

July 2020 PLC:

Using Stories to Create Change: Our Tomorrows and the Community Sensemaking Approach

July 8, 2020





Melissa Rooker

The Kansas Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund

Jenny Flinders

Steffany Sloan, Ph.D

University of Kansas
Center for Public Partnerships & Research



@kcctf



kschildrenscabinet.org



kucppr.org/OurTomorrows

All In For 
Kansas Kids

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

AGENDA

- ▶ Our Tomorrows 1.0
- ▶ Our Tomorrows 2.0
- ▶ Using Our Tomorrows 2.0 Stories
- ▶ Translating Data Into Action
- ▶ Q & A

OUR
tomorrows

Our Tomorrows



Partnering with Our Tomorrows

- ▶ Began as part of CBCAP work
- ▶ Early Childhood Systems Building
- ▶ Parent Voice and Choice
- ▶ Needs assessment informs project work and expansion in further year
- ▶ Trying a novel approach to hearing stories, but also to intervention strategy to complement, align, and enhance the early childhood system in Kansas

OUR
tomorrows

Our Tomorrows 1.0

- ▶ Uses SenseMaker technology to gather stories across the state
- ▶ Stories and data highlight how families are surviving and thriving
- ▶ Community SenseMaking process applied at community-level
- ▶ Uses stories to engage community stakeholders
- ▶ Work together to devise creative and collaborative solutions

OUR
tomorrows

Our Tomorrows 2.0

- ▶ Launched Our Tomorrows 2.0 in March, 2020
- ▶ Questions added to gauge how families were faring during the Covid-19 crisis
- ▶ Survey questions also probe for how families are surviving and thriving during the pandemic
 - Examining family resilience, equity, government responses, and social supports
- ▶ Stories and survey data are analyzed weekly, and delivered directly to decision makers, driving policy change in real-time

