

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

Meeting Minutes

At KCSL from 10 am – 2 pm

July 9, 2025

Members Present (20 voting members)

Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer, Chairperson & Service Provider
Melissa Schoenberger, for Melissa Rooker, Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund
Tricia Waggoner, Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
Angel Spann, 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
Linda Buchheister, KS Department of Aging and Disabilities
Bronwyn Fees, KSU, incoming Board of Regents representative
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
Courtney Hochman, Public Member
Kim Kennedy, Kansas Dept. for Children and Families (DCF) (Ex-Officio)
Lesli Girard, Families Together (Ex-Officio)

Members Not Present

Lisa Collette, Vice-Chair & Insurance Commission Representative
Hilary Crist, Service Provider Member
Senator Renee Erickson, Legislator
Representative Susan Ruiz, Legislator
Jennifer King, SEAC liaison (Ex-Officio)

Nonmembers Present

Stacy Clarke, SICCC Coordinator
Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Past parent member
Becky Strohm, KSDE
Amanda Petersen, KSDE, Director of Early Childhood
Gail Cozadd, KCSL CEO

Call to order:

Chair Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeier called the meeting to order.

Introductions were made by all present (it was noted that there was a quorum).

Meeting Minutes:

The minutes from April meetings were reviewed and approved.

Motion made by Tricia Waggoner to accept minutes

Second by Courtney Hochman

Motion carried – All members voted yes

The minutes from May meetings were reviewed, amended, and approved.

Motion made by Susan Bowles to accept amended minutes

Second by Erin Schuweiler

Motion carried – All members voted yes

Meeting agenda:

The agenda for July reviewed and approved.

Bronwyn Fees moved to accept the agenda

Marites Altuna seconded the motion

Motion carried – All members voted yes

Public Comment:

It was brought to the attention of the Council that USD#383 is creating a Task Force to explore non-school district employees providing services to students during the school day at school. It has been a practice in the past, but that has been suspended until the Task Force reviews the pros and cons of such practices and brings a recommendation to the Manhattan School Board of Education.

Dates for 2025-26 Meetings

- July 9, 2025, in person at KCSL
- August 15, 2025, 1 pm, virtual
- September 19, 2025, 1 pm, virtual
- October 17, 2025, 1 pm, virtual
- November 21, 2025, 1 pm, virtual
- December 12, 2025, 1 pm, virtual
- January 14, 2026, 9 am – 3 pm in-person in Topeka
 - Joint meeting with Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC)
 - Arrive early to have breakfast with Kansas State Board of Education members.
- February 20, 2026, 1 pm virtual
- March 27, 2026, 1 pm virtual

- April 17, 2026, 1 pm, virtual
- May 8, 2026, 1 pm virtual

Vote on platform for virtual meetings

Discussion about using Zoom for virtual meetings vs. Teams

Moved by Erin Schuweiler to purchase a professional Zoom license for the SICC

Second by Courtney Hochman

LICC Grants

Approval of new applications:

- KS01 Arrowhead LICC for \$3000
- KS03 RCDC, CFN LICC for \$3000
- KS30 REACH LICC for \$3000
- KS02 Butler Co. LICC for \$2000

The SICC asked Stacy to contact the Butler County LICC to inform them that if they would like to submit for an additional \$1000 before June 30, 2026 that would be allowed.

Moved to approve the above LICC grants by Ann Elliott

Second by Susan Bowles

Grants approved with one abstention.

No action was taken on a grant from KS26 Franklin and Osage Co. LICC. The SICC asked Stacy to send a copy of the full application to SICC members for review. The SICC members would then seek clarity on the details and vote electronically.

Agency Reports: oral reports were provided by:

- KSDE Report
- DCF Report
- KDHE Report
- KDADS Report
- KCCTF Report
- Families Together

Review of SICC goals and committee work

Goal 1: Medicaid

Review and utilize existing Medicaid research and data.

Goal 2: Categorical Aid

Increase training and TA to programs on maximizing Categorical Aid.
Research and review strategies to maximize categorical aid reimbursement to Part C and Section 619 programs.

Goal 3: Inclusion in Part C and Part B 619

Assist and advise KDHE and KSDE on early childhood natural environments and Least Restrictive Environments (LRE) for children 0-5.

Goal 4: Promote the management and function of the SICC as it aligns and compliments the "All in for Kansas" strategic plan.

- Improve the availability of reliable resources and information for parents in a centralized location.
- Increase the availability of mental health resources for providers and caregivers.
- Improve the recruitment and retention of the local workforce by collaborating with others.

Goal 5: Support LICCs to maximize their role of serving children in their communities.

- Offer relevant, professional learning opportunities through the Fall LICC Retreat
- Increase effectiveness of LICC through surveys

Goal Updates



Goal 1: Medicaid:

Review and utilize existing Medicaid research and data.

- KDHE has funded a project with KU to evaluate Medicaid billing practices – waiting on report.
- Identified key Medicaid leaders that can answer questions.
- What codes can Part C use? Who can bill?
- School based Medicaid billing – moving slow



Goal 2: Categorical Aid:

Increase training and TA to programs on maximizing Categorical Aid. Research and review strategies to maximize categorical aid reimbursement to Part C and Section 619 programs.

- Getting Part C programs access to their cat. aid information
- Guidance Document for Part C programs
- Working on a Transportation reimbursement guidance document



Goal 3: Inclusion in Part C and Part B 619

Assist and advise KDHE and KSDE on early childhood natural environments and Least Restrictive Environments (LRE) for children 0-5.

There is work happening on this at KSDE and with a Part B 619 Coordinator, this will continue to happen.

Refocus on promotion of foundational inclusion/differentiation/behavior management trainings in child care settings to support improvement of access and success for children with special needs.



Goal 4: Promote the management and function of the SICC as it aligns and compliments the "All in for Kansas Kids" strategic plan.

- Improve the availability of reliable resources and information for parents in a centralized location.
 - Increase the availability of mental health resources for providers and caregivers.
 - Improve the recruitment and retention of the local workforce by collaborating with others.
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- Identified goals that aligned with the strategic plan
 - Due to HeadStart funding cuts, Diana had to step down from chair of the committee.
 - Committee has been learning about higher education work to align and support the recruitment and education of early childhood providers.
 - Learned about a new Technical Assistance (TA) opportunity for recruitment and training of early childhood providers in Kansas.

ECIPC TA presentation, Jennifer Francois

Kansas has the opportunity to receive national technical assistance to improve the training, recruitment and retention of early childhood providers and teachers.

<https://ecipc.org/early-childhood-intervention-careers/early-childhood-in-kansas/>

<https://ecipc.org/>

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The SICC is being asked if they would like to support or join the project.

Kathy K.O. will reach out to Peggy Kemp for more information.

Stacy will send more information to all SICC members.

It was noted that in previous years the SICC wanted to focus on workforce development. The first step chosen by the SICC was to support Part C programs in receiving the correct amount of categorical aid and Medicaid payments so they can offer competitive pay for their employees.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Marites Altuna to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Courtney Hochman.

Meeting adjourned at 2 pm by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeier

All in favor

The next State ICC meeting will be virtual on August 15, 2025.