

# ➤ COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

## Family experiences guide solutions for improved developmental health in Kansas

In early November, the Family Leadership Team hosted two virtual roundtable sessions as follow-up to the Spring 2023 series of developmental health family engagement sessions. The goal for all sessions was to create a collective space for parents and caregivers to discuss both simple and complex challenges, celebrate diversity of family experiences, and to collectively craft actionable solutions in response to challenges families face as they seek support and services.

Partners from the University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research and Orange Sparkle Ball co-created these sessions with the Family Leadership Team to get to the heart of developmental health concerns and screening challenges, and to identify ways our state's early childhood system can best support all families with young children.

Experiences were shared and absorbed, not as isolated stories, but as chapters of a larger narrative that reveal the need for more developmental health outreach, education, and action. A few solutions identified include a family-friendly digital platform to support parents and caregivers in finding answers to questions in real-time, developmental health education for parents and caregivers, and better ways to help families, parents, and caregivers connect with one another for peer support.

The Family Leadership Team will begin moving the needle forward on these solutions in January 2024. If you would like to be an active participant, please contact Cora Ungerer at [cora.ungerer@ks.gov](mailto:cora.ungerer@ks.gov).



### CONTACT

If your community or organization would like to learn more or is interested in implementing the ideas developed through these sessions, please contact Rachel Gardner at [rachelgardner@ku.edu](mailto:rachelgardner@ku.edu).

## FAMILY VOICE ROUND TABLE

The University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research

Visual created by Sara O'Keeffe, December 2023



# Visual Note Summary

## THE ISSUE

Programs and resources exist but are not geographically close to all communities.

Rural communities have limited options for services and resources. These communities for example might not have a choice between center-based or home-based child care.

We need more information about child care in rural communities.

## THE GOAL

We need to generate resources and solutions that give families access to information from trusted resources, and increase statewide awareness for sources of support.

Solutions that enable and encourage organizations to collaborate would allow them to utilize their individual funding sources together, increasing the impact they have in their communities.

## IDEAS TO REACH THE GOAL

- Phone line for physical and developmental health questions
- A database that is trustworthy, user-friendly, and responsive with timely information that is easy to digest. A database should share information for licensed providers, family doctors, pediatricians, child care, early childhood services, school readiness, social and behavioral development, and articles
- Availability: waiting lists, sign-up process, e-sign-up process, and filter specific family needs
- Explain ASQ's:
  - \* What are they?
  - \* Why are they needed?
  - \* Where do you go for a screening?
  - \* What happens with the data?
  - \* What is the follow up process?
  - \* Monitoring zone activities?
  - \* How do we receive interventions or referrals?
- Eliminate wait zones with opt-in texting
- Centralized information to create a one-stop shop for newsletters, podcast, training, text line, resources, and education. Content organized by age group.
- Expand home visiting services
- Increased support from OB to PEDS
- Assigned navigator for check-ins, education on ASQs, vaccination info, and information like finding a lactation specialist and OT services
- Central support lifeline
- More parent connection & family voice opportunities
- Increase awareness of 1-800-CHILDREN

**Resource Sharing is the bottom line.**