Mary Jones

Heather Richardson

Kevin McGuire, JoCo MHC

Amy Campbell

Rick Cagan

Marcia Epstein

Doug Bowman

Ryan Reza, NAMI Kansas

Bill Persinger, Valeo

Kathy Billbry, Recovery Harbor

Robert Eckloff, KVC

Brenda Adams

Steve Solomon

Lisa Baker

Susan Zalenski

Matt Spezia, P3

Jessie Kaye, Prairie View

Shereen Ellis, Aetna

Stephanie West-Potter

Brad Chapin, Stormont Vail

Jane Rhys

Eckert?

Minutes approved – Shereen, Matt

Board of Directors –

Financial Report – 10,230.46 Bill, Matt

GBHSPC – Believe the reports have all been given to the Secretary. KMHC will distribute as soon as the reports are public.

Shereen and Bill talked about their respective sub-committee reports.

**Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network-** Meeting immediately after the Coalition today.  Have you ever thought of getting more active with the Coalition?  Please volunteer for Advocacy Committee.

**Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council –** Wes Cole, Chair - Meeting today.

**Big Tent Coalition**-Mike Burgess

**KanCare Advocates Network**-Sean Gatewood – Stronger Together Retreat - KanCare Advocates Network will join with the Big Tent Coalition, the Self Advocates Coalition of Kansas (SACK), the DD Council and the Kansas Mental Health Coalition, to plan for the 2021 legislative session on**Thursday, Nov. 19**. We will begin our virtual planning meeting via Zoom at 9a and plan to be done by 3:45p. Please register by sending your name and email address to  [ST2020KAN@gmail.com](mailto:ST2020KAN@gmail.com)by Tuesday, Nov. 17. Please include the participants' email address to receive confirmation and reminder notices.

**Consumer Programs -**Sheri Hall, P3

 If you are interested in submitting a Info a poetryfor personal power.org proposals for classes for peer information campus.

Matt email

Want to expand story circle outreach beyond Colorado. Let us know. We also have story circle facilitator training

Beginning of our fiscal year – we have sponsorships for recovery events that simply require distributing a survey based on SAMHSA.

Parity Committee –

**Parity Committee**- Amy Campbell - 1. Parity Committee collecting data from Kansas service providers regarding their experiences with insurance coverage for behavioral health.  KMHC members are encouraged to distribute the survey link to their members and contacts.  2. Considering proposal to amend Kansas statutes to strengthen parity law - see legislation passed in Oklahoma in 2020.  <https://www.paritytrack.org/reports/oklahoma/statutes/>

**Peer Certification**- working committee - Mary Jones

**10:00 a.m.  Lobbyist Report -**Amy Campbell

Consensus Revenue Estimates - Legislative Budget Committee   <http://www.kslegresearch.org/KLRD-web/Appropriations&Revenue.html>

State Budget Process [2020-21 State Appropriations Report 9-3-2020](https://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/2021AppropriationsRpt%209-6-2020.pdf)

Joint Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform   <https://www.khi.org/announcements/article/MHMR-WG>

Coronavirus and the 2021 Legislature   [COVID 19 Funding Update #7](https://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/COVID19_Funding_Update_No_7_9-3-2020.pdf)

Nov 17-18 Joint Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

Dec. 1 Legislative Budget Committee

Dec. 8  KanCare Advisory Council, 2-4p, virtual  
Dec. 9  9a Bethell HCBS and KanCare Oversight Committee  
**Dec. 9  10:30a, KDADS State Plan on Aging 2020 Listening Tour, virtual**

KDADS Final Settings Rule for HCBS - waiver input process

**10:30 a.m.**   **Consensus Priorities Discussion**

Annual process for updates and amendment to the Coalition policy priorities.  Please draft a paper for the topic that you would like to see included for consideration during the Coalition meetings.  The Coalition encourages the incorporation of health equity principles - proposals that help to reduce health disparities and encourage overall health.  Linked here: [sample issue paper format.doc](https://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/sample%20issue%20paper%20format.doc)

Mental Health Parity – update for possible legislative proposal

Telehealth – new paper including comprehensive expansion

Matt Spezia – 85 events since the plague started –

Bill Persinger – support telehealth/telemedicine – has become a vital tool for our mental health center and including the allowance of texting and phone calls for serving especially adults, but also children. I don’t have a problem if legislators can cite the pros and cons of their local providers, but think it is very important that we continue to use these models of service going forward.

Michelle – ACMHCK does not have a specific list of parameters for telehealth, but we support maintaining the flexibility that we have now under CMS. There have been questions around cost but our work with the agencies seems to indicate their willingness to continue to be flexible.

