

Cross-Cutting: Other Family Empowerment Activities

Activities During Federal Fiscal Year 2023

Family Leadership Team: The FCP Program Manager has been involved in the broader early childhood systems work around family engagement and leadership. The goal of the Family Leadership Team (FLT) is to inform, support, develop, and advise on issues and initiatives that engage families to support the healthy growth and development of children, parents, and their communities. The FLT aims to influence and enable systems-level change with a focus on cross-systems collaboration and alignment at the state and community level within the early childhood care and education system. To accomplish this, the Family Leadership Team is in the process of implementing the following strategies:

- Directly engage family leaders to better understand diverse family needs, challenges, and preferences
- Research and identify best practices and innovative strategies
- Explore partnerships and tools to increase representation among family engagement opportunities throughout the state
- Increase alignment and commitment to family engagement among state agencies
- Develop directory of existing statewide and regional councils, coalitions, and committees with a family leadership focus
- Develop and disseminate family engagement tools and resources for families and professionals
- Create a resource hub for family engagement resources and opportunities

The FLT is meant to be comprised of state and community leaders working to support families, as well as family representatives who are strong advocates for their own families and families across Kansas. Trying to ensure all needed partners are at the table has been a struggle. The structure of the FLT has been altered a couple times to better fit family voice, action, and oversight.