



IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Executive Director Letter	2
Bright Futures Successes	3
KPATA Membership / Training Pass	4
Safe Sleep Training	5
KPATA Committees	6-8
Just 10 Minutes	9
KS Head Start	10-12
Supporting Care Providers	13-14
Maternal Mortality Prevention	15
Did you know? / Upcoming events	16



JUNE 
vibes



A NOTE FROM THE

EXECUTIVE

DIRECTOR

ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- THE 2025-26 KPATA TRAINING CALENDAR IS BEING FINALIZED AND WILL BE SHARED OUT WITH PROGRAMS SOON. PLEASE WATCH YOUR EMAIL FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

Dear KPATA Members,

What a fabulous program year we had! Kansas PAT Programs are doing amazing things to support families and young children! As you wrap up at the end of the year, please take a moment to reflect and celebrate on your program's accomplishments and hard work.

During May, KPATA was very busy with the following:

- *Reviewing the Member feedback from our Collaborative Learning Day in April*
- *Reflecting on the goals of KPATA and the Executive Director to determine growth as well as areas for improvement*
- *Finalizing the 25-26 Training Calendar*

We are needing some individuals to serve on KPATA committees. Please ask your regional director, if you are interested, and they can visit with you about the focus for the work of each committee.



Warm Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director

BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESSES

SUCCESS STORY

Mom has worked very hard to secure the safest, most loving environment for [child] and has done so by leaning into her support systems. Mom worked through an organization to give guardianship to her grandmother so [child] could attend preschool this year while she worked and her grandmother worked tirelessly to set up support for [child's] special needs through the school district and county. The family has already worked with the school to create an IEP for [child] for his kindergarten year starting in the fall. Mom struggles with her mental health and was recently accepted into rehab to support her in getting and keeping a steady job. The family puts [child's] needs first and has worked to become a secure unit for both Mom and [child]. This family followed through with visits and implementing strategies and resources throughout their two years in the program and they will continue to use their bond with each other and the skills they've learned to give [child] his best chances.

- 11 NEW REFERRALS
- 80 ACTIVE REFERRALS
- 39 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



2025-2026 KPATA Membership



PURCHASE YOUR KPATA MEMBERSHIP FOR THE 2025-2026 PROGRAM YEAR NOW!

Memberships for the current program year
expire on June 30th

You can now renew or purchase your
KPATA Membership for the next program
year for \$50. A Membership (Training Pass)
includes access to a variety of high quality
trainings. Trainings will also be recorded
and available for members.

[CLICK HERE TO PURCHASE
YOUR MEMBERSHIP](#)

TRAINING PREVIEW COMING
SOON
Stay Tuned

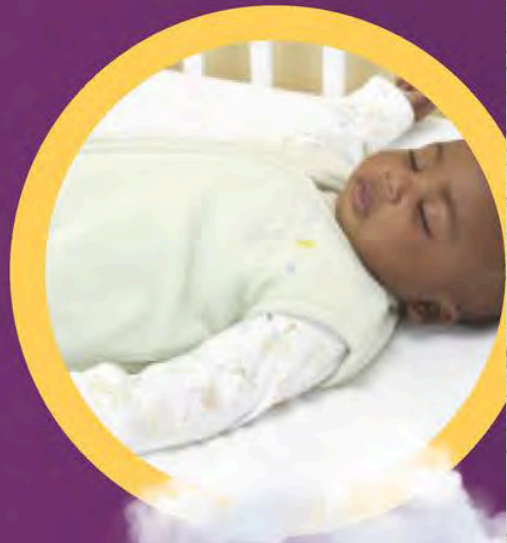
Safe Sleep Training

ZOOM SAFE SLEEP TRAINING

Provided for free by Safe
Sleep Instructor Meg Yenser

June 5th @ 1 pm

- ✓ Meets Bright Futures Safe Sleep Requirements
- ✓ A Pre and Post Test will be provided, once completed a certificate of completion will be emailed out



REGISTER HERE



Join a KPATA Committee

WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS. DO ANY OF THE COMMITTEES BELOW MATCH YOUR INTERESTS OR SKILLS? TAKE A LOOK—YOU MIGHT BE A GREAT FIT!

Join Us!

