

**KANSAS**

# Early Childhood Transition Task Force

---

## Statewide Tour 2023

---

# Activities

---

**9 community listening sessions**  
**484 participants total**

---

**Interviews | Feedback Notecards | Hope Meter Cards**

---

# Materials Collected

---

Table Notes | Notecard Comments  
Hope Meter Scores

---

*Thematic analysis and standard statistical tests were performed.*

---

# Introduction

---

Executive Order 23-01 specifically stated that the Task Force was tasked with:

- Conducting a series of **stakeholder engagement opportunities**
- **Eliciting feedback** on the current early childhood governance structure
- Better understanding the **needs of parents**, families, providers, and businesses.

# Listening Sessions

---

**RQ 1:** What challenges, gaps, or barriers have you and your community faced while navigating the early childhood system? What are the greatest needs you and your community are facing?

**RQ 2:** What services and programs are currently working on the local level and serve as bright spots for progress in supporting young children and families? What innovation is occurring in your community that could become models for practice in other regions and statewide?

**RQ 3:** How would you evaluate the state's efficiency in providing support to you and your community in the early childhood sector? How has the State of Kansas—and the programs it operates—contributed to your successes and challenges?

Location	Number of Participants
Chanute	36
Wichita	68
Garden City	34
Hays	36
Salina	50
Manhattan	61
Topeka	52
Overland Park	65
Kansas City	52
Virtual (including feedback form)	30
<b>Total</b>	<b>484</b>

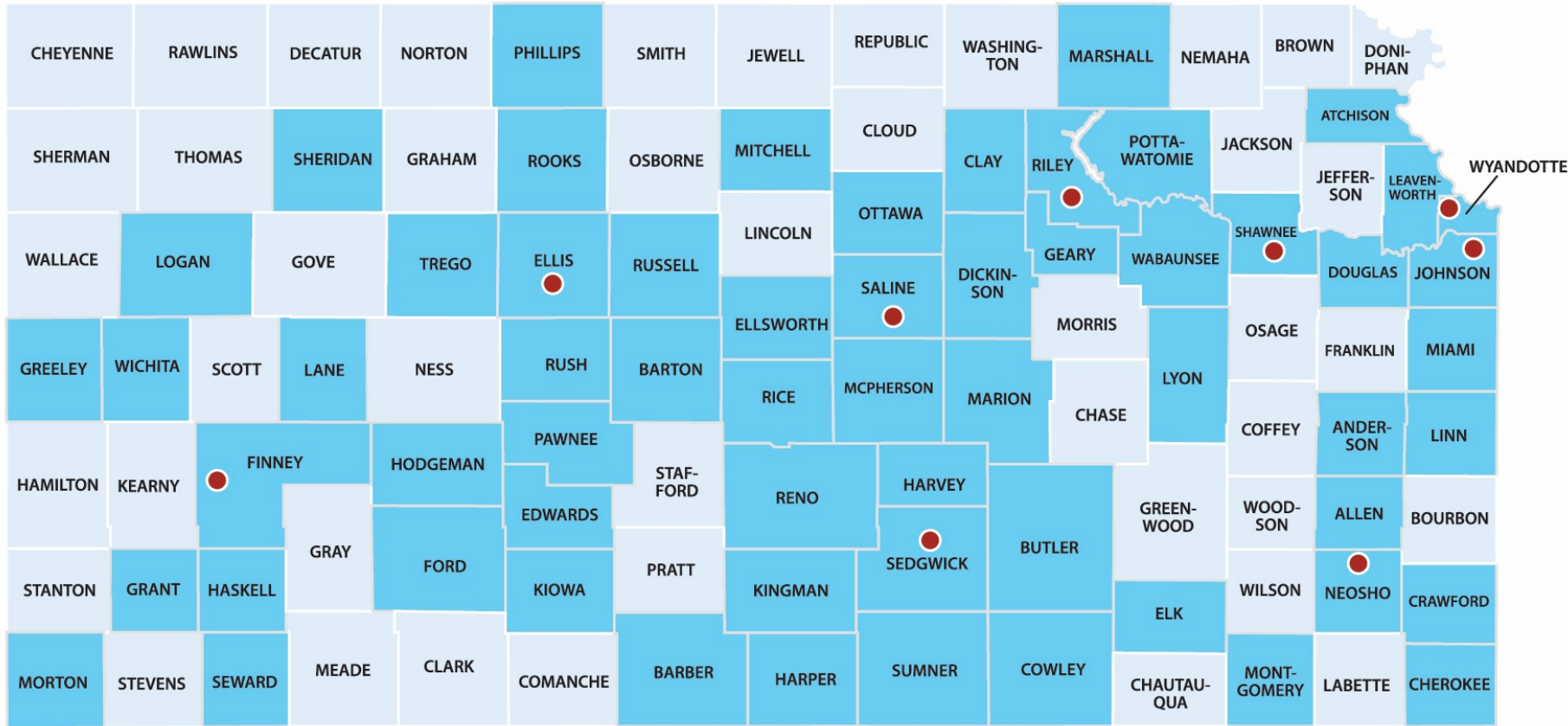
## Participants

---

### Note

The number of each location is based on the sign-in sheets collected. Some participants may not have left their information behind. The total number may not reflect all who participated. Headcount attendance totaled 530.

# Tour map



Day 1 | Chanute, Wichita

Day 2 | Garden City, Hays, Salina

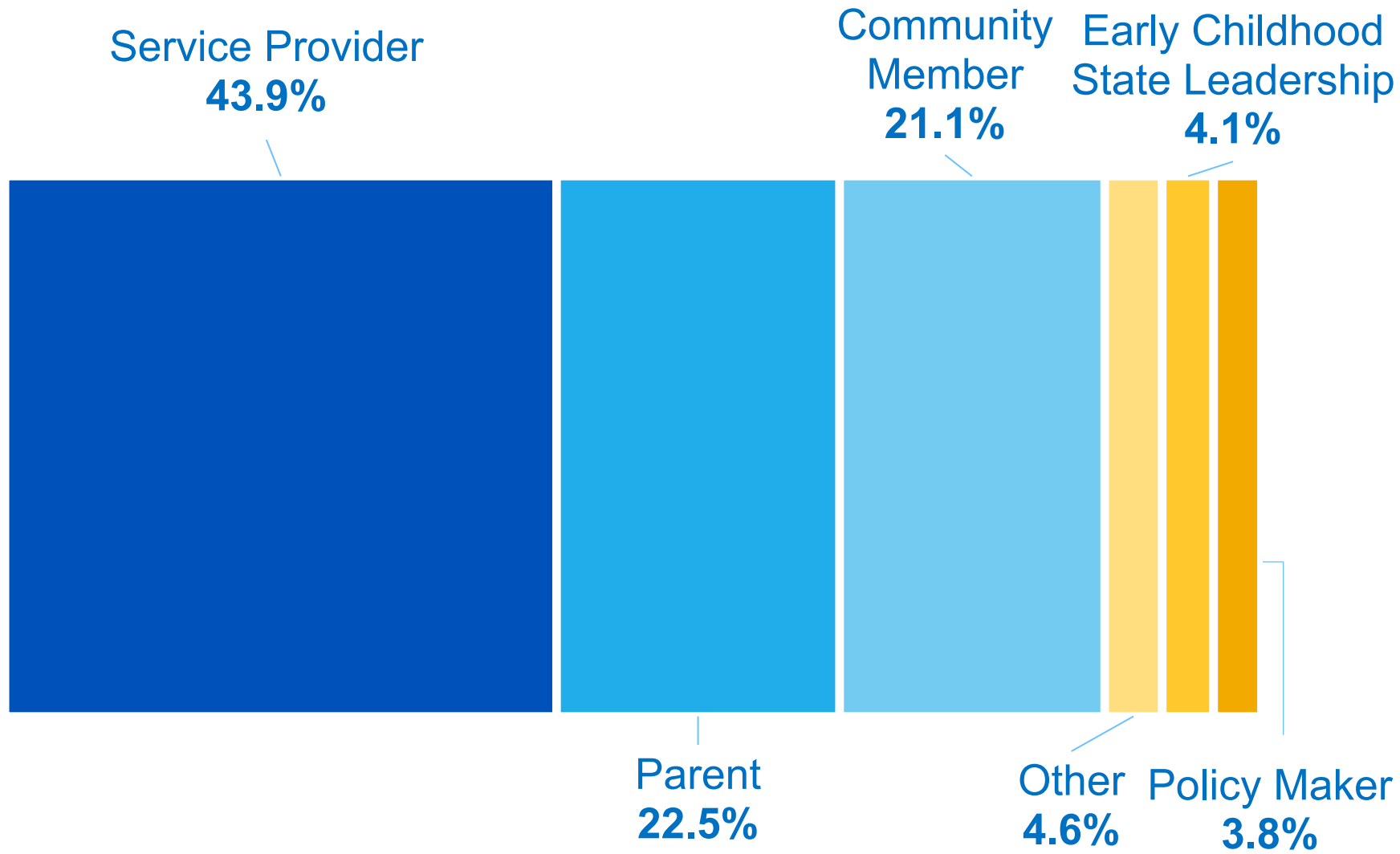
Day 3 | Manhattan, Topeka

Day 4 | Overland Park, Kansas City

*(See report page 9)*

## Participant Roles

---



### Note

For the purposes of this data analysis, the primary role identification of participants was used.



# Key Themes

---

**Improve | Celebrate**

---

## Community Voices

*“Streamline the info to help a person go from unlicensed to licensed or call one entity to report and address unlicensed care. Increase the public knowledge of the importance of early childhood educators.”*

## Improve Child Care

---

Licensing

Lack of Workforce

Affordability

## Community Voices

*"Support and encouragement to get and retain family childcare is a minimum. We are able to license homes faster which allows more access but without funding we are forced to out price our middle-class families. DCF and Raising Riley are great assistance programs but they both serve the lowest income people. We continue to miss the middle."*

## Improve Family Experiences

---

Affordability

Accessibility

Stigma

## Community Voices

*“Deregulation is never the answer to any problems/challenges facing the EC field with the lack of early childhood programs. I hope/pray that is not going to be brought up again and again. It will not answer the program supply issue.”*

## Improve System Issues

---

Navigation

Inefficiencies

Programmatic  
Funding

## Community Voices

*“It is difficult to find ways to participate, serve, grow, and share knowledge with early childhood groups with the state and communities. I would love to be part of the groups but struggle to find the groups and get my foot in the door.”*

## Celebrate Community Level Collaboration

---

Local school districts

Public-Private  
Partnerships

Nonprofit  
Organizations

Unconventional  
Spaces

## Community Voices

*“I would encourage the Taskforce to look at child care as a whole—to include in-home providers. Child care centers get the most attention but without in-home providers in the conversation, the state is not supporting a large need. They can be on an island alone without direction or help and the current KDHE website is hard to navigate.”*

## Celebrate State Level Collaboration

---

Increased  
communication &  
collaboration

Encouraging

## Community Voices

*“Parents and providers hold the key to help answer some of the hard questions. We need to keep working to have clear communication. We need to strengthen the workforce.”*

## Celebrate Professional Pride & Passion

---

Faith in the profession

Fair compensation

# Hope Meter Card

---

## I am a

- Youth
- Parent
- Community member
- Service provider
- Policy-maker
- State leadership in early childhood
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

## My experience with state programs is

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Negative Positive

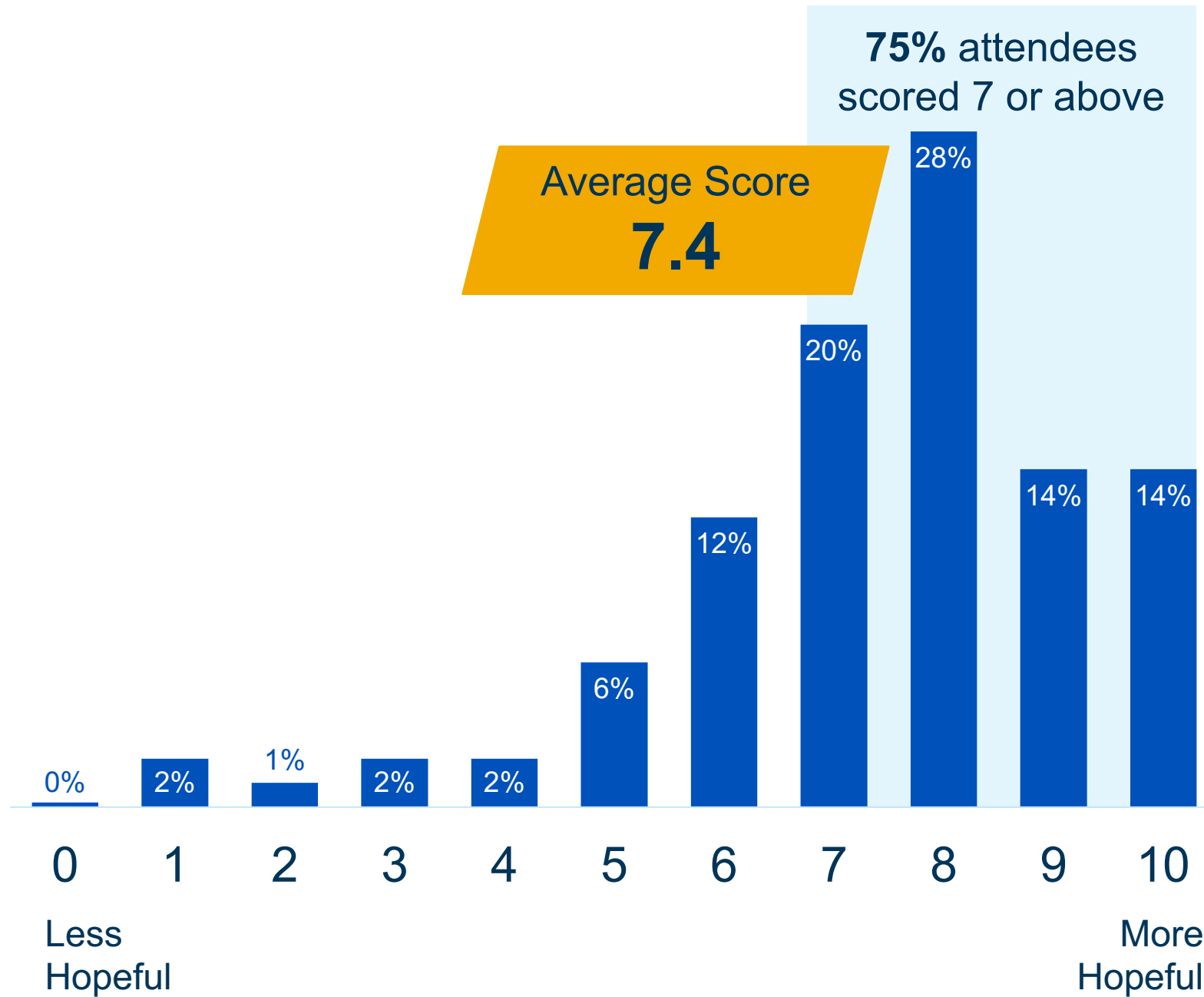
**How hopeful are you that Kansas is going in the right direction on early childhood?**

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10  
Less hopeful More hopeful



## Hope Meter Card Scores

---



Kansas is going in the right direction

Trust and confidence in programs

# Suggestions/Considerations

---

- Support Public-Private Partnerships
- Consolidate programs under one agency for easy navigation
- Streamline licensing process
- Provide technical assistance and education

# Q & A

---

**THANK YOU!**

# Center for Public Partnerships and Research

---

Jacqueline Counts, Ph.D., Director  
Sara Gardner, Assistant Director

---