

# Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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

## Minutes

*Click on underlined items for web links.*

### October 25, 2023

**9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions** Sherrie Vaughn convened the meeting until Mary Jones joined later.

**Minutes** of the previous meeting approved.

### 9:35 a.m. Reports

**Board of Directors** - meet in September and is looking at our current dues structure. The Board requests that members review their current membership category which is based on their annual budgets. Please be sure that your organization is paying the correct dues level. For future meetings, the Board will be inviting our organizations to share their public policy positions and also will invite Governors Behavioral Health Services Planning Council subcommittees to share their report recommendations.

**Financial Report** adopted - \$19,200 will cover our end of year expenses. Zoom fees and website fees are increasing. Amy Campbell

**Advocacy Committee** – March 13 2024 - Mental Health Advocacy Day – the Committee will begin meeting in December to reach out to sponsors and exhibitors. Members who are interested in the joining the committee should reach out to Amy or Monica.

**Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council** – Charley Bartlett – The subcommittees have given their reports to the Secretary. They will be posted on the KDADS website once all have been updated. The new Peer Subcommittee has a lot of crossover with other subcommittees topics. Most of the subcommittees are also looking for the input of people with lived experience.

Rural and Frontier Subcommittee had a good turnout at their legislative luncheon in Dodge City.

Next meeting is the third Wednesday in November.

**Big Tent Coalition** - Mike Burgess – Stronger Together Conference was a good retreat. Recommendations included: Medicaid Expansion, Supported Decision Making, standardizing a state process for reviewing and updating Medicaid reimbursement rates, reducing waiting lists for IDD and PD waiver. Hoping to develop a broader coalition for supported decision making in a more formal way to know the constituency for the issue. Also – instituting self-direction in a more meaningful way for HCBS waivers, including individual budget authority and flexibility for hiring / background checks.

**KanCare Advocates Network** – Stronger Together Retreat above. Working to fully understand the request for proposals for the KanCare Reprourement for MCOs. Sign up for public stakeholder meetings.

**Consumer Programs** - CAC, CRO, P3, Clubhouse, Other – Kolleen – Recovery Conference will be June 11-12. Scholarship information will be coming out at the first of the year. Workshop applications and exhibitor forms are being updated and will be approved at the November meeting. We are signing up people for a learning collaborative for certified peer specialists that is supported by

funding from Healthy Blue. Working with the Peer Subcommittee and WSU for a listening collaborative opportunity that will dovetail with these efforts.

Kansas Clubhouse Conference will be held on Advocacy Day and will have a speaker from Clubhouse International. Information for registration coming soon.

**Parity Committee** - Amy Campbell / Rick Cagan - November meeting will feature interaction with MCOs regarding mental health parity in KanCare. NAMI Conference highlighted Parity topics during the annual conference including a panel featuring some of our committee members and guests Leondra Dodd, U.S. Dept. of Labor, and Julie Holmes, Kansas Insurance Department. The panel was well received and we hope it helped people to recognize parity violations and how to register official complaints. [Parity Resources Handout](#) Leondra also talked one to one with participants during the day to help them with their individual parity concerns and how to follow up. Julie Holmes from the KS Insurance Department shared that their field work for the market conduct exam and that work is moving forward toward their report.

Parity Provider Survey included a number of responses that indicated they would like to participate in our committee work so we are reaching out to them to encourage further engagement.

Amy commented that it is a wonderful development to see work at the federal level and at the state level and that the two are communicating with one another. This will have a tremendous effect on how insurers view parity requirements and their implementation.

Committee is working on an outline to employ an intern to carry on its work and is seeking commitments from member organizations to contribute to that budget.

#### **Suicide Prevention Coalition / 988 Crisis Line** - Brenna Vicosky/Monica Kurz

Subcommittee working on a resource repository to be posted on the website to be helpful for those working in suicide prevention and another for families/individuals who are seeking assistance.

Subcommittee working on future plans for updating/revising our state suicide prevention plan.

Coalition will meet in November but not December.

988 – September was very busy and answer rate was 89% - 1% lower than the target. Continue to look for additional staff.

Kansas Prevention Conference – a lot of exciting programs and activities were discussed. One program that is very important is Lemon Aid KS <https://www.sixftover.org/lemon-aid> organized by Six Feet Over. After losing someone to suicide, so many financial needs may come up - some ongoing and some one time, in addition to the emotional support needs. Lemon Aid KS tries to connect people to both.

Question – how many of the calls are unique callers = Headquarters data is around 75% are unique callers. Repeat callers (25%) vary on frequency.

**10:00 a.m. Policy Topics for 2024 Legislative Session** Members are encouraged to submit Draft Policy Proposals for member consideration using the [linked sample issue paper](#). Send to [campbell525@sbcglobal.net](mailto:campbell525@sbcglobal.net). This is also a good time for member organizations to share their priorities.

#### **Appropriate State Policies for Unhoused Kansans**

[Draft Document](#) [Mental Health America Position Statement](#)

Consensus approved for this document. Please send supportive data or edits to [campbell525@sbcglobal.net](mailto:campbell525@sbcglobal.net).

#### **Spenddown - Medically Needy / Medicaid**

[Draft Proposal](#) [Emily Tallman testimony](#) [KDHE Fact Sheet](#)

Consensus approved for this document. More research needed to clarify the KDHE proposal.

**11:00 a.m. Lobbyist Report** Amy Campbell

- KanCare RFP - [Fact Sheet](#) Stakeholder Meetings - Thursday October 26 The RFP includes “scenarios” asking the MCO bidders to explain how they would address the complex needs of some Medicaid participants – identifying some of the challenges that come up and asking for the MCO strategy to address those challenges.
- Special Committee on Homelessness - November 9 - [link to information](#)
- Robert G. Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight - October 11-12
- [KDADS Updates](#)
- [KDHE Updates](#)
- Chair/Senator Beverly Gossage shared a personal story of family member’s experience with severe depression accompanied by physical pain. This story can be heard on the meeting recording.
- [State Policies on Mental Health](#) - Marcus Bjoerkheim, Ph.D. Merkatus Center, George Mason University
- "expanding prescriptive authority"
- "ensuring orderly return of eligibility redeterminations = better access"
- Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight - November 4
- Special Committee on Child Care Centers and Child Care Homes - November 1
- Mental Health Medication Advisory Committee (MHMAC) met October 10 - [Draft Criteria link](#)
- Update on recommendations of the Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform - [Specialty Courts Update](#) [DCF Update](#)

**11:25 a.m. Announcements**

Marcia Epstein - The Saturday before American Thanksgiving is International Survivors of Suicide Loss Day (ISOSLD). I am hosting the annual gathering for the Douglas County area, in Baldwin City this year. About ISOSLD, including where gatherings happen and how to participate in an online gathering that day <https://afsp.org/international-survivors-of-suicide-loss-day/>

Lemon Aid KS <https://www.sixftover.org/lemon-aid> After losing someone to suicide, so many financial needs may come up - some ongoing and some one time, in addition to the emotional support needs. Lemon Aid KS tries to connect people to both. I’ve hosted the Douglas Co area suicide grief support group since the 1990’s and wish such assistance had “always” been readily available.

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

**2023 Schedule** - Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 30, 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)

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)