Personnel



Purpose:

Act as the Human Resource Department for KPATA employees and conduct the following:

- Support the President in conducting the Executive Director's Annual Evaluation
- Oversee hiring practices per Policy 2001 Conditions of Employment and other supporting policies.
- Provide guidance to the Executive Director for employment concerns or disputes
- Provide guidance to the Executive Board of Directors for employment concerns or disputes with the Executive Director

We are excited to be part of the growth of the organization and have appreciated putting together policies and procedures to guide our work.

FFPSA Committee

FAMILY FIRST
PREVENTION SERVICES ACT

Purpose:

- Act as an Advisory Board for the KPATA Affiliate to meet Parents as Teachers National Center requirements.
- Provide support to the Bright Futures Staff working on the FFPSA Grant.
- Approve all materials and procedures of FFPSA before they go to the KPATA Board.
- Approve the annual budget to be sent to the KPATA Board.
- Monitor monthly reports to include but not limited to expenditures; numbers of families served; referrals from DCF; signed Assurances from PAT districts; professional development provided by FFPSA Grant funds.
- Grant review for Family First Prevention Services Act Funds.



Join a KPATA Committee

Bylaws, Policies and Procedures

(sub-committee of Membership, Nominating and Governance)

Purpose:

The purpose of the Bylaws, Policies and Procedures sub-committee is to support the work of the Membership, Nominating, and Governance committee by being the working group of governance tasks. These primarily include monitoring KPATA's fidelity to the bylaws and to create, review, and present Policies and Procedures.



Join Us!

Membership, Nominating & Governance

Purpose:

- Membership - Grow and diversify KPATA membership; provide annual Membership Feedback Opportunities reporting results to the Board.
- Nominating - Fill open positions on the KPATA Board of Directors being mindful of representation from all regions of the state.
- Governance - Monitor KPATA's fidelity to the bylaws; review and present Policies and Procedures updates or changes.



Advocacy

Purpose:

The Advocacy Committee welcomes back the legislators to each session and is responsible for educating them on the function and need for investment in Parents as Teachers programs across the state. The Committee does this by organizing an Advocacy Day at the Capital and via email and phone communications with legislators. There are times when efforts are needed with more direct advocacy with certain bills that may come up for vote that could impact PAT programs. Additionally, engaging the community in advocacy efforts is a goal.



Join a KPATA Committee

Education and Training Committee



Purpose:

The purpose of the training and education committee is to research and determine the training needs of KPATA members and parent educators providing PAT home visit services in Kansas. Following the determination of those training needs, high-quality training will be set for the program year, by the committee members, in order to support the professional growth of KPATA members and to meet the required training expectations as determined by PATNC.

Join Us!

Social Media Committee



Purpose:

To support and promote the use of social media among affiliates to enhance the reach of PEs as well as to encourage recruitment and retention of families.

Finance



Purpose:

The Finance committee works in collaboration with the KPATA fiscal agent and the KPATA board treasurer to review financial documents monthly and conducts the following:

- Annually review the Finance Policies and Procedures document.
- Create any new finance policies and/or procedures around financial issues, revising and updating current practices as needed.
- Work with KPATA staff to create and present the annual budget.



Just 10 Minutes Resource



Just 10 Minutes a Day Can Change Everything

Stronger bonds. Happier kids. Healthier families.

At Just 10 Minutes, we believe every child deserves to feel deeply connected to their family. Small moments of undistracted interaction can make a powerful impact on a child's emotional well-being, brain development, and social skills. We empower families to embrace these moments, "just 10 minutes" of intentional, quality time each day. Through resources and inspiration, we help families strengthen their bonds and create lasting memories, proving that every minute spent in connection truly counts.

With Just 10 Minutes You Can:

- Nurture lasting bonds
- Support holistic growth
- Build resilient and loving communities

Adventure awaits. Join the fun.

Make the most of the moments that matter. Head to our website to learn more about Just 10 Minutes, discover opportunities to get involved, and explore engaging screen-free activities filled with fun!



www.justtenminutes.org

In partnership with:



Kansas Head Start

TEN THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT KANSAS HEAD START PROGRAMS

- 1. SINCE 1965, HEAD START HAS OFFERED OPPORTUNITY AND HOPE TO YOUNG CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN OUR KANSAS COMMUNITIES AND ACROSS THE NATION. NEARLY 6,300 INFANTS, TODDLERS, AND PRESCHOOLERS ARE ENROLLED IN KANSAS HEAD START PROGRAMS**
- 2. HEAD START IS A PROVEN MODEL FOR HIGH-QUALITY EARLY EDUCATION AND AN EFFECTIVE TWO-GENERATIONAL APPROACH.**
- 3. KANSAS HEAD START PROGRAMS COLLECTIVELY EMPLOY 2,500 DEDICATED HEAD START STAFF MEMBERS.**
- 4. OVER \$90+ MILLION IN FEDERAL HEAD START FUNDS FLOW INTO LOCAL COMMUNITIES EACH YEAR FOR HEAD START PROGRAMMING.**
- 5. HEAD START PARTNERS WITH PARENTS TO STRENGTHEN FAMILIES, ACTIVELY ENGAGING THEM AS THEIR CHILDREN'S FIRST AND MOST IMPORTANT TEACHERS.**
- 6. HEAD START SUPPORTS PARENTS IN PROVIDING FOR THEIR FAMILIES BY OFFERING A SAFE, RELIABLE PLACE FOR THEIR CHILDREN TO GROW AND START ON THE PATHWAY TO SUCCESS.**
- 7. HEAD START EASES THE IMPACTS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHALLENGES ON YOUNG CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES.**
- 8. KANSAS HEAD START PROGRAMS ARE VALUABLE COMMUNITY PARTNERS, SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESSES THROUGH THE PURCHASES OF GOODS AND SERVICES AND COLLABORATING WITH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS.**
- 9. LOCALLY DESIGNED HEAD START PROGRAMS EFFICIENTLY ADDRESS THE UNIQUE AND COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES THEY SERVE.**
- 10. EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED IN HEAD START RESULTS IN A LONG-TERM RETURN OF \$7-\$9.**



Kansas Head Start



60 Years of **HEAD START** IN KANSAS

June 1, 2025

Dear Head Start Partners, Friends, and Champions,

The Kansas Head Start Association serves as the voice for the Kansas Head Start community - 6,200 children, 2,500 staff, and 23 Head Start organizations in communities across the Kansas. The mission of KHSA is to strengthen leadership, learning, partnership, and advocacy opportunities for Head Start families, staff, and programs.

Head Start is a federally funded grant program. In Kansas, annual federal funding for Head Start is just over \$90 million. Earlier this spring, media reports raised concerns about the future of Head Start funding in the federal budget for next year (FY26). While there is no current proposal to eliminate Head Start funding, until Congress passes, and the President signs, a final FY26 funding bill, we remain committed to elevating the critical importance of Head Start for children and families in Kansas and across the nation.

Continued federal funding in FY26 and beyond is essential for maintaining access to the early education, health services, and economic supports offered by Kansas Head Start programs. KHSA is asking the Head Start community and Head Start champions to share this message with others. **What can you do?**

- Talk to your friends, family, and neighbors about Head Start and why it is important for the children and families in our communities. Connect them with the [Kansas Head Start Association Facebook page](#) and/or the [National Head Start Association Facebook page](#).
- Act by sharing a message about the importance of Head Start with your Members of Congress. The National Head Start Association has provided an easy tool for you to use [HERE](#) or at the QR code. (<https://nhsa.org/take-action/>)
- Invite others to act by sharing KHSA's social media posts and/or the NHSA tool.

The KHSA team and Board of Directors thank you for your ongoing partnership and support. For over 60 years, Head Start has offered opportunity and hope. On behalf of the Kansas Head Start community, we are committed to strengthening and sustaining Head Start for another 60 years.

Sincerely,

Heather Schrothberger
Executive Director



www.ksheadstart.org



Kansas Head Start



60 Years of **HEAD START** IN KANSAS

What can you share with others about Head Start?

- Without stable and reliable funding for Head Start, nearly 6,000 families in our state would be immediately impacted.
- When parents of young children have access to Head Start, they do not face the difficult decision of choosing between their livelihoods and a safe, reliable place for their children to grow and start on the pathway to success.
- Head Start is a model for high quality early education. It is an effective two-generational approach.
- For every \$1 spend on Head Start, there is a \$7-\$9 return in long-term savings. Why? Head Start reduces costs associated with later, additional support services at school, like speech and hearing therapy, and with reliance on government assistance. In fact, parents who went to Head Start as children are less likely to qualify for Head Start and other government assistance programs when they have children of their own, strengthening families for future generations.

