

Family Services and Supports – Objective 7.3 Family Leadership Programs

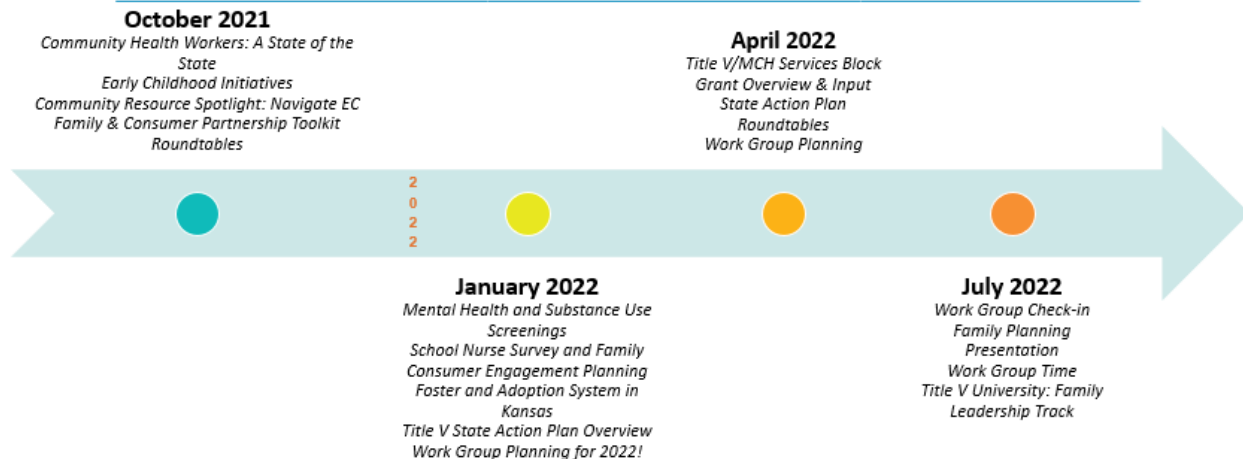
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REPORT – October 2021 through September 2022

Family Advisory Council (FAC): Expansion of the Bureau of Family Health Family Advisory Council (FAC) continued to occur in FY 2022, with all Title V populations represented. The FAC is made of five core work groups which align with our MCH council, to help move our MCH work forward in a meaningful way for the people of Kansas. The work groups are: Women/Maternal, Early Childhood (birth–5), Child (ages 6-11), Adolescents (ages 12-21), and Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN). Integration of Title V activities with the [“All in for Kansas Kids” strategic plan](#) has also been imbedded as part of the Title V FAC activities/projects. Particularly around Strategy 3.2 – “Build a culture throughout the early childhood care and education system that respects and strengthens family voice.”

The council met four times, all virtual during FY22 (Oct. 16, Jan. 15, Apr. 9, Jul. 16) where each of the five work groups were able to start on individual domain specific plans. Each work group is supported by KDHE staff and lead by two member appointed co-chairs to help drive the work forward. During each meeting there are presentations for FAC members to learn about work happening around the state and then separate time for them to work on their work group projects. Please see below for topics covered during each FAC meeting.

October 2021 through September 2022 FAC Meetings



Family Delegate Program: During FY2022, the Delegate program was moved to the CYSHCN Director as the lead support for the Delegates work. This began with discussions between the past and current delegates and Title V Directors to identify ways to improve the Delegate program so Delegates can clearly see where they fit and the expectations from Title V that goes with the Delegate work. Based on these discussions it was determined to pause the Delegate program as currently functioning and contract with the current and past Delegates to better outline how the program should look. The same structure (as outlined in the Family Partnerships Document) will remain but with specific guidance outlined in a Delegate handbook, training expectations, regular coaching with the CYSHCN Director, orientation process as a new Delegate Elect,

expectations for all three Delegate roles, special project selection criteria and expectations, an evaluation mechanism and other details as identified by the Delegates and Title V Directors. Upon completion for the formal recommendations by the Delegates, in the Spring of 2023, the Delegate program will resume with a stronger more supportive structure. Providing clear expectation for each Delegate and for the Title V staff supporting them in this work.

