

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

Meeting Minutes

Virtual

November 22, 2024

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), LEAP

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

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

Ann Elliott, Service Provider Member

Erin Schuweiler, Service Provider Member

Monica Ross, Service Provider Member

Marites Altuna, Service Provider Member

Senator Renee Erickson, Legislator

Representative Susan Ruiz, Legislator

Courtney Hochman, Public Member

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

Lesli Girard, Families Together (Ex-Officio)

Members Not Present

Lisa Collette, Vice-Chair & Insurance Commission Representative

Diana Martinez, Head Start Representative

Jennifer King, SEAC liaison (Ex-Officio)

Nonmembers Present

Stacy Clarke, KSDE SICC Staff Person

Elizabeth Brunscheen-Cartagena, Past parent member

Sarah Skiles, KCCTO
Jennifer Pishny, KCCTO
Linda Buchheister, KDADS
Kelly Franz-Langford

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 October 2024 were reviewed and approved.
Motion made by Ann Elliott to accept minutes
Seconded by Susan Bowles
Motion carried – All members voted yes

Meeting agenda:

The agenda for November 2024 was reviewed.
Courtney Hochman 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.

State Program:

Families Together, Lesli Girard
6-month update on services provided to families
OSEP (Office of Special Education Programs) funded family center required in IDEA.
[Families Together, Inc. | Assisting Kansas parents and their children with disabilities and/or special health care needs.](#)

Families Together, Inc. is the Kansas Parent Training and Information (PTI) and Family-to-Family Health Information (F2F) Center. We are a 501c3 non-profit organization. Our staff provide families and transition age youth one-to-one assistance, training, resources and tools at no cost. These services are available in English and Spanish.

Educational Advocates: Families Together trains and provide educational advocates for children when a parent can't. Note- A person can say they are a family advocate, but that doesn't mean they are a Families Together educational advocate.

[Attach the report](#)

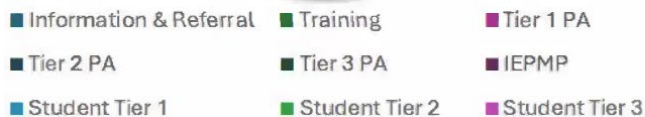
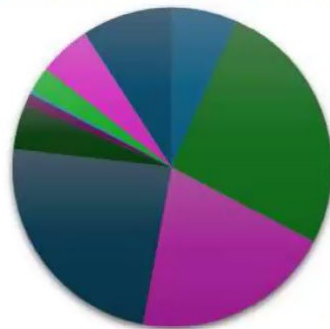


Families Together, Inc.

SEAC/SICC Report January - June 2024

Information from Program Statistics Report

4,719 individualized consultations and training



Ethnicity Breakdown:

African American - 8%
Asian - 1%
Caucasian - 60%
Hispanic - 11%
Native American - 1%
Two or More Races - 1%
Not Determined/Other - 18%

Age of child/youth:

Birth thru 2 - 4%
3 to 5 - 11%
6 to 13 - 48%
14 to 18 - 31%
19 to 21 - 3%
22 & over - 3%

LICC Grants:

KS26 Ottawa-Wellsville Early Childhood Coalition - \$2000

Promoting Spring Fling and items needed for the event. Childcare, mileage, stipends for family members supporting the event.

KS23 McKids - \$2000.00

Parent reimbursement for LICC attendance, community outreach for child find, items for family engagement events, Baby Shower promotion and items.

KS30 Reach (Winfield)- \$2000

Family Engagement event- Read and Stroll for families. Includes 12+ community agencies and free books. Repeat of last year's successful event.

Tricia Waggoner moved to accept and fund the 3 grants
Ann Elliott seconded the motion
Motion carried - with a few abstentions

SICC sponsoring SICC members attending the KDEC Conference, Feb 27-28,
2025, Wichita REIMBURSEMENT

Approx. \$700 per person: 2 nights @ Doubletree Hilton

- Mileage @ \$0.60 mile & tolls
- Food not provided,
- Childcare expenses
- Registration

Link to conference information: [Summary - The 43rd Annual Kansas Division for Early Childhood Conference](#)

Ann Elliott moved to fund up to four SICC members listed on the SICC official membership list (including ex-officio)
Christie Wycoff seconded the motion
Motion carried – with a few abstentions

Stacy Clarke, SICC staff person, will create a simple application form. These will be used to determine who to sponsor if more than 4 people apply.

SICC sponsoring the KDEC Conference – in previous years the amount was \$2000.00

Susan Bowles moved to sponsor the KDEC Conference at \$2000.00
Marites Altuna seconded the motion
Motion carried – with a few abstentions

Committee Reports:

Executive Committee-none

Systems & Services Committee

They are getting their tasks organized. Will begin meeting regularly on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2 pm.

Medicaid Workgroup

Working with the KU staff researching Medicaid billing in Kansas.
Not had a committee meeting yet.

Categorical Aid Workgroup

Our workgroup currently focused on data gathering for information on FTEs per Part C program, Categorical Aid requested versus eligible, considering date for state Part C

system funding.

KDHE has provided a list of Part C programs' eligible staff to look at claimed reimbursement (what was originally requested by Part C program) versus the eligible FTE. This could vary depending on the lack of qualified supervision for paras, lack of qualifications, and substitute FTE limitations for professionals.

We will review the 2019 Part C Needs Assessment's section on Categorical Aid and previous testimony given by Part C programs and the tiny-k Alliance regarding special education funding considerations.

We are inviting Evelyn Alden to our December workgroup meeting to discuss options for collaboration for the SICC and trainings (initial and ongoing) for Part C programs regarding Categorical Aid.

