

# Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice

Maternal and Child Health Council

September 12, 2023

# About the Commission

- The Governor signed Executive Order 20-48 on June 24, 2020, forming the Governor's Commission on Racial Equity and Justice.
- She asked the Commission to study issues of racial equity and justice across systems in Kansas, focusing first on policing and law enforcement.
- The Commission includes perspectives from the criminal justice system, education, healthcare, and advocacy organizations.
- This is **not** a commission on criminal justice reform – it is focused on broad issues of racial equity in Kansas, which includes some elements of the criminal justice system but is not tasked with a comprehensive study of that system.
- In 2021, the Commission focused on studying racial equity within economic systems, education, and healthcare.

The Governor's  
Commission on  
Racial Equity and  
Justice wants to  
hear from

**YOU!**

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The Commission's first report includes over 60 recommendations for state agencies, the legislature, and local governments. The recommendations focus on:

- Law Enforcement Training
- Officer Certification and Standards
- Recruitment, Retention, and Promotion
- Accountability
- Data Collection
- Public Defense
- Justice System
- School Resource Officers
- Tribal Jurisdiction
- Immigration and Law Enforcement
- Behavioral Health
- Law Enforcement Funding

The Commission's 2021 report on the Social Determinants of Health includes 90 recommendations focused on the subcommittee subject areas of Education, Economic Systems, and Healthcare:

- Early Childhood and Child Care
- Maximizing Federal Funding
- Tax Policy
- Teacher Diversity
- Post-Secondary Education
- School Resource Officers
- School Mascots
- Maternal and Child Health
- Vaccine Equity
- Universal Equity Policies
- Housing and Homelessness
- Broadband
- Wages and Lending Practices
- Workforce
- Access to Healthcare
- Family Planning
- Behavioral Health
- ACEs and Interfamily Violence
- Juvenile Justice System

2020

Recommendations

# Initial Report: Policing and Law Enforcement

## *Behavioral Health*

- Expand Medicaid to provide mental health and other health care coverage to populations currently not covered.
- Support and finance the use of mobile crisis response models, including co-responder and virtual co-responder models to assist law enforcement in responding to behavioral health calls and stops.

2021

Recommendations



### ***Universal Equity Policies***

- Encourage government policies and enact legislation that requires bias and equity analysis of policy decisions and legislation at all levels.

### ***Family Planning***

- Ensure the availability of affordable and accessible contraceptive care and contraceptive methods.
- Increase eligibility for family planning services under Medicaid to 171% of the Federal Poverty Level.
- Improve access to contraception under private health insurance plans.

### ***Maternal and Child Health***

- Expand Medicaid.
- Offer comprehensive maternal benefits through Medicaid.
- Extend Medicaid coverage for mothers to 12 months postpartum.

*Maternal and Child Health, cont.*

- Publicly report measures of child health by race and ethnicity and service location (region, plan, provider), starting with the developmental screening measure for children ages 0–3.
- Develop payment policy to support the health of the child/caregiver relationship, utilizing a model of “two-generation” care.
- Utilize quality programs as part of Managed Care Organization (MCO) contracts to improve quality of care.
- Train partners to utilize a birth equity framework.
- Establish First 1,000 day “health homes” for new mothers and children ages 0-3.
- Develop payment policies to reimburse community-based providers such as community health workers, home visitors, doulas, and lactation consultants.
- Improve health of children by reducing the number of uninsured children through enabling continuous coverage for children ages 0-5.

*Maternal and Child Health, cont.*

- Raise income level for the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) and pregnant women to 240% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
- Support telehealth policies to improve maternal and child health outcomes and maintain access to telehealth services post-COVID 19.
- Partner with state groups to offer best practices and education for mothers and families during and after pregnancy.

### ***Early Childhood and Child Care***

- Improve the Kansas Child Day Care Assistance Credit (Ref: Governor's Council on Education, Feb 2021).
- Incorporate the science of toxic stress and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) into federal, state, and local policies and programs.
- Implement a DC:0-5 Crosswalk.
- Provide resources to support the use of therapeutic pre-schools that are equipped to support the healthy development of all children.
- Ensure quality initiatives in childcare systems include equity indicators in areas such as curriculum, pedagogy, inclusion, and behavior management.

### ***Behavioral Health***

- Expand telehealth access and codify regulations that expanded telehealth for mental health.

### *ACEs and Interfamily Violence*

- Improve coordination and partnerships to increase prevention services and guard against ACEs.
- Support the social and emotional development of young children and their caregivers to prevent and respond to ACEs.
- Invest in building resilience to address ACEs in Kansas children.
- Provide accessible screening of parents and children for behavioral health and development needs.

### *Maximizing Federal Funding*

- Repeal restrictions that prevent families from accessing TANF and SNAP benefits and disproportionately impact families of color.
- Focus on Social Determinants of Health and equity in the KanCare Managed Care re-procurement process.
- Consider the perspectives of people of color and people from groups impacted by COVID-19 in the process of distributing federal relief funds.
- Direct federal funds using a broad interpretation of “health” that includes social determinants of health and considers health equity.
- Ensure the lowest administrative burden possible for communities and individuals accessing funding and assistance, in particular around utility and housing assistance. Application procedures should be as simplified and accessible as possible.



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION  
ON  
RACIAL EQUITY & JUSTICE

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# 2021 REPORT

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH -  
FINAL REPORT

Both commission reports are  
available online at

<https://governor.kansas.gov/governors-commission-on-racial-equity-and-justice/>

Along with recordings of  
meetings and learning  
sessions held by the  
Commission, and documents  
used in development of the  
recommendations.

# Progress: 2022 Budget

- Increases coverage for post-partum mothers from 60 days to 12 months after birth and funds the Maternal and Child Home Visiting Program.
- Approves additional enhancements for Emergency Medical Services, adult dental services, cancer screening, pediatric primary care, and newborn screening.
- Continues funding for Families First Prevention grants and services and includes funding for recruitment and retention incentives for child placing agencies.



# Questions?

To contact the Commission:

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