PLAN – October 2023 through September 2024

Family Advisory Council (FAC): For FY24 the FAC will focus on their individual work group projects and either further the projects they are currently working on or move to the next phase in their project, which corresponds to our 5-year Title V Stat Action Plan objectives and measures. They will also have time as a large group to be presented with ideas from MCH work across the state. We will be continuing with our structure of 2 in-person meetings and 2 virtual meetings per year. Our in-person meetings rotate around the state to help members not always have to travel as far, as our membership is around the entire state. The October meeting will be held in Hays, KS.



Throughout the year we will continue to recruit for the FAC until full, and then still work on creating public awareness of the councils' work. Which will help to generate interest in the council and help fill spots when they open. Currently, each work group has the goal of 7-11 members each.



The work groups each select a project to help move work forward and to help improve the lives of Kansans.

- Woman/Maternal Project
 - Focus on peer supports, particularly finding another mom to talk to who is pregnant through 1-year postpartum. As an informal structure just to have someone to connect with about life. Working with KDHE to develop a Supporting You program.
- Early Childhood Project
 - Focus on prevention and sharing resources with families. Developing a “universal discharge plan for new parents” for hospitals and birthing centers. Looking to connect with other state programs and agencies that are working on similar projects. End goal of KDHE adopting their plan as best practices.
 - Will include some easy access to information for parents.
- Child & Adolescence Project
 - These two work groups are working together with the focus on school-aged children mental and behavioral health. In November 2023 they will be presenting a conference session to the families at the Parent Leadership Conference around that subject. Their session will include additional vetted information for families. These work groups will continue to be fine-tune their conference session and be able to expand upon it. They will be offered spots to present at other family and health related conferences around the state as is appropriate.
- Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN) Project
 - Focus on the “transition” time of life, adolescence to adulthood. They have been working through the *Charting the LifeCourse: Experiences and Questions Booklet*, looking to help answer the questions in each section and/or finding resources that would go with each section to help someone in Kansas answer them. By the end of 2023 they hope to be done with phase 1 of their project and will spend early 2024 deciding if they need to refine their initial information and how to present it, or to move on to collecting information for another timeline section.

Family Leadership Team: The FCP Coordinator has been involved in the broader early childhood systems work around family engagement and leadership. One such effort is the FLT, which has been working on establishing itself with cross-agency partners to continue to operate past the Preschool Development Grant, which was a key funder in having this group start. This group is comprised of state agencies, community-based organizations dedicated to family leadership in their programs, and families served by both agencies and programs.

This group aims to influence and enable systems-level change with a focus on cross-systems collaboration and alignment at the state and community level within the early childhood care and education system. To accomplish these things the Family Leadership Team will implement the following strategies:

- Directly engage family leaders to better understand diverse family needs, challenges, and preferences
- Research and identify best practices and innovative strategies
- Explore partnerships and tools to increase representation among family engagement opportunities throughout state
- Increase alignment and commitment to family engagement among state agencies
- Develop directory of existing statewide and regional councils, coalitions, and committees with a family leadership focus
- Develop and disseminate family engagement tools and resources for families and professionals
- Create a resource hub for family engagement resources and opportunities

During FY24 this group will solidify its structure and process on what to do with identified gaps, barriers, concerns, things that need to be recognized as well-functioning and how to share or replicate such things, along with ideas that could help to strengthen the Early Childhood Care and Education System (ECCE). The items and ideas brought to the FLT will be moved to the appropriate channel after discussion with the goal for

some sort of follow-up. Even if there isn't anything that can be done immediately with something, any item brought to the FLT is required to have some sort of response and accountability.

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