

PIECE Interagency Coordinating Council
Meeting Minutes for September 10, 2025
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86788562389>

- I. Welcome
- II. Guest Presentations – Rex Cearley, Grief Recovery Specialist – Grief Recovery Method and Helping Children with Loss
 - Mr. Cearley presented to the group. He shared business/contact cards.
 - Book- When Children Grieve (by John W. James, Russell Friedman, Dr. Leslie Landon Matthews)
 - Loss begins as early as birth and continues throughout life; it produces grief.
 - Adults do not always recognize the signs of grief. Children need to have their feelings validated and tools offered to help them through grief.
 - Mr. Cearley offers classes for adults to learn how to help children with the grief process.
 - Adults need to say things that are intellectually and emotionally helpful & check for understanding. Go first & model the behavior.
 - Contact Rex Cearley at CAPS if you'd like more information.
- III. Organization Reports
 - a. Updates/Trainings/Events
 - Mary- CKCIE- Heartland/CKCIE/305 preschools were recently visited by Amanda Peterson and Angel Spann from KSDE. Working on increasing our local capacity for inclusive preschool environments.
 - Michelle O.- Salina Childcare Association- getting through Kdg graduation and getting new students in. A few pre-k openings left. 2 staff openings.
 - Meagan V.- Childcare Aware- Have a new staffer coming on board. Doing class observations. Switched to a new form of meeting, updating policies to be more family-friendly. Fully staffed.
 - Tabitha M.- 239 Parents as Teachers- 16 families currently (36ish kiddos/32 adults). A few openings remain for this year. Completed annual APR report in July (met all requirements). Wrapped up Kdg screenings. Upcoming early childhood screening Sept. 19 in Ottawa County ([Developmental Screenings Folder](#))
 - Lindsey F.- 306 PAT- LaNell Keeler has retired. Enrolled 2 new families (at 17).
 - Stacy C.- KSDE SICC- KDADs is offering free PAX training. It fits in nicely with PBIS, but is geared more towards younger children. Can be done virtually or in person. State ICC- fall LICC retreat is on screen time, how it impacts the developing brain, and what we can do (Oct. 24 in the morning). You can go to TASN.org to register.

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- Emily W.- ICD- 210 kids. 2 positions posted (OT & Program Assistant). Joyce is retiring & Jana Leners will be taking over as director. Congratulations to Joyce on an amazing legacy over the past 40 years! Her come-and-go send-off will be on October 1.
- KCCTO- CAPE portal (yourcape.org). Career Navigators (a new position since last year) are up and running. Can assist with creating career development plans. Ingrid- coach and consultant- Training next week on the 16th- Don't Say Don't (Trinity Methodist Church 6:30-8:30). 17th health and safety training at Starting Point (12:30-2:30). KAPE website to register. Well-being (mental health) Cohorts open on Friday. There will also be a Spanish-language version.
- USD 305/Heartland- Patricia- 5 spots left in Salina Elementary preks. Headstart is full!
- Julie O.- KCSL is partnering to provide child neglect advocacy. Tomorrow is the Salina Area Partners in Action meeting- 10-11:30 at Catholic Charities.
- Alexys/Leigh Ann- Childcare Licensing- Working to inform parents why it's important to choose a licensed care option. Will be running ads this fall for all 3 counties regarding licensed care. The new office of early childcare is still developing. The new CLARIS (called Link) is coming out.
- Meghan- Ellsworth- working on accreditation. Staffing is down. Would like to find an enrollment specialist.
- Julie C.- CKMH- Had 9 pre-k kids in summer programming & quite a few kinders. Would like to do pre-k groups again this year & catch both morning and afternoon kiddos. Working on a new building still. Hope to have a youth building by Summer 26. Working with KDADS on Parent-peer support for littles who aren't getting into services. Early childhood mental health collab coming up next month, Oct. 15.
- Michelle H.- Headstart- Do have some home-based early childhood openings (for infants and toddlers) available.
- Lindsey R.- CAPS- Doing Incredible Years (condensed) again. Inputting lots- will be serving over 730 kids! CPR classes available; just need a minimum of 6 participants. PIECE- Mr. Freeland is working on a postcard design, and he will visit soon.

IV. Old Business

- a. ICC Grant- tabled

V. New Business

- a. 2025-2027 MOU

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- Be sure to get yours submitted.
 - Can sign as a voting or non-voting member.
 - b. Books, Balls, and Blocks- Ingrid shared. BBB developmental screening event. Anyone can host & they'll help families complete ASQ & ASQ-SE. Families will receive books, balls, and blocks for attending. Can train staff as well. Emily suggested that they can also attend our already planned activities. However, our community is also a bit saturated already with screenings. <https://agesandstages.com/ks/>
 - c. Trunk or Treat- Fall Event- Talked about whether PIECE would want to do trunk or treat. What if PIECE joined as one entity with the downtown event? Tabitha offered to represent both PAT and PIECE at the Minneapolis event (October 31). They would need 100-200 items. PIECE decided not to do its own separate event.
- VI. Comments, Announcements, and Other Business
- a. Emily suggested that our brochure is very outdated. We need a new one with more description. We will discuss again at our next meeting.
 - b. Discussion of grant (Part C must be the fiscal agent)
- VII. Adjournment- 2:30 pm

Next meeting date – Wednesday, November 12th at 1:00 pm