

# Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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

## Minutes

October 25, 2017 Monthly Meeting

Valeo Behavioral Health Center, basement conference room, 330 SW Oakley, Topeka, KS

### Introductions and sign-in sheet

Rick Cagan, NAMI  
Meghan Cizek, Cornerstones of Care  
Sue Murnane, ACMHCK  
Heather Elliott, ACMHCK  
Liz Worth, JCMHC  
Sherrie Watkins Alvez, Wyandot  
Steve Christenberry, FSGC  
Bob Chase  
Nick Reinecker,  
Dana Schoffelman, Florence Crittenton  
Wes Cole, GBHSPC  
Christy McMurphy, Kim Wilson Housing  
Patrick Yancey, HealthSource  
Mike Burgess, DRC Kansas  
Andy Martin, NAMI/GAN  
David Chrisman, MHAH  
Eric Harkness

Susan Lewis, President  
Amy Campbell  
Bill Persinger, Valeo  
Suzanne Hoenecker, KAAP  
Stuart Little, KAAP  
Jane Rhys  
Andy Brown, Headquarters  
Dave Ranney  
Becky Fast, KS NASW  
Phone:  
Susan Zalenski, J&J  
Stephanie West-Potter, DRC  
Jessie Kaye, Prairie View  
Marcia Epstein  
Rachel Marsh, St. Francis  
Corinna West, P3  
Sally Fronsman-Cecil  
Christian Wade

**Minutes of the previous meeting approved.** [Read minutes.](#)

### 9:15 a.m. Reports

#### Board of Directors –

Rick Cagan reported that the federal block grant reduction issue should be resolved in a budget amendment by December. At this point, Kansas groups who receive federal block grants are operating under a presumed cut until such time that the

**Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network** - Heather Elliott  
Finishing up year 1 of the HEPI grant and working on year 2 plans.

#### **Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council** – Wes Cole

Council met this month. Co-chairs and liaisons met to work on opening new lines of communications and strengthening the work

Legislative Day in Dodge City sponsored by the Rural and Frontier Subcommittee – Lt. Gov. Colyer participated by televideo. Good participation – 84 people. Mental Health Center provided lunch.

Working on vacancy list. Appointment secretary and her assistant have left, so need to wait for replacement to have a replacement. Margie Manning has passed away, so there is a position available on the Council for an “advocacy” member.

In May, there will be a SAMHSA review (3-4 days).

Next meeting is December – 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday at Valeo Behavioral Health Center 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. – will do a self-evaluation regarding communications, block grant funding.

**Mental Health Medication Advisory Committee** - meets Nov 14. The agenda will be posted November 1 on the KDHE website under Health Care Finance / Pharmacy meetings.

**Step Therapy Coalition** discussion – Rick Cagan motion to sign on to the Coalition principles below. Jane Rhys second. Adopted by consensus.

Toward the goal of making step therapy/"fail-first" protocols more reasonable, transparent and patient- and healthcare provider-friendly, we support the following policy principles:

1. Step therapy protocols should be based on high quality research and medical expertise
2. There should be clear, accessible and expeditious procedures for healthcare providers to override the process by requested an exemption
3. Patients should not be required to fail a prescription drug more than once, even if they switch insurance carriers
4. Patients who are stable on a prescription drug should not be required to change medications should a step therapy requirement be added to the formulary or the patient switches insurance carriers

Note – medication access paper needs to be updated – should also include importance of science based research and doctor assisted titration / ending medication use.

