

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.

November 29, 2023

9:30 a.m. Welcome and Introductions Mary Jones, President

Minutes of the previous meeting approved. Motion by Sue Lewis, second Andy Houltberg.

9:35 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors - meet in December.

Financial Report approved. \$13,680.29 will meet end of year expenses with some carryover funds. Motion by David Larson, second Sherrie Vaughn.

Advocacy Committee – Colin Thomasset / Monica Kurz - March 13 2024 - Mental Health Advocacy Day. Advocacy Committee seeking sponsorship commitments and will meet in December. It is a lot of work to get the advocacy day organized and put together. Members are welcome to join this committee by contacting Mary, Amy or Monica. We would love to have you. We can always take more participants and volunteers for that. It is a lot of work to get the advocacy day organized and put together.

Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – met November 15 and invited multiple organizations to share their expectations for the upcoming legislative session.

Big Tent Coalition - Mike Burgess

KanCare Advocates Network – Amy Campbell – The next meeting is Friday. The group has KDHE and Q&A. Network is discussing a review of the positive aspects of the new RFP for MCO procurement. They did discuss having some members put together sample answers for the "scenarios" in the RFP. We discussed this at the last meeting that the RFP includes scenarios of complex situations where they're asking the bidders what would their strategy be for addressing scenarios where you have a member who's encountering either barriers to treatment or has complex needs. I'm not sure if the group has enough volunteers coming forward to do that project or not. But it would be an interesting exercise.

Consumer Programs - CAC, CRO, P3, Clubhouse, Other – Melissa Patrick reported CAC activities, including planning for the annual Recovery Conference June 11-12. There is ongoing work for the online training platform for Peer Support. Link posted enrolling people and getting people access to the online peer support platform. That was something we've been working with Healthy Blue on, certainly something we've been hearing from peer support workers in Kansas was the need for additional training on a variety of topics kind of bolster that workforce. We have a pdf document for that if anybody is interested or knows peer support workers that might be interested in that. We did have our board meeting in November that we had discussion around some priorities that we see as consumers and peers in Kansas. CAC priorities for 2024 in development.

Sherrie Vaughn : NAMI Kansas will launch an I AM NAMI Kansas podcast in January. The trailer should be out soon. We are preparing to start a 2024 year long advertisement campaign as well to promote NAMI service and our resource line.

Parity Committee - no report.

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

In November, we had a presentation from a professor from the KU School of Medicine who is doing some work with KDHE on school surveys so he shared with us about the survey and also the KCTC folks from this coalition may remember that there was a change that statute 2 sessions ago, that made the changes about the timeline for parental consent, being within 4 months and then also had some language changes for how parents were contacted and suicide screenings were conducted in schools.

He shared what we have learned from those 2 surveys kind of the importance of surveys around suicide prevention work and then shared information about an upcoming panel that KHI, the Kansas Health Institute is putting on December 12th, pulling some folks together, myself included, to talk about student surveys, kind of also for folks to talk about concerns around student surveys, but, get a good dialogue going. <https://www.khi.org/articles/register-now-understanding-youth-data-collection-in-kansas/>

Our Suicide Prevention Coalition subcommittees continue to work. We have 4. So our resource development subcommittee is working on building up that resource repository that I talked about at our last meeting. And also looking for an outreach email, just working on some kind of membership recruitment stuff.

Our systems of care subcommittee will be hosting a 2 day virtual training session on a brief CBT for suicide prevention in April at a cost of \$40. And CEUs for that. If you're interested in getting more information about that, go ahead and put your email in the chat here.

We have completed a draft of the tool that we're going to use to conduct the annual suicide prevention state survey, suicide prevention plan review. And as we get that finalized happy to share that out for folks who may have comments that they want to give to the coalition or the state about the suicide prevention plan.

We are working on a public awareness campaign and then we also have an annual meeting date set for 2024 which will be May 20 at the 4 Points Sheraton in Manhattan, Kansas and we will have information on the website soon about that.

9 8 8 - things continue to rock and roll we saw kind of a rebound in the answer right here in Kansas up to that 90% mark the last month that we got reported data on so feeling good about that. At our shop we continue to grow our capacity answer text and chats here within in the state and we've started to really work out some of the issues that we were having with the platform that the the the feds are asking us to use.

The 9 8 8 council will also be meeting on December 12 to finalize that annual report.

We are all waiting to hear the results of the new capacity grant that came from SAMHSA to the state for 9 8 8.

There is a lot of focus collaborating with the MRT cohort that KDADS has funded – working on good interoperability between 9 8 8 and, those, those mobile response teams. So, we were made in close communication with KDADS about that as well as Johnson County and Comcare. KDADS funded some mobile response team applications from CCBHCs and CMHCs and they've been pulling them together and meeting monthly.

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. Because our next meeting is going is right around the corner it's not much time. We need to know if we are expecting to receive something from you. This is also a good time for member organizations to share their priorities.

Member Organizations Policy Platform Summaries:

Mental Health America of the Heartland - Sue Lewis [MHAH Policy Platform Document](#)

ACMHCK - Michele Ponce - [ACMHCK Document](#)

NAMI Kansas - Sherrie Vaughn - [NAMI KS Document](#)

10:30 a.m. KDADS Update Deputy Secretary Andy Brown

Following is unedited Zoom transcript from Andy Brown:

We're going through a little bit of a restructure period before the session starts.

10:39:16 And so I'm moving into a new role on the leadership team as the deputy secretary for.

10:39:22 Programs. And so we will be splitting the. Lts commissioned so that there will be a new aging commission.

10:39:35 And all the aging services will be under that commission and an HCPS commission that'll be headed up by Michelle.

10:39:44 As the commissioner there. And then, Jew Atkins is stepping in. As the, interim and soon to be commissioner for behavioral services.

10:39:56 And once once we We identify and hire a new. Commissioner for the aging commission. We'll be able to hopefully really start.

10:40:09 Gearing up to make some progress on on a variety of things, but what I'm really hoping is, that it will allow for, greater focus and emphasis on both, DCBS Waver side of things and the aging side of things by not having.

10:40:29 Total leadership's attention split between those 2 topics. So then, you know, we're also, during up for the session and kind of looking at.

10:40:40 The types of things that we're going to be. Working on sword. Developing our.

10:40:46 Legislative agenda and getting that sent over to the governor's office for so that we, you know, headed into the.

10:40:54 Session prepared to. Talk about a few things. Lee's been talking about how we don't have a big item like we did it.

10:41:02 Last couple of years with 98. But there are still quite a few things that are gonna impact.

10:41:08 Behavioral health. And, you know, among those or things like. The, this hospital, 2353, which is set up to try and, make some changes to our outpatient treatment orders for the AOT program.

10:41:28 So that it'll be,

10:41:31 So some of the things that. Are evidence-based under AOT. Can be implemented.

10:41:38 Using our state OTO orders. We also, We'll be looking.

10:41:47 Hopefully at, a bill that will help with introducing good, and laws around. Opioid overdose, and things like that.

10:41:58 So. Hopefully we'll continue to see some progress. And then obviously like the governor's initiative around.

10:42:07 Trying to expand Medicaid is gonna be a big push this year again so will be. Probably under the DUM supporting that effort as much as possible throughout both session.

10:42:20 And then,

10:42:24 I think. I don't know if there's other things you want me to give updates on or not.

10:42:28 But. Feel free to shout out.

10:42:32 Okay.

10:42:31 Good us with everything. Okay.

10:42:38 There was a comment earlier about federal coming in for, I'm sorry. Okay. Okay.

10:42:47 Who is workforce if there was anything on the horizon with funding for assistance with workforce issues.

10:42:57 Well.

10:42:59 So there's always HRSA grants, which are available. I don't know that there's.

10:43:09 Any particular ones that we are elected to receive or get in the near future, Mary, but. You can kinda take a look and see what's out there on that front.

10:43:22 I know that we've been. Looking for opportunities to expand on that. And I I think there's,

10:43:37 I think there probably be opportunities for us to explore those types of federal funds. In the future. Right now I don't think we have any current, applications that we're waiting to hear back on announcements from.

10:44:03 And then. I know that there was a lot of things updated at the last. Tanker oversight committee meeting that Drew did did you want to highlight any of those updates?

10:44:21 I don't know, I don't know that I've got a whole lot to add.

10:44:24 To what Drew has already said, but. Come on.

10:44:30 Yeah.

10:44:26 And that was attached to our last meeting agenda, the handout was so people should have that in there.

10:44:34 From the October meeting.

10:44:36 Yeah. But I mean, we're continuing to focus on. You know, what we can do around behavioral health to.

10:44:45 You know, increase our.

10:44:50 Our community integration work that we've been doing for the last couple of years. Around the NFMA settlement agreement.

10:44:58 We're continuing to work really closely with DCF and KDHE and issues around the Mac and entire settlement agreement and making sure that children have access to care around the state.

10:45:09 Lot of that involves, You have the CCBC rollouts as well as the Medicaid expansion efforts.

10:45:18 And we're hopeful to see, progress on 9 8 8 and the mobile crisis rollout as well as part of that so there's quite a bit still happening and going on.

10:45:33 Behind the scenes to get those kinds of things worked out in both policy and regulations. We do have.

10:45:41 So good news on the. See you I see regulations front.

10:45:48 But that has been moving through some of the final steps that it used to be before we'll be able to post it for.

10:45:55 Public comment so I'm hopeful that. We'll see something come out soon on that.

10:46:04 So what does that mean exactly? It means it's moved off of one person's desk or that you've had interaction with the Attorney General's office or?

10:46:07 Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. Well, so yeah, so what it means is that, we're, expecting it to be reviewed.

10:46:19 We're about step. 4, I think, of the, I think 7 or 8 step process.

10:46:26 So we're about halfway through right now. But I think step 5 or 6 is where we go to public comment.

10:46:37 That's great. Okay, so

10:46:41 Had a question and then I lost it. Oh, so the governor has received all of the agencies budget enhancement requests.

10:46:52 Are you having any interaction with them about anything under the behavioral health? Commission.

10:46:59 Yeah, so we, receive back, you know, our usual. Sort of, to the recommended, you know, to our, in hisment requests and then we've.

10:47:11 Subsequently, I think within the last. About the week before Thanksgiving. We sent back.

10:47:19 There are.

10:47:23 Appeal, right? To say like these are the things that we think are important. And here's why.

10:47:33 And, so our SUD funding request, is actually bumped up on the Secretary Secretary's priorities.

10:47:42 We've got. Some of the funding for the CCPC positions and things like that.

10:47:49 Are in there. And there's a number of other things. Actually, I think. Did really well in terms of.

10:47:58 Our budget. At this point, We're waiting to hear, you know, obviously about the final recommendations that will come out of the governor's office, but.

10:48:10 I feel positive about what we have in there currently as requests and I'm hopeful that, Most of those will make their way into the governor's final budget recommendations.

10:48:24 Yes.

10:48:21 Now I know some of that was for capacity within the agency. Can you remind me the substance use disorders funding was that just to take you back?

10:48:34 To the level. You know, the federal enhancements that had happened during the pandemic. Is it just to get you back there?

10:48:42 Are you going above that?

10:48:41 No, this would be an actual increase in about 5 million dollars in the budget that's available through our ASO for.

10:48:51 Services to the uninsured.

10:48:55 And is that federal block grant dollars then for You're asking for SGF support.

10:49:01 We're asking for SDF.

10:49:06 Go on. Somebody else have questions for Andy?

10:49:15 Yeah.

10:49:13 I can't believe how quiet everyone is today. Alright, then the only other thing I have is, you know, the, interim committee on homelessness met.

10:49:26 Do you have thoughts? After that. What's that? It was very hard to listen to.

10:49:28 It's hard to listen to. That it was part of the

10:49:34 I will agree with that.

10:49:37 I think, I mean, just. You know, just yesterday. I had a conversation with, representative and down in Wichita.

10:49:50 And I think he's interested in trying to go to the governor's office and make some requests about.

10:49:57 Thanks, things to include in her budget around. Supported housing. I don't know if that will end up.

10:50:07 Going very far not, in terms of getting into the governor's budget recommendations. And I'm not sure if he's at the point yet where he's going to be willing to try to champion something in the legislature on his own.

10:50:20 But, it does seem to be, I think a growing concern and.

10:50:29 Several municipalities around the state. But how to respond to chronic homelessness and, the increase that you've seen in that since.

10:50:39 You're really since 2,008, but even more recently since COVID. In you know, I think.

10:50:48 It's no secret that like our strategy for that here at KATE ads has been housing first programs.

10:50:55 Making sure that we have. Supporting housing as part of our ccpc model that we're rolling out around the state.

10:51:05 So we have a number of, CCBCs that are already engaging in these sorts of activities.

10:51:12 Hello, we really need now I think is to find ways to support. The development of Either about your program.

10:51:21 Or an affordable housing type program that would support. The actual availability of units for people to move into.

10:51:33 I think we've got what we need in place to provide the support services. I think the challenge right now is just finding.

10:51:45 Landlords that are willing to participate in the program. And so there's a Louisiana model out there that we're gonna share with representative Elveson to take a look at that.

10:51:55 It, new developers to set aside. A percentage of their units. If they're going to use standard federal dollars or tax incentives as part of their construction projects.

10:52:08 To be, service through the, like, supporting housing bachelor program and then the state sets aside funds for the vouchers.

10:52:18 Which covers the cost of the. Thank you for the. So the idea there is is that you're creating sort of long term.

10:52:32 It is that can be used for integrated housing. On a supportive and permanent basis.

10:52:40 But that is not what I remember to talk about.

10:52:42 No, it is not.

10:52