

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 28, 2020 Monthly Meeting

Teleconference access 1-515-606-5183, enter 567518

9:30 a.m. Introductions and sign-in sheet

Mary Jones, President	Michelle Ponce, ACMHCK
Shereen Ellis, Aetna	Marcia Epstein
Heather Richardson, ACMHCK	Bill Persinger, Valeo
Amy Campbell, KMHC	Stephanie West-Potter
Susan Montague, St. Francis Ministries	Catherine Carter Givens, Breakthrough Club
Jessie Kaye, Prairie View	Diana Erickson, Sunflower
Matt Spezia, P3	Barb Andres, Breakthrough
Jenna Groth, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ	Mallory Lutz, BHAK
Kevin McGuire, JoCo MHC	Brad Chapin, Stormont Vail Behavioral Health
Steve Solomon	Sean Gatewood, KAN
Monica Kurz, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ	Doug Bowman, KDADS
Joann Howley	Sue Lewis, MHAH
Wes Cole, GBHSPC	Corinna West
Fred Watts, KVC	Becky Fast, NASW
Helen Stuckey Weaver, Wellness Weavers	Juliana Sellers, P3
	Sherrie Vaughn

Minutes of the previous meeting. Read minutes – correct spelling for Jenna Growth, change hey to that. Announcements. Adopted motion to approve Matt Spezia, second Shereen Ellis. [Minutes Draft](#)

Handout from September meeting: [ACMHCK Public Opinion PDF](#)

9:45 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors – Next scheduled meeting is December.

Financial Report approved – Amy Campbell 13,540.12 Stormont Vail is rejoining. Motion by Sue Lewis, Matt Spezia second.

Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network - Have you ever thought of getting more active with the Coalition? Please volunteer for Advocacy Committee. Please stay on the call after this meeting.

Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – Wes Cole, Chair – Earlier this month, the Council subcommittees began the annual reports to the agency leadership. Reports will be forwarded to the Coalition to share with our members. Last year, the Council held a combined meeting with all of the subcommittees to promote collaboration between the groups. These reports reflect that integration and collaboration.

The Council is proud to be participating with the Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform work groups and has been representing the Council’s work with that group.

Big Tent Coalition - Mike Burgess

KanCare Advocates Network - Sean Gatewood – The Network has been working on “all things Medicaid”, Big Tent Coalition has been working on “all things disability”, and your coalition works on “all things behavioral health”. For the past several years, we have hosted a combined strategic policy gathering in order to facilitate communication and align our policy objectives. This year, we can’t gather in person, so we have set November 19 for our “Stronger Together” virtual conference - annual collaborative policy meeting of disability advocacy groups. We need to know if you or your members will need any form of accommodation – we do plan to have signing or closed captioning, but if there are other needs, please let us know.

Medicaid Expansion – Kansas is the only state in the country that requires the Legislature to sign off on Medicaid Expansion. Many states have adopted expansion through executive action or public ballot. These are not options in Kansas. The Alliance for a Healthy Kansas hosting Medicaid Expansion online road show. Many of us are professionals – but we are working to bring in grassroots people with advocacy training to promote expansion. There are also advantages to allowing entry level participation. The training works for all kinds of advocacy. The central Kansas event is the 29th at 6:30 and SE Kansas is Nov 5th at 6:30. RSVP at ExpandKancare. All are welcome. Seagatewood@outlook.com

Consumer Programs – Matt Spezia, P3 – This is the beginning of P3’s fiscal year. Extending a thank you to this Coalition. Upcoming events – Wichita events on Saturdays, Topeka Performing Arts November, Kansas City Artists events. In mid-November will have an all organizations training for new artists to expand our roster. Some of our more formal training has been pushed back, so we will move a lot of those online. If you need online capacity, P3 offers online technical assistance with Zoom and Crowdcast platforms. mspezia@poetryforpersonalpower.org

Juliana – StoryCircle – training beginning of December. Next storycircle will be November 21 at 2 p.m. and third Saturday in December. jsellers@poetryforpersonalpower.org

New item: National Defense – Corinna West – China delivers the vast majority of medications to the United States and a good portion of this is psychotropic medications. This is viewed as a defense issue – clearly a problem if people are cut off from

medications. Recovery Mentoring Inc. working on national defense issue relating to psychiatric medications discontinuance.

