

Kansas Mental Health Coalition

Speaking with one voice to meet critical needs of people with mental illness.

KMHC BOARD MINUTES

11:40 a.m. President convened

Present: Mary, Colin, Sherrie, Monica, Marcy, Lori, Amy

New Business:

- 2023 Advocacy Day - March 7 – Feedback – Full report heard at the membership meeting. Attendance was excellent and participation by the Governor and the youth groups was amazing. Definitely need a sign for Colin's briefing room. Ice cream was very popular with legislators but we didn't have a lot of our participants there to talk to them. Maybe move the ice cream event earlier in the day to 2 pm or so. Board members should make a note to be present for the lunch and the ice cream in order to talk to legislators in the lines and at the tables. Recommend all vendor tables on 2nd floor should also stay until ice cream is over. Cookies were also a big hit – kudos to Monica for increasing the order size! Discouraged that HyVee did not bring the water on time – we had a lot left over. Advocacy Committee should meet to debrief in April. Monica will be out for maternity leave.
- President reported IRS filing is complete.
- Secretary of State incorporation annual report filing complete.
- Nominations Committee - Annual Meeting and Elections May 24 – President will convene with Colin Thomasset, Sherrie Vaughn and Marcy Johnson. Have asked Matt Spezia if he wants to remain on the board, it isn't clear if he will be able to participate with his new job hours.
- Amy and Madison are attending live poetry event in Topeka this weekend to give Matt Spezia his plaque and \$250 gift card for KMHC Member of the Year Award. Extended invitation to Board members.
- Meeting Planning – Create a survey/zoom poll regarding meeting format. Board members are supportive of the online format – it allows more members across the state to be more involved and attend regularly. We have had a number of inquiries, but some are just checking for their own calendar planning. There are a few that want to meet in person at least occasionally to have the benefits of networking. Options could include having a single in person gathering outside of Advocacy Day.

2023 Schedule - Future meeting guests and topics

Homelessness and Housing First – Amy - How can we develop a more cohesive housing and homelessness position? Assuming legislation that proposes homelessness "solutions". Offer a subcommittee opportunity.

Marijuana and Harm Reduction– Monica Kurz - comes up every year. Fentanyl test strips legalization is on track for passage this year. Bring expert input in the summer and offer a subcommittee to create position paper proposal. Seth Dewey out of Hutchinson is doing some interesting harm reduction work around opiate use. Wes Cole reminded Amy that the Council had a pro-legalization position. Want to gain input from our member organizations and avoid taking on additional work from outside organizations. Need to identify our own members priorities. Chad Childs may have good input on this. KMHC has a strong member segment that will never support legalization advocacy due to the complications of marijuana use for youth and those with certain mental conditions. However,

we need to know when and where we need to speak up with informed/research based talking points. Prevention and treatment considerations need to be brought into the public conversation – even if KMHC is neutral on the enactment.

Intersection between child welfare, children’s mental health, SB 367 topics. Lots of work happening – House Bill 2021 in play, but issues will still persist.

Sarah Fertig – Medicaid re-enrollment / eligibility, Kancare RFP – invite for April or subsequent

Waiver Rates – Governor and KDADS have worked on various degrees of waiver rate equalization. SED waiver rates were not included in 2022 mental health rates increases – need to focus on the needs and the appropriate action for the six services under the waiver. Sometimes SED is included in waiver rate increases, but recent increases have been focused on specific services and specific service codes. Appears Michele is possibly going to be the new Commissioner of HCBS.

2023 Schedule - Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, Nov 15, Dec 13

Board Meetings: 11:45 a.m. quarterly the 4th Wednesdays (March 29, June 28, Sept. 27, Dec. 13)

Meeting adjourned.

2022-2024 President – Mary Jones (2nd full term)

2022-2023 Vice-President - Sherrie Vaughn (1st partial term)

2021-2023 Secretary - Jane Rhys (2nd term)

2022-2025	2020-2023	2021-2024
Colin Thomasset	Kyle Kessler	Chad Childs
Dr. Sherrie Vaughn	Lori Barnes (2022)	Susan Crain Lewis
Jane Rhys	Marcy Johnson	Mary Jones
Monica Kurz		Matt Spezia