



Purchase or renew
your
2026-2027
KPATA
Membership
NOW

◆◆◆

[CLICK HERE](#)

IN THIS NEWSLETTER

Executive Director Letter	2
KPATA Conference	3
Bright Futures Successes	4
Conference & Membership Feedback	5
KPATA Trainings	6-9
Care & Wellness Conference	10
KPATA Slate of Officers	11
PE of the Year	12
Supporting Care Providers	13
KS Home Visiting Conference	14
Breastfeeding Message	15
Retirements / Upcoming events	16



Dear KPATA Members -

Did May just sprint in, or what? Hopefully, you're soaking up some rays and stopping to smell the blossoms! It was fantastic catching so many of your smiling faces at the Back to the Future Conference in Wichita.

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." — Mark Twain

Sometimes the hardest part isn't the work—it's the first move in a new direction. Spring reminds us that progress doesn't wait for perfect conditions. Start where you are, take the first step, and let momentum do the rest.

In our PAT programs, that first step might be a new connection with a family, trying a different approach during a visit, or reaching out in a new way to support those you serve. What have you already implemented as a result of your learning?

Please note that we're in the brainstorming zone for the 2026-27 professional development plan and calendar. What cool skills or knowledge could you or your program use? Please complete the survey by scanning the QR code to let us know!

Here's to spring: where small starts turn into real momentum.

Warm Regards,

Hilary Koehn

Hilary Koehn
Executive Director



May



A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ITEMS TO HIGHLIGHT

- PLEASE BE SURE TO COMPLETE THE FEEDBACK FORM FOR THE KPATA CONFERENCE

KPATA Conference 2026



THANK YOU!
To all who planned,
traveled and attended!
**KPATA CONFERENCE 2026
WAS A SUCCESS!**



BRIGHT FUTURES SUCCESES

SUCCESS STORY

Mom has demonstrated strong engagement and consistency with PAT services this month, successfully attending both scheduled visits. During visits, she was eager to share Child's continued progress, particularly in early literacy skills. Mom reported that she has been actively teaching additional sight words at home, and Child is now able to recognize multiple words independently during activities. Child has shown significant growth in her language development. She is consistently speaking in full sentences, initiating and maintaining back-and-forth conversations with her mother, and demonstrating improved comprehension skills. During the visit, Child was observed engaging in meaningful dialogue, responding appropriately to questions, and using expressive language to communicate her needs and ideas. Mom continues to effectively implement strategies and activities provided through PAT handouts. She reported regularly incorporating these activities into their weekly routine, which has supported Child's developmental progress. This consistency has contributed to Child meeting developmental milestones in both language and early literacy domains. Overall, this month reflects a successful period of service delivery, with both caregiver engagement and child outcomes demonstrating clear progress toward established goals. Mom's commitment to practicing skills between visits has played a key role in Child's continued growth and development.

- 13 NEW REFERRALS
- 74 ACTIVE REFERRALS
- 38 PARTICIPATING PROGRAMS



Conference & Membership Feedback



PLEASE SUBMIT FEEDBACK BY
MAY 31ST!

WE VALUE YOUR FEEDBACK

Please share your feedback
with us about the
KPATA Membership and
2026 KPATA Conference!

[Feedback Survey](#)
[Click Here](#)



KPATA Trainings



KPATA and KDHE are Pleased to Host:

Vaping Products and Treatment Resources

*Presenter: Matthew Schrock, MSW
Tobacco Cessation Coordinator*

- ▶ May 7th, 2026
- ▶ 1:00-2:00 PM

[REGISTER HERE](#)



KPATA Trainings

New Training Added!

More Helpful Help

A Deeper Dive Into Motivational Interviewing

Presented by: **Scott Kerby**

Scott Kerby joined us in November and he's joining us for a half day training for a deeper dive into sustain talk, empathy and reflective skills, and intrinsic motivation for change!

Register Here!

JUNE 25TH

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM



Objectives:

1. Define and recognize the different types of change and sustain talk (key MI concepts)
2. Review how empathy and reflective skills earn our way into the "front seat" with the client.
3. Recognize how the Fixing (righting) Reflex hinders our ability to help others build their own intrinsic motivation for change.

A Training for KPATA Members



KPATA Trainings

LET'S LEARN TOGETHER.

