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GOVERNOR LAURA KELLY

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 20-02

Reorganizing the Kansas Early Childhood Advisory Council

WHEREAS, Kansans recognize the value of high-quality early childhood experiences in preparing young children for success in school and life;

WHEREAS, investments in comprehensive, high-quality early childhood programs yield enormous economic benefits for future generations and local communities;

WHEREAS, in 2019 more than 6,000 Kansans engaged in the development of a comprehensive statewide needs assessment and strategic plan for early childhood;

WHEREAS, the Kansas State Board of Education's *Kansans Can* vision includes Kindergarten Readiness as one of five key outcomes for measuring success;

WHEREAS, achieving universal and equitable access to coordinated, high-quality, mixed-delivery programs serving children from birth to eight years of age requires enhanced alignment between systems serving young children and their families;

WHEREAS, the federal Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(b)(1)(A), requires the governor of each state to designate or establish a State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care ("Advisory Council") as part of a parallel federal effort to ensure coordination and collaboration within the states;

WHEREAS, Executive Order 10-05 established the state's initial Early Childhood Advisory Council, charging it with specific coordination and collaboration responsibilities within the state's early childhood service delivery system;

WHEREAS, K.S.A. 38-1901 established the Kansas Children's Cabinet ("the Cabinet"), charging it – among other tasks – with assisting the Governor in developing a coordinated, comprehensive service delivery system to serve the children and families of Kansas, the identification of service gaps and the facilitation of interagency and interdepartmental cooperation toward the common goal of serving children and families; and

WHEREAS, the Early Childhood Advisory Council established by Executive Order 10-05 has no current members and has not been convened since 2014, making it effectively defunct.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Kansas, I hereby rescind Executive Order 10-05 and designate the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund as the State Advisory Council on Early Childhood Education and Care ("Advisory Council")

pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 9837b(b)(1)(A). The Advisory Council shall have the following duties and responsibilities.

1. The Advisory Council shall meet the criteria and carry out the duties and functions prescribed by relevant federal law, in addition to any responsibilities assigned to the Cabinet by the Governor, to include the following:
 - a. conduct a periodic statewide needs assessment concerning the quality and availability of early childhood education and development programs and services for children from birth to school entry, including an assessment of the availability of high-quality pre-kindergarten services for low-income children in the State;
 - b. identify opportunities for, and barriers to, collaboration and coordination among federally funded and State-funded child development, childcare, and early childhood education programs and services, including collaboration and coordination among State agencies responsible for administering such programs;
 - c. develop recommendations for increasing the overall participation of children in existing federal, State, and local childcare and early childhood education programs, including outreach to underrepresented and special populations;
 - d. develop recommendations regarding the establishment of a unified data collection system for public early childhood education and development programs and services throughout the State;
 - e. develop recommendations regarding statewide professional development and career advancement plans for early childhood educators in the State;
 - f. assess the capacity and effectiveness of 2- and 4-year public and private institutions of higher education in the State toward supporting the development of early childhood educators, including the extent to which such institutions have in place articulation agreements, professional development and career advancement plans, and practice or internships for students to spend time in a Head Start or prekindergarten program; and
 - g. make recommendations for improvements in State early learning standards and undertake efforts to develop high-quality comprehensive early learning standards, as appropriate.
2. The Advisory Council shall hold public hearings and provide an opportunity for public comment on the activities described in paragraph 1 and shall submit a statewide strategic report addressing the activities described in paragraph 1 to the State Director of Head Start Collaboration and the Governor.
3. In order to support the Cabinet in fulfilling the duties outlined above, the Cabinet shall convene and maintain a panel (“the Panel”) of volunteers with demonstrable early childhood expertise to operate at the pleasure of the Cabinet in an advisory role. The

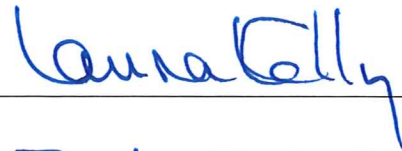
Executive Director of the Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust fund shall coordinate the activities of the Panel on behalf of the Cabinet.

4. The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund shall provide ongoing direction to the Panel, delineating areas in which it would benefit from the Panel's expertise and establishing responsibilities, governance, and reporting structures as it finds beneficial. The Cabinet shall annually appoint members to one-year terms of service on the Panel, with the option to reappoint and/or replace members by majority vote as the Cabinet sees fit. The Panel's membership shall include, to the maximum extent possible:
 - a. A representative of the Kansas Department for Children and Families or its successor agency;
 - b. A representative of the Kansas Department of Health and Environment;
 - c. Representatives of the Kansas State Department of Education representing early childhood education and early childhood special education;
 - d. One or more representatives of local school districts;
 - e. One or more representatives of institutions of higher education in the State;
 - f. One or more representatives of local providers of early childhood education and development services;
 - g. a representative from a Head Start agency located in the State
 - h. the State Director of Head Start Collaboration;
 - i. a parent of a young child currently receiving early childhood services from the state of Kansas;
 - j. representatives of other entities determined to be relevant by the Cabinet; and
 - k. other representatives as determined by the Governor.
5. Members of the Panel shall receive no compensation or reimbursements for expenses and shall serve voluntarily. Officers or employees of state agencies who are appointed to the Panel as part of their duties shall be authorized to participate on the Panel and may claim subsistence, allowance, mileage, or associated expenses from their respective agency budgets as permitted by law.
6. The Panel shall be subject to the Kansas Open Records Act and the Kansas Open Meetings Act.

This document shall be filed with the Secretary of State as Executive Order No. 20-02. It shall become effective immediately and remain in force until rescinded.

THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

BY THE GOVERNOR



DATED





Secretary of State



Assistant Secretary of State