Parity Committee - Amy Campbell -

Peer Certification - working committee - Mary Jones

10:00 a.m. Lobbyist Report Amy Campbell –

Budget Process -

10:45 a.m. Special Guest - Rep. Brenda Landwehr, Chair, Special Committee on Kansas Mental Health Modernization and Reform [Committee Webpage](#)

Rep. Landwehr thanked the group for the invitation and the honor of receiving the Legislative Collaboration award, commented on the honor of receiving it with Barbara Ballard, with whom she has worked closely to pass a number of mental health initiatives in the Legislature.

Committee has been working to create a strategic plan

Plan that this report will be a living document. There are a lot of task forces, surveys and reports but not as many things are implemented for whatever reason. We hope this report can remain a living document and require that the budget committee and Health committees review it every year to evaluate what can be implemented or amended to make improvement. The grou

Announced a fourth work group to deal with nothing but telemedicine. Want to have a focus relating

COVID can be seen as terribly negative, but the expedited implementation of broad telehealth options has been positive. We have worked for a couple of years as a Legislature to get more money into our system – including expanding crisis centers, where do our mental health resources / beds need to be located, and expanding school options. We have the k-12 mental health pilot that has expanded in school mental health services inside schools. The state pays for a mental health liaison with the mental health center and expands services into the school building, reducing the loss of classroom time for kids who have needs, and expanding outreach to families who have needs within their home. We have a true wraparound where the parents may be able to come into the school to receive services or identify where they may have other needs such as food or other assistance. Providing this through the school building removes some of the stigma that might prevent families from accessing services through

Schools can bill Medicaid but are limited on what they can receive. They can't bill CHIP and can't bill commercial insurance, so this expands the options they can bill through the partnership.

Another key aspect to the pilot is the online database tracking the kids who are served relating to tardies, absences, grades, graduation in order to have real, live outcomes data for the program and more importantly for each individual child.

It saddens me to think of the number of suicides Kansas has experienced, not only for adults but also children and we hope this program can help.

We would like to expand this program statewide through additional partnerships.

Matt Spezia, P3, - worked with 36 school districts bringing in writing programs for sustainable mental health and recovery. A way to really increase the diversity of the programs is to increase discretionary funding for out of school programming. Out of school programming often requires educational backgrounds. Concern about using more qualitative v. quantitative metrics. Ask that you consider implementing more qualitative metrics. Support Olmstead Act expansion to additional populations and programs.

Landwehr – there are 12 criteria measurements. Can get that from Craig from the KSDE – more than just absenteeism. As far as the bachelor's degree issue, school districts wanted masters degree level and ran into a supply issue. Have brought in mental health experts and education experts to advise the issue. Can further look at that.

Spezia - There is a precedence for using experience as a qualification in the rural 5 teachers program.

Ashley Grill – Thank you for giving services in schools. They give a lot of counseling for college readiness and regular check-ins and have been an incredible resource for my child.

Landwehr – Thank you for saying that. I'm in a large district in Wichita and this program provides for some mobility tracking

The thing that stimulated this program for me was a meeting with a school social worker and everything she was telling me was springing to mind the word disconnect, disconnect, disconnect. So a major point of this program is to eliminate the many points of disconnect including time of day, so that services can be provided at different times of day.

Susan Montague – St. Francis Ministries – I really appreciate you moving this forward. I remember in the 1980's when schools were moving away from having outside groups coming into the schools to provide services. We used to provide substance use services in the schools and it ended. It is an exciting change to see this open up more options.

Landwehr – we have had a number of stories that have emphasized to me how many of the needs of children hadn't been addressed, including important needs of children in foster care. There was a child bringing a suitcase to school every day, a child who had enough credits to graduate but because of all the moves in her life, hadn't been tracked properly. This is not a cookie cutter program, and what works in Wichita doesn't necessarily work in Goodland.

Ashley – would love to see a parent survey to share our positive feedback.

Landwehr – we do have some of those, will talk about it. We have money crossing several agencies and there has been no turf battle about it.

Monica – National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for all of Kansas. The federal government has approved the 988 three digit emergency number for behavioral health crisis. Hope we are going to see some action to implement an accessible crisis network across the state.

Landwehr – We are excited to see a universally accessible number and wish it could have been implemented a long time ago.

I know they had accidentally prevented a suicide at the school where a crisis team was able to go into the school to address an emergency call.

Amy – talked about the need for the crisis response network and how to fund it.

Landwehr – I know that this is an ongoing issue and appreciate you reminding us of it. I know there are larger communities that have created a homegrown solution with integrated law enforcement/behavioral health response teams and the workgroups have talked about it.

Barb – where would I look to find the work of these workgroups.

Landwehr – we have asked our workgroups to provide written updates, but I recommend that you reach out to members of the workgroups to talk about the issues on the table.

The work groups were assembled by the Speaker of the House and I am so happy to

There is not a state budget that is not impacted by mental health except maybe Wildlife and Parks but give me some and I can probably work that out. It is a huge impact on business and governments. It is a pervasive issue and we need to address its increasing impacts.

Becky – Just want to highlight working with Rep. Landwehr on workforce issues and it is great to work with someone who is willing to look at the overall spectrum of needs over time. What is the vision for the future of this committee – will they continue to meet through the next session or year?

Landwehr – will be working to see implementation of the recommendations

It was originally the goal of the Speaker to put the committee into statute but the pandemic interrupted that so it was implemented through the

If you don't reach out to the members of this committee, that is all on you. My training is not in mental health, it is just my passion. We need that input from you on how to design the plan and what do we need to do to not let this get stale again. The budget over the years shows that the money from shutting down the state hospitals has not truly followed the individuals and I believe we have a growing need based on the increasing stressors over time.

If you have something you want

Currently our staff is going to become the head of the BSRB – but currently David Fye – if you want to type something up and send it through David to the committee.

Some of the things we have kind of gathered is the need for regional hospital beds. When some people hear that, they think we are going to shut down Osawatomie, but no we are not going to shut down Osawatomie.

Nick Reinecker, Inman – as far as the expansion of medication assisted treatment, is that a priority of the committee work?

Can check the policy and treatment work group agenda, but don't know that it has been discussed.

Update on the lottery ticket vending machines?

Will Carpenter is keeping a watch on that – I'm not keeping up on current numbers lately.

Landwehr – Thank you for the invitation, always happy to participate even if I don't have all the answers.

11:10 a.m. KDADS Update – Doug Bowman – We need to reach out to see the best time for the

11:25 a.m. Announcements – Michelle Ponce – Measures for the K-12 Intervention Team Pilot. Sent Amy the handbook with the measures. She also brought up the CCBHC model which is a huge priority for Kansas. Our Association would be happy to provide an overview at an upcoming meeting.

Members are encouraged to email Amy campbell525@sbcglobal.net with your proposed policy recommendations so we can put you on the agenda at an upcoming meeting.

11:30 a.m. Adjourn Shereen Ellis motion, Matt Spezia second.

2020 Schedule:

Mental Health Advocacy Day: February 17 2021

KMHC Meetings: 9:30 am.–11:30 a.m. Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 18, Dec 16

Board Meetings: 12 noon quarterly the 4th Wednesdays (March 25, June 24, ~~Sept. 23~~, Dec. 16)