**Big Tent Coalition** - Jane Rhys – working toward the upcoming session. Developing priorities and strategy.

**Financial Report adopted** - Andy Brown- Income \$37,000, expenses \$30,000 to date.

**9:50 a.m. Guest Topic: Health Equity** - Elina Alterman, Kansas Health Foundation  
The Kansas Health Foundation envisions a culture in which every Kansan can make healthy choices where they live, work, and play. The Foundation accomplishes its vision through grantmaking, policy advocacy, and strategic communication. There are two goals:  
Reduce health disparities related to social and economic factors (health equity)

- Social Determinants of Health
- Prevention
- Access to Care

Engage Kansans to improve the health of our state (civic health)

- Actionable Data
- Media and Journalism
- Leadership and Capacity Building

Read handouts: [KHF Presentation Handout](#) [KHF Handout PolicyLink Health Equity Paper](#)

Also offer Impact and Capacity grant opportunities. Closed recently – promoting new programs. Need to be new projects or an existing project being implemented for new populations.

Q & A included concerns raised by Corinna and Sally about the difficulty for grassroots advocates to be funded to do the work needed. Corinna's group is particularly passionate about true health equity, not happy about the direction of the HEPI grant and asked how they could appeal the decisions made by NAMI to carve P3 out of the work. Alterman said that KHF does not intervene in how the grantees do the work as long as the work is being done.

Sally talked about her many years of community organizing and how they are expected to work for free but is more difficult for consumers and family members to volunteer or to drive to meetings.

Alterman - Philanthropy is an old-fashioned field. KHF is unfortunately ground-breaking in this field nationally and has only been engaged in Health Equity for 2 years. HEPI was looking for statewide groups – encourage beginning with the smaller grants. There is trust-building both ways and accountability to KHF Board as well.

**10:20 a.m. KMHC Consensus Recommendations**- Annual process for updates and amendment. Please draft an issue paper for the topic that you would like to see included for consideration during the Coalition meetings. Linked here: [sample issue paper format.doc](#)

Peer Support Update – review updates/edits for approval  
Health Equity proposed by Poetry for Personal Power, Corinna West

Health Equity is the question of why some people have lower health outcomes than other people. Data shows that people with mental health labels have life expectancies that are 25 years shorter than others. Comes down to social determinants.

Framed discussion with the framework of Frameworks Institute – avoid framing it as poor pitiful people and focusing on story on one person who makes it out – framed as exceptionalism. Frameworks Institute based discussion  
Also includes issues brought forward by the recovery movement for some time – what are the issues – could be the drugs, could be the poor housing/poverty.

Social determinants are the key factor and want to focus on those issues rather than the specific  
Only 20% of health outcomes are determined by quality healthcare. 80% are due to factors outside of the healthcare system.

Not only to develop a position paper but to also translate that into what does this mean for our policy agenda.  
KMHC wants to develop a consensus paper regarding health equity that will inform our other  
If focusing on access doesn't really get at important positive outcomes.

Step Therapy – see above.

Other proposals –planning to submit –

Tobacco – next meeting

Supported Housing paper – Christie - next meeting

Nutrition, Mental Health and Naturally Occurring Substances – Nick Reinecker – propose to work to get cannabis off of the controlled substances act.

### **10:45 a.m. Lobbyist Update - Amy Campbell**

2017 Mental Health Task Force (created by Legislature) meets Thursday.

Children's Continuum of Care Committee meets October 30 at Valeo.

Visit to South Florida Mental Health Hospital operated by CorrectCare – Amy reported on her trip with KDADS representatives, legislators and Randy Callstrom to Florida last week.

Elections – please vote November 7!

### **11:00 a.m. KDADS Programs and Update -**

No guest – Sheli Sweeney has left KDADS. Mike Randol has also left KDHE.

KanCare 2.0 – New RFP will be out soon. Community stakeholder meetings will be the week of November 13 across the state.

### **11:30 a.m. Adjourn**

- **2017 KMHC Meetings: 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.** Jan 25, Feb. 22, Mar. 22, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, Aug 23, Sept 27, Oct. 25, Nov 15, Dec. 13
- **Board Meetings:** 12 noon quarterly the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays (March 22, June 28, Sept. 27, Dec. 13)

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition

c/o Amy A. Campbell, Lobbyist, P.O. Box 4103, Topeka, KS 66604  
785-969-1617 [campbell525@sbcglobal.net](mailto:campbell525@sbcglobal.net)