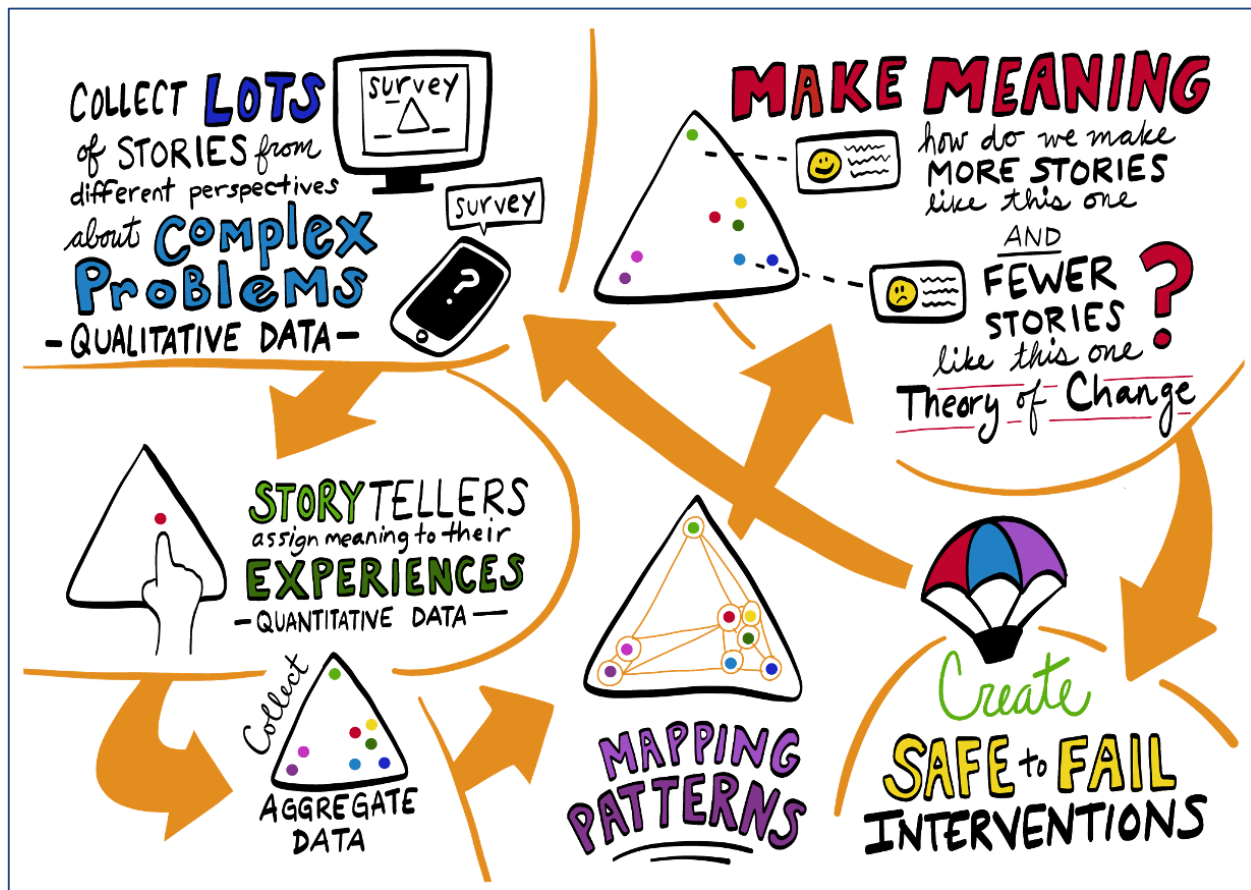
OUR
tomorrows

Real-Time Data Collection

- ▶ Real-time data accounts for urgent and current needs of families
- ▶ Narrows the span of time between data collection and action
- ▶ Allows for timely adaptation of services to meet needs
- ▶ Real-time data can be used for urgent policy decisions

tomorrow's **OUR**

How do we make sense of Kansas family experiences?



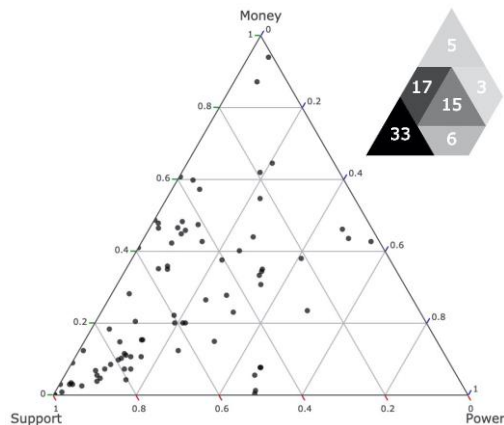
Data Trends Across Covid-19 Crisis



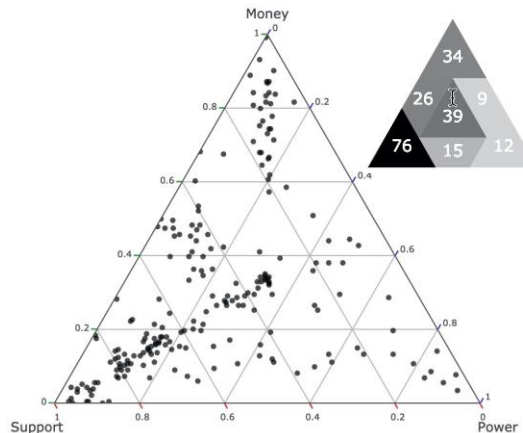
Understanding COVID-19 through Story Trends

Security Triangle: In the experience shared, people felt secure because:

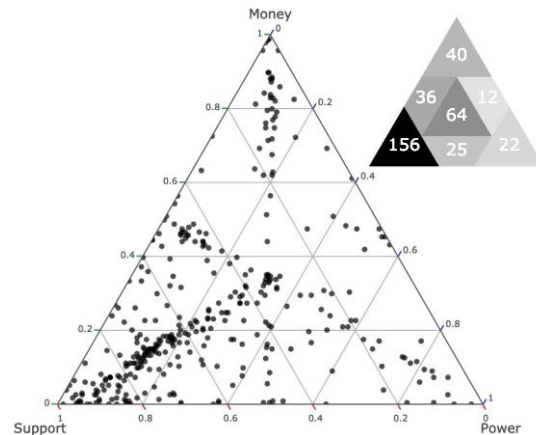
- ▶ They had people supporting them
- ▶ They had money
- ▶ They had power to change their future



