

Notes from PIECE Meeting on 3/8/2025:

Lindsey opened the meeting by sharing the new PIECE logo that was voted on by the members last month.

Updates were shared by those members present:

- Crystal with USD 305 shared that they are preparing for kindergarten round up. Flyers have been made and distributed. She will share them with the group and Lindsey will also send out.
- Patt Haas with USD 305 shared information about the Heartland field trips that will correspond with kindergarten round ups for the children to see their schools and visit classrooms.
- Julie Opatt with DCF shared the LIEAP will be coming to an end at end of March. This is a hard stop and no exceptions will be made. Child support services has opened a new online portal that should make it easy for people to use. They are still partnering with KCSL for mandatory reporting classes. A DCF flyer will be shared with a new code to learn about programs and that will lead people to their newly revamped website that is easier to use. She also shared there are several open positions with DCF at this time.
- Lanell Keeler with PAT at SE of Saline shared that they are preparing for their kindergarten round up as well. On the Tuesday after spring break they will hold the actual kindergarten round up. A week later they will do kindergarten screenings to determine which classroom children go into and the parents will fill out paperwork and complete ASQ's. Then the following Friday the kids will all visit school for 2 hours and then 2 weeks later come back and visit again, this time seeing different teachers.
- Lindsey Frank, also with PAT of SE of Saline, shared that she is officially in the process of taking everything over from Lanell. She is working on recruitment and some group connections ideas.
- Janie Jorgenson, Twin Valley PAT, talked about a recent group connection she put together and completed on nutrition. This month they are doing some messy play activities and they will have a moms meeting in April to talk about finance. They are currently finishing grant paperwork and working on putting together a book walk in their communities. They are also working with a county group to complete a county resource

guide and she is preparing to do a WIC/breastfeeding training for families.

- Michelle Groopman with United Way updated they are still hosting their tax program. They are currently looking for volunteers to have drop box locations for books that will be used for their summer reading program, they are also promoting their volunteer hub. The United Network is up and available for use and the ECF grant has just closed.
- Alicia Daniels with Child Care Aware of Kansas updated that they have started spring assessments with the Quality Classroom grant and things are going well. They hope to hear about the updated grant at the end of April. CCAKS is fully staffed at this time and working on some new opportunities. Christy Smith, the Executive Director has been providing testimony on the new legislation for the Office of Early Childhood. Alicia also shared that CCAKS will not go live on CAPE until probably June at this time.
- Alexis with licensing shared that they have been closely watching the house bill and have some concerns on number of hours, pd and smaller center spaces being acceptable, as well as concerns for the regulation of providers.
- Leighann Montoy with licensing also shared about the house bill and further highlighted the concerns shared by Alexis.
- Lindsey Rojas with CAPS shared that she completed a training over the weekend and that she is still providing CPR.

Discussion over Week of the Young Child:

- Lindsey has confirmed Music Monday with Joyful Noise Studio at the mall. It will be held in their space from 615-715.
- Lindsey is working on confirming Tasty Tuesday with Julie at CKMHC.
- Work Together Wednesday will be held at Kids Creative Corner from 6-7pm. There will be opportunities to make puzzles and just play in the environment.
- Artsy Thursday will be held at the Health Department from 6-730pm. They have titled their event, "Everything But a Paint Brush". Will do some advertising on radio shows/newsletter/Facebook.
- Family Friday will be in the parking lot outside of CAPS/ICD from 6-7.
 - o CAPS will have Happy Bear and popcorn and oversee the bouncy houses
 - o SCCA will be having a dance party and providing fruit

- Health Department will have cornhole
- CCAKS will have Plinko
- United Way is doing a book giveaway
- USD 305 Face Painting
- ICD Game
- DCF duck pond
- CKMHC?

Provider Appreciation Day is Friday, May 9th. The health department has signs made up they will put up around town. Lexi will be doing a promotional radio bit on May 3rd and the Salina Chamber will put something in the Biz Buzz. As of now the health department will hold their event on Friday, April 25th. It will be at the Saline County 4-H building and they will have dinner and a movie. They will also be sending thank you cards to all providers in their territory. There will be billboards up in Salina and radio ads in Saline and McPherson counties for recruitment.

During the May meeting, PIECE members will nominate and elect new officers (President and Secretary) effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2027.