Visit Tracker OFFICE HOURS

Join Hilary & Sarah for monthly Visit Tracker Office Hours!
KPATA is here to support your Visit Tracker learning
and success—and we want to hear from you.

- Answer your questions
- Troubleshoot challenges you're experiencing
- Gather your feedback on what supports you need most
- Help you feel more confident and efficient using Visit Tracker

Whether you're brand new or have been using Visit Tracker for years,
this is your space to connect, learn, and share.



Hilary Koehn
KPATA/
VT User



Sarah Berkley
Program Coordinator/
VT User

MAY 13TH & JUNE 10TH 2026 3-4:00 PM



2025-2026

KPATA Training Calendar

Remember!

A KPATA Membership is required in order to attend our trainings.

You can purchase your 2026-2027 Membership (Training Pass) below!

[Register](#)

TRAINING SCHEDULE

PARENT EDUCATORS AND COORDINATORS
KPATA BRIGHT FUTURES 2025-2026

Month	Training Title	Presenter	Date/Time	Quality Standard
JULY	Share & Show Our Favorites	Book, activity enhancement, resource, song or fingerplay	7/17 1:00-2:30 PM	
AUGUST	CONVERSATIONS ^{KS} Communities		8/21 1:00-2:00 PM	★
SEPTEMBER	PAT Engage Starting at Square 1		9/19 1:00-2:30 PM	
OCTOBER	Understanding NEURODIVERSITY	SARAH JONES/KCCTO	10/3 1:00-2:30 PM	★
NOVEMBER	Motivational Interviewing Refresher	Scott Kerby	11/14 1:00-2:30 PM	
DECEMBER	CATCH UP			
JANUARY	Intimate Partner Violence survivor-informed insights	Kristina Scott-KCSDV	1/15 10:00-11:30 AM	★
FEBRUARY	HOPE TRAINING	Dana Book/KCSL	2/19 1:00-3:00 PM	
MARCH	MATERNAL DEPRESSION	Robert Ammerman/CCHMC MOVING BEYOND DEPRESSION TRAINER	3/27 1:00-2:00 PM	
APRIL	Child Abuse and Neglect	Valeria Adame/KCSL	4/9 1:00-2:30 PM	★
MAY	Vaping Products and Treatment Resources	Matthew Schrock/ KANQUIT	5/7 1:00-2:00 PM	★
JUNE	A deeper dive into Motivational Interviewing	Scott Kerby	6/25 9:00AM-1:00 PM	★ NEW!

★ INDICATES A PATNC QUALITY STANDARD TRAINING REQUIREMENT

kpata
KANSAS PARENTS AS TEACHERS

Registration Now Open Care & Wellness Conference

A FREE EVENT FOR ALL FAMILIES & CARE PROFESSIONALS OF
YOUNG CHILDREN!

Care & Wellness Conference



WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

WICHITA, KS

Wichita State University's
Eugene M. Hughes Metropolitan
Complex | 5015 East 29th St N

9:00am to 4:30pm



THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026

SALINA, KS

Tony's Pizza Event Center
800 The Midway, Salina

9:00am to 4:30pm



FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 2026

OLATHE, KS

KVC Ball Event Center
21350 W 153rd St, Olathe

9:00am to 4:30pm



Join us for this free event!

- Stipends available for participating families of young children (birth to five)
- State-approved professional development hours provided
- Connect with local early childhood professionals & families
- Expand your skills to support your role as a caregiver & professional
- Find helpful resources
- Lunch is provided

SCAN CODE OR
VISIT LINK TO
REGISTER FOR
YOUR REGION:

SCAN ME



CLICK HERE 

All In For
Kansas Kids 

KPATA Board Officers

2026-2027

CONGRATULATIONS

TO OUR APPROVED SLATE OF
KPATA BOARD OFFICERS

2026-2027

BOARD POSITION	NAME
PRESIDENT	2026 CONSIDERATION, DANA CLARY (PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS PRESIDENT-ELECT)
PRESIDENT ELECT	2026 CONSIDERATION, EMILY GOETZ
PAST PRESIDENT	AMBER DEJMAL
VICE PRESIDENT	EMILY GOETZ
TREASURER	AARON GRUNEWALD (1 MORE YEAR IN SECOND TERM)
SECRETARY	BRITTANY DENSON
NW REGIONAL DIRECTOR	MONIQUE KOERNER (1 MORE YEAR IN SECOND TERM)
NC REGIONAL DIRECTOR 1	TABITHA MORRIS
NC REGIONAL DIRECTOR 2	ALLEE HUNINGHAKE
NE REGIONAL DIRECTOR 1	2026 CONSIDERATION, ELIZABETH DURKIN
NE REGIONAL DIRECTOR 2	STACIE DANIELS
SW REGIONAL DIRECTOR	AMANDA GOTTS
SC REGIONAL DIRECTOR	MARIA TORRES
SE REGIONAL DIRECTOR	2026 CONSIDERATION, NICOLE GILMORE

Kansas Parent Educator of the Year

DO YOU WORK WITH
THIS PERSON?

THE 2025-2026
KS PARENT EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

KPATA is proud to shine a spotlight on the remarkable dedication shown by Kansas PAT parent educators by honoring one outstanding professional with the distinction of Kansas Parent Educator of the Year.

FREE MEMBERSHIP for the NOMINATOR of the recipient

RECOGNITION for YOUR PAT Program

\$100 GIFT CARD to the Winner

Scan QR Code for Nominations

Visit our website: kpata.org 



SCAN OR CLICK TO NOMINATE 



CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

Have questions about our program, eligibility, or how to get involved? Whether you are a family, an FFN provider, or a community partner, we would love to hear from you. Together, we are building a stronger Kansas for our children.

Reach out to us at:

Becky Stewart/Program Director
rstewart@kpata.org
913-340-4574

Maria Rios/Outreach-Recruitment
Specialist
mrios@kpata.org
913-731-4834



KS Home Visiting Conference

Save the Date!

SAVE THE DATE!

KANSAS HOME VISITING

Conference

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

9:30AM TILL 3PM

IN PERSON!

CHANUTE

GARDEN CITY

HAYS

KANSAS CITY

TOPEKA

WICHITA



**MORE INFO AND
REGISTRATION COMING SOON!**

Breastfeeding Message of the Month



Kansas
Breastfeeding
Coalition, Inc.

The Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition Names Katie Givens as the Next Executive Director



After careful consideration, the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition (KBC) Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of **Katie Givens** as the new Executive Director, effective May 1, 2026. Katie brings over 20 years of experience as a public service and nonprofit leader in Kansas, including leading complex, grant-funded organizations. She is a workforce and human resources professional committed to connecting people, fostering partnerships, and improving systems throughout the state. As a mother herself, Katie understands the critical importance of breastfeeding and the support needed across sectors to help all families succeed.

Katie's recent roles included Director of Strategic Operations of Kansas WorkforceONE and Executive Director & Assistant Executive Director at Southeast KANSASWORKS. She is experienced with working closely with Boards of Directors while meeting government and private grant compliance requirements. Additionally, Katie has built a network of employers, nonprofits, healthcare organizations, educational institutions, and public agencies that will contribute to KBC's mission to promote, protect, and support breastfeeding and human milk feeding.

According to Katie, "I'm grateful to be joining this community and building on such a strong foundation! KBC's work makes a real difference for families, workplaces, and communities across Kansas."

The KBC Board remains grateful for Brenda Bandy's 17 years of leadership and wishes her the best in her future endeavors. To ensure a smooth transition and continuity of the KBC's vital work, Katie will work closely with Brenda. Executive Director responsibilities will be shared until Brenda's departure on July 1.

"It has been an honor to lead the KBC and broaden our ability to help every family achieve their infant feeding goals," said Brenda. She noted that KBC is well-positioned for the future. "We're excited about this next chapter for the KBC and look forward to your continued support."

*Congratulations on your
Retirement*

TERRY JENSEN
BLUE VALLEY PAT

CLAUDIA BURFORD
BLUE VALLEY PAT

LEIGH ANNE NEAL
SHAWNEE MISSION PAT

KAREN RAKESTRAW
GREENBUSH PAT

DONNA TROST
CONCORDIA PAT

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

- 7TH - VAPE TRAINING
- 15TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING

JUNE

- 19TH - KPATA BOARD MEETING
- 25TH - MOTIVATIONAL INTERVIEWING TRAINING
- 30TH - LAST DAY OF PROGRAM YEAR
- *ALL MONTHLY REPORTS DUE JULY 1ST*