Mary – one of the things I’ve heard is around the rates. Medicaid providers cannot afford any rate reductions and there seems to be a thought that it should be reimbursed at a reduced level. It isn’t a lesser service and doesn’t take less time.

Susan Montague – in some ways it is more expensive. You must purchase a HIPAA compliant platform. With substance use, we are having more contact with our clients and more sessions. Substance use is a concern during COVID and that should support more services. With mental health and substance use, working with families with small children, therapists need to engage parents in order to engage them to provide better support for their young children’s needs.

Susan Zalenski – thoughts on election results?

**11:00 a.m.   Guest - Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director, Kansas Dept. of Health and Environment**

Appointed mid-July – did not have to deal with how to address COVID in the beginning. Email is sarah.fertig@ks.gov

AG office 9 years – been with the state 16 years. New to KDHE.

Regularly attend the ACMHCK meetings and a variety of other stakeholder meetings so I apologize if this is repetitive.

Hot topics include telemedicine – how long with the codes remain open for reimbursement? We have no plans to close them any time soon. We have been measuring how they are working and so far, all the input from advocacy groups, members and MCOs have been positive. So far, the data is suggesting this has been great for the state. If CMS pulls out the rug, we would follow their rule. If they tried, we think there would be a lot of outcry across the country from many states.

Behavioral health has been impacted by COVID with isolation and anxiety, so telehealth has been literally lifesaving for a number of people and we fully support it.

Vaccines – evidently, there is a rumor every year that MCOs are not going to pay for flu shots, but they are and they do. COVID vaccines, once approved, will also be covered under KanCare. We have no idea what those are going to cost or when they will available. May have to make some financial adjustments on the state side to cover the MCOs. We have been asked if we cover COVID testing and the answer is yes if referred by a qualified provider. Can’t just drop in to an open testing clinic at CVS.

We have been struggling with a lot of issues with the pandemic as it laid bare the inequities across the state with internet connectivity. Has been challenging. Some of the MCOs have tried to fill the gap by sending out Ipads to provider offices and find ways to do more socially distanced services, but difficult in some areas. I am often asked what Medicaid is doing to improve access. We can’t use our money to build 5G access, but we can stay out of the way if MCOs want to provide connectivity where there is a medical need.

Legislative Session: Medicaid Expansion continues to be a priority. I have not seen any bills. A lot of our research is based on SB 252 that was the Kelly/Denning compromise bill. Whatever bill comes out will probably derive some pieces of that – not sure what might be dropped out. Challenging – last session it was derailed by a debate for a constitutional amendment related to abortion. That might have to be dealt with first.

Dates:

KanCare Oversight – Dec. 9

KanCare Oversight Second meeting on Integrated Care – Dec. 15 – primarily MCO presentations.

December 10-11 – Mental Health Modernization and Reform – expect recommendations on CCBHCs, reducing licensure hours and other items.

KanCare Advisory Council – annual public forum 3 pm December 16

Consensus Estimates – caseloads and budget – we were asked to submit a 10% reduced resources budget. Has been a common practice, but not a lot of places we can cut because so much of what we do is mandated by the federal government. Cutting Medicaid money means cutting federal matching funds – so you are sacrificing federal dollars with those cuts. So our hands are tied – can be penny-wise, pound-foolish.

Since the pandemic began, we have been receiving 6.2% more matching funds on the condition we keep the maintenance of effort by not discontinuing Medicaid eligibility unless they request it or die. We have spent about $100 million less SGF due to that enhanced federal contribution. Governor Kelly is a strong supporter of Medicaid. What cuts we might need could be balanced by using our fee funds balance.

Also reassuring to see that the consensus revenue estimates are exceeding the gloomy picture painted in April. The revenues are not good – but not nearly as bad as we feared.

Skeptical that any of the enhancement requests will be funded. Would have to be very urgent and mission critical. Personally, not expecting that.

Some stakeholder groups have pulled me aside to share their concerns with last year’s version of the Medicaid Expansion legislation – so if any of you had similar concerns, please forward them to me through Amy.

**11:25 a.m.  Announcements –**

All Day Art-a-thon November 27 **–** poetryforpersonalpower.org

Pawnee Mental Health Annual Report is online – Kathy Billbrey shared her story in that publication.

Saturday before Thanksgiving – Suicide Survivor Day events – American Foundation for Suicide Prevention website has information for various events, Lawrence has facebook page with information as well.

**11:30 a.m.  Adjourn**

**2020 Schedule:**

**Mental Health Advocacy Day:** February 17 2021

**KMHC Meetings:**9:30 a.m.–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)

**Advocacy Committee Meetings:**   January - March: Friday teleconferences from December through Adv. Day, Meet after Coalition meetings: January 22, February 26, April 22, May 27, August 26, October 28

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition