

MEETING THREE AND AD HOC WORK GROUP STRUCTURE

Following the completion of the statewide stakeholder engagement tour, the Task Force will shift towards crafting a final report that provides the required “framework for a model single-agency governance structure for early childhood programming that consolidates initiatives and funding under the leadership of a new cabinet-level agency.”

The engagement tour highlighted a series of methods for supporting early childhood stakeholders and the needs experienced by those engaged in this work. More than anything else, we heard from nearly every community (rural to urban) and across sectors (from childcare providers to businesses to parents) that there was a significant need for a state-level “one-stop shop” or central coordinating “hub” to support the efforts of stakeholders. This feedback supports Governor Kelly’s charge to the group and elevates the importance of state-level governance reform.

During Meeting #3, the Task Force will receive a report on the data and feedback collected across ten stakeholder engagement sessions. The group will then transition to a discussion of four guiding questions intended to shape the conversation around recommendations and a blueprint for a new agency. These conversations will help staff begin crafting a final report that encompasses the Task Force’s work and suggestions for what should be housed in a new agency, how that agency should judge success and efficiency, and how the state can operationalize the transition once the agency is created.

To that end, we propose to create three Ad Hoc Work Groups to refine Task Force conversations, suggestions, and feedback into tangible recommendations that can be presented to the full Task Force and included in the final report. The three ad hoc work groups will focus on programmatic movement, metrics, and transition logistic recommendations.

Task Force members will be asked to self-select into one of these three work groups. Staff will work to create a slate of members for each work group based on member preferences. These groups will virtually meet 1-2 times throughout September and Early October to craft draft recommendations for full Task Force review and discussion. Each group will be asked to identify a “Leader” to lead discussions and assist in channeling the group’s work into recommendations. The “Leader” will be tasked with presenting their group’s work during meeting #4. Staff will continue to support these working group meetings.

The work of these groups will be used to help build the structure and draft recommendations for the final report. As currently envisioned, the final report will consist of four categories of recommendations, tentatively titled:

- Programmatic Movements—What programs does this new agency administer?
- Metrics and Data—How will the agency track efficiency and effectiveness?
- Transition Logistics—How should the transition occur?
- Other Game Changing Actions—What other actions are needed to move this system forward, but outside the scope of this Task Force’s charge to study? What other needs were identified by the stakeholder engagement sessions?

Stakeholder Engagement Tour | June 27-30, 2023



Regional early childhood leaders participating in guided discussion at Meeting Two of the Kansas Early Childhood Transition Task Force’s Stakeholder Engagement Tour in Wichita.