APRIL 2020
Total stories: 122



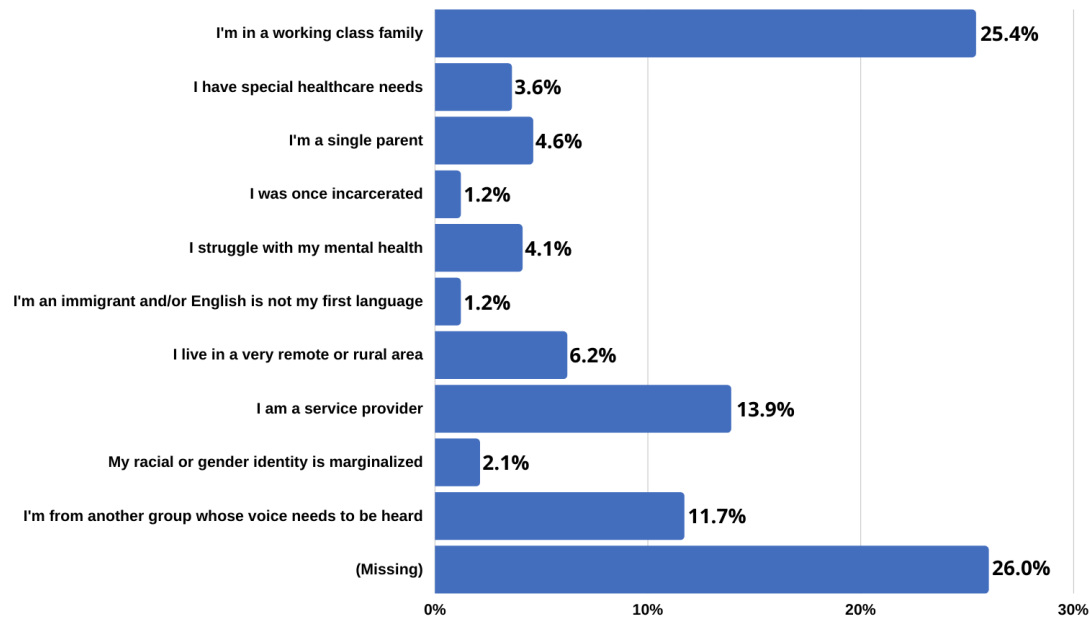
MAY 2020
Total stories: 294



JUNE 2020
Total stories: 561

Understanding COVID-19 through Story Trends

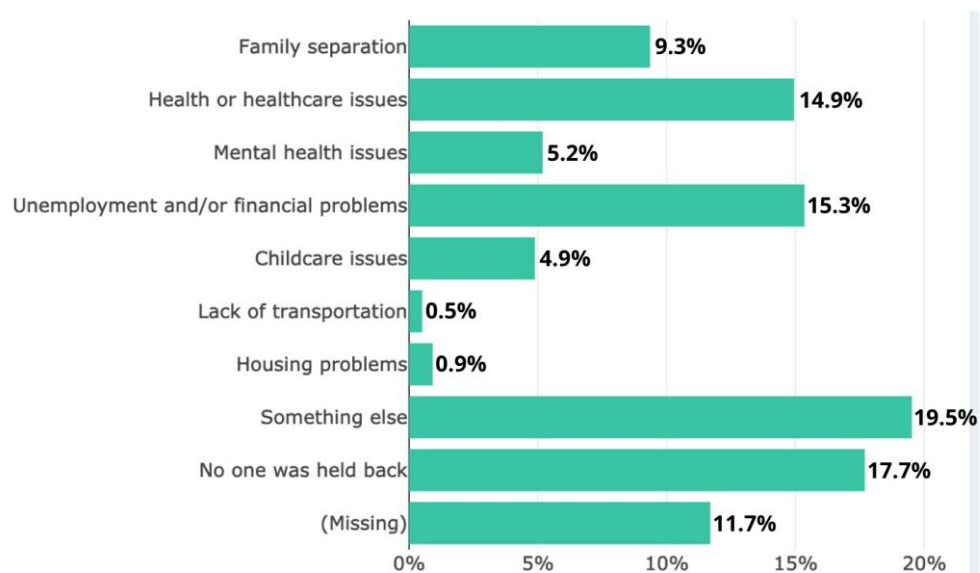
Unheard Voices: Which of the following statements best reflects you in the experience you shared?



Total stories: 984
Collected between 3/27/20 and
7/1/20

Understanding COVID-19 through Story Trends

Disruptors: Keeping the experience in mind, what was the biggest thing that held you, your family, or someone you know back?



Total stories: 984
Collected between 3/27/20 and
7/1/20

Using Stories



Digging Deeper: How Stories Fill the Gaps

19.5% of respondents (192 stories) said that "Something Else" held them.

So what are we missing?

Summertime Reading (417)

This week I heard of a braille reader who has not had a braille pleasure reading book in their hand to read since March. The student does not yet access technology to have the ability to download their own book. As a braille transcriber and someone who loves to read, I knew I could provide books for this student. Between a trip to the public school and my ability to emboss from saved files at home as well as Bookshare, I was able to mail the student several books to begin to enjoy for the summer. It felt great!

Self Employed (901)

Being self-employed, I feel like there were a lot of challenges. Ultimately, having no resources for information on what we could do potentially. Gig workers, self-employed people took a pretty big hit. If you are in events you almost lost income through 2020 with cancellations and rescheduling. Monetary help options came way later, but also just the information on what we could do was almost non-existent.

What We are Hearing and Learning

- ▶ Stories from OT 2.0 show that families previously considered stable are experiencing significant disruptors
- ▶ Stories highlight strain from Covid-19
- ▶ Struggling to meet a range of demands of family life (meeting basic needs, coping with virtual learning, unemployment, demands of working from home, etc.)

OUR
tomorrow

Story Examples

- ▶ Stories from OT 2.0 show that families previously considered stable are experiencing significant disruptors
- ▶ Stories highlight strain from Covid-19
- ▶ Struggling to meet a range of demands of family life (meeting basic needs, coping with virtual learning, unemployment, demands of working from home, etc.)

homeschooling during the pandemic (295) *This family I serve is having issues completing home work during this pandemic due to limited technology and internet service. This family does not have internet service at home and depends on a small data plan on their 2 cell phones. The child in the home is having issues completing zoom virtual classes and online class work due to limited data and slow cell phone provider. The local schools have opened the wi-fi and it is available in the parking lots of the schools. The library also has this service available. This family drives to the school and tries to use the wi-fi. However the wi-fi service is bogged down and very slow and many times they are unable to get any work done. This has been a huge stressor for the mom as she is unable to send emails to communicate with teachers. Mom does not speak English and she is unable to communicate with the school contacts.*

Applying Our Tomorrows Data



Translating Data Into Action

- ▶ Stories indicated family strain from quarantine with children
- ▶ Families without basic needs struggling the most to keep children engaged
- ▶ Creation of a family activity schedule that required zero resources
- ▶ Provided to CBCAP grantees to distribute with basic needs “door drops”



What's Next

- ▶ Using Our Tomorrows 2.0 data to
 - Gauge progress on strategic plan goals
 - Use innovative practices with policy-makers
 - Centering the voices of Kansas families in decision-making





**New perspectives on
storytelling, complexity, and
generating solutions**



@kcctf



kschildrenscabinet.org



kucppr.org/OurTomorrows

All In For 
Kansas Kids

KU THE UNIVERSITY OF
KANSAS

Children's Bureau Updates

July 8, 2020