EC LRE Committee

- Our committee is refining the strategies and actions that we will take to accomplish the goal that was identified at the in-person strategic planning meeting (Goal 3: Assist and advise KSDE on early childhood LRE and inclusion practices 0-5).
- We aim to identify strategies and actions that are purposeful and feasible to accomplish in the next 10-12 months.
- A broad overview of our strategies and actions are presented below:
 - Review Federal and State Guiding documents for inclusion so our committee members can gain a robust understanding of these critical resources.
 - Identify and coalesce best practices and key facilitators that support inclusion while also identifying persistent barriers and gaps (*we have committee members who are already engaged in this work*).
 - Explore the current landscape of resources across agencies and organizations. Assess the clarity and accessibility of those resources through the lens of families, providers, and program administrators. Examine the presentation of critical concepts like natural environments, LRE, and transition from Part C to Part B (to name a few) for clarity and consistency.
 - Identify high-quality resources to feature on the SICC's "Resources" website page and develop a strategy for promoting the SICC as a resource for families, providers, and administrators.

LICC Support Committee

The 2024 Fall LICC Retreat on November 1, 2024, was a success with 106 people attending. Good feedback in the evaluations. Many gave specific examples of how they will be using the information learned.

Childcare hours were available due to pre-approval from KDHE.

Topics suggested for next year:
Feeding, autism, safety and de escalation strategies,

The committee will resume meetings in January 2025.
2nd Thursday of the month at 3:45

Agency Reports:

KSDE Report

- [Blue-Ribbon Task Force on Student Screen Time passes numerous recommendations before final report - Kansas State Department of Education](#)
- [Structured Literacy training sessions scheduled: The What and How...The Time is NOW! - Kansas State Department of Education](#)
- STRUCTURED LITERACY Kansas educators and legislators alike agree that early literacy must remain a key priority for schools. Considerable work has already been done and even more is in progress to create and sustain strong literacy practices in Kansas based on the Science of Reading. During its February 2024 meeting, the Kansas State Board of Education adopted the following position statement. The Kansas State Board of Education requires all accredited schools in Kansas to use evidence-based methodology fully aligned with the Science of Reading, specifically Structured Literacy, to provide literacy instruction for students. The Kansas State Board of Education prohibits the use of practices and pedagogy identified in research to be counterproductive to reading acquisition. In addition, the State Board recommends literacy specific universal screening measures, and diagnostic, formative and summative assessments to be utilized by accredited schools and school districts.
- [Science Of Reading Licensure Requirements](#)
 - Educators in Kansas will have until **2028** to **become trained or pass a test** to show they are complying with the **science of reading structured literacy** requirements to **renew their license**.
 - Elementary school educators (PreK & up) who currently teach in the general content areas of language arts, history, government and social studies will be required to complete either the test or training by July 1,

2028. Initial recommended training options will be LETRS®, Pathways to Proficient Reading and Keys to Literacy. The **literacy licensure requirement will also be mandatory for special education teachers, school psychologists and elementary school administrators** (PreK \$ up) who provide services to elementary school students (Pre-K & up).

The **one-time cost of the test for veteran teachers** (those who feel they have received

DCF Report

LEAP is open for applications Nov. 18 – March 31, 2025.

[Energy Assistance - Economic & Employment Services](#)

KDHE Report

- We continue to work towards the goal of getting a new database. Database Kick off was November 5 and 6 and we met with the contractor and are working with them on next steps.
- 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 the beginning of next year.
- A team of stakeholders continue to work on rewriting our Procedure Manual.
- Letters of findings went out for our compliance review for local programs.
- Determinations for local programs went out to local programs 11/15.
- Hearing Screening training for Part C providers took place 11/20.
- KECDS has hired a new Data Manager who is instituting a new Database Issue Tracking System to handle databases help requests faster.
- Feb. – April 2026 is expected go time

KDADS Report

- PAX training was offered.
- Parent Peer Support network getting stronger
- Exploring Sibling support group

KCCTF Report

SFY2024 Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) evaluation was presented to the Cabinet by Dr. Lynn Schrepferman from Wichita State University at the October Cabinet Meeting.

- [Cabinet Meeting Recording](#)
- [SFY2024 Annual Report](#)

SFY2026 Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) Application is live for any eligible organizations to apply and is due 1-8-2025 at 5 PM

- [Early Childhood Block Grant RFP \(SFY26\) | Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund](#)
- [SFY2026 ECBG RFP](#)

Families Together

New office in western Kansas and in the KC area

Enhanced Parent to Parent program -additional funding

SEAC Report (quarterly)

- RFI requests are being announced for a statewide IEP. This is still in the exploring stage.
- Virtual schools will begin to have more monitoring.
- KSDE is looking into modifying the reminder emails about submitting special education data.

Dolly Parton Imagination Library – Question

Part C families, PAT, and HeadStart all encouraged to join.

Other Reports:

Staff Reports:

Staff Report

- SICC Membership – searching for parent members
 - ASQ training and support
 - Indicator 6 (inclusion) work
 - Transitions from Part C to B
 - LICC Fall Retreat
 - SharePoint for committee collaboration
 - All in for Kansas Kids Strategic Planning Key Partner meeting
 - McKinney Vento discussion for Part C
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Chair Report

SAP/SICC webinar Dec. 3 2-3 pm

Register: <https://wested.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkc-ugpzsrHtyvgcgzU3amzhh3tGxij5YV>

Adjournment:

Motion made by Ann Elliott to adjourn the meeting.

Motion seconded by Christie Wychoff.
Meeting adjourned at 2:56 pm by Kathy Kersenbrock Ostmeyer
All in favor

The next State ICC meeting will be on December 20, 2024.