Head Start programs provide intensive, comprehensive early education in the majority of Kansas counties through Head Start preschool services and Early Head Start services for pregnant women, infants, and toddlers.

- Over \$90 million in federal Head Start funding flowed into Kansas's economy in FY2024 – directly to the local programs who provide these services in their communities.
- Almost 6,300 children participate in Kansas Head start programs.
- Nearly 2,500 individuals work in Head Start program in Kansas and are an integral part of the state's early childhood workforce.
- Over 4,900 parents were able to work, go to school, or participate in job training as a result of Head Start support.



www.ksheadstart.org



Supporting Care Providers



SCPK ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING FOCUSES ON STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

On May 1st, the Supporting Care Providers of Kansas (SCPK) Advisory Council met with team members from Praxis Nonprofit Strategies. The meeting centered on outlining the organization's work plan and identifying key areas where the Advisory Council's expertise can significantly support SCPK's initiatives.

An essential outcome of the discussion was the establishment of several vital committees. These committees are designed to be instrumental in shaping SCPK's upcoming programming and strategies. The unique perspectives and specialized knowledge of Advisory Council members will be invaluable in driving the success of these efforts, directly contributing to SCPK's growth and impact across Kansas.

Here is an overview of the committees and their respective focus areas:

- **Strategic Planning:** This committee will be instrumental in drafting SCPK's strategic plan and fundraising strategy. It will also be responsible for monitoring key benchmarks and providing guidance to the Program Director during the implementation phase.
- **Program Quality:** Dedicated to enhancing SCPK's services, this committee will provide essential feedback on service delivery methods. It will also support the design, implementation, and summarization of annual survey results to ensure continuous improvement.

- **Communications:** This committee's focus is on increasing SCPK's visibility throughout Kansas communities. Its work will include advising on the development of the organization's website and social media presence.
- **Finance:** This committee will play a crucial role in the financial oversight of SCPK, assisting in the preparation and approval of the annual budget. Members will also participate in quarterly meetings to review and monitor budget implementation.
- **Development:** Focused on securing resources for SCPK, this committee will assist the Program Director in networking with potential funders. It will also offer expertise in the fundraising process and review draft grants prior to submission.

The formation of these committees highlights SCPK's commitment to using the diverse talents within its Advisory Council to advance its mission and better serve Family, Friend, and Neighbor care providers throughout Kansas.

Interested in participating in the Advisory Council? Please reach out to Rebecca Stewart at rstewart@kpata.org

Supporting Care Providers



Calling Johnson and Wyandotte County FFN Care Providers!



We are currently enrolling FFN care providers in Johnson and Wyandotte County communities! If you know someone providing Family, Friend, and Neighbor care for children birth to five who would like more information on program enrollment, please reach out to Maria at mrrios@kpata.org or call/text 913-731-4834.



Maternal Mortality Prevention



A Million Moments for Maternal Mortality Prevention: Addressing maternal mortality at the intersection of physical and mental health, substance use and intimate partner violence.

Registration is now open!

August 7th - 8th

[REGISTER HERE](#)

This training is being presented by KDHE and is free to attend!

Questions? Contact kcc@ku.edu



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE

- 20TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 30TH - LAST DAY OF THE PROGRAM YEAR

JULY

- 1ST - ALL BRIGHT FUTURES REPORTS ARE DUE FOR 2024-2025
- 18TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING

Thank you for your feedback from our Collaborative Learning Day

The speakers were informative and had a great presentation, with activities and real-life examples I can use

I found the format of being more interactive and less "sit and listen" to be a very positive step in the right direction!

Would love to have the next one in Western area and span it over 2 days

Super helpful info & resources shared- great time to work on projects

Missed group time together and a opening or ending speaker

Great presentation expanding our understanding on advocacy and how to utilize Canva and the array of abilities it can offer. Very beneficial!

Prefer in person and not Zoom presentations. Would love to see more program to program interactions

The workshop was great and I went home with some new and fresh group ideas.

Great discussion, reflection time, and information shared

