities related to children age five or under and their families.**

2Gen Grantees: 11.5 million of TANF funds have been used to fund ten organizations in their efforts to support both children and their parents, as a family unit, towards stability using a 2Gen approach. More details are available here: [DCF announces 2Gen Kansas program grantees - Newsroom \(ks.gov\)](#)

DCF has invested 4.7 million to seven agencies to build capacity to increase the number of homes available and provide needed training and supportive services for therapeutic foster family homes. More details can be found here: [DCF announces Innovative Capacity Building Grants for Therapeutic Family Foster Homes - Newsroom \(ks.gov\)](#)

Children's Cabinet Report:

Provide a brief description of new/ongoing activities related to children age five or under and their families.

Child Care Provider appreciation day is May 10

<https://www.providerappreciation.org/>

Recommendations Panel Now Accepting Applications

Join the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council

Applications are being accepted from April 1 – May 3, 2024, for any Kansan interested in serving on the working group for the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council, known as the Recommendations Panel.

Visit the [Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund Website](#) to learn about the knowledge and experience represented on the Panel and how you can share your voice in this important work. Interested early childhood stakeholders can view [past meeting recordings on YouTube](#) and [learn more about the panel here](#).

- **Provide a highlight of agency initiatives on the horizon or are ready to be initiated.**
CBCAP Applications will launch Mid-May and due June 28

- **Does the agency need the Council to act in its advise and assist role?**
No

- **Is there a specific request of the Council, need for further discussion, or action by the Council?**
No

Meeting Date: 4/19/2024

*Name of Committee: Ad hoc Policy and Procedure Manuals
Committee*

- Provide a brief description of new/ongoing activities of the committee.

The ad hoc committee has met twice in the last month. We have drafted a new structure for the Policy Manual, Procedure Manual and related documents. Gathered the relevant regulations and statutes. We are currently matching these regulations and statutes with sections of the Manual to ensure each is addressed. We plan to include any needed revisions based on findings from the OSEP visit this year. We plan to have a draft of both manuals ready for review by the council in about 12-18 months. This is the first rewrite of the policy and procedure manuals in 10 years.

- Provide a highlight of committee initiatives on the horizon or ready to be acted upon.
- Is there a specific request of the Council, need for further discussion, or action by the Council?

Once the committee has a final recommendation, we will need the council to review and approve the new Policy Manual before it is put out for public comment. The Procedure Manual will also be reviewed by the Council but will not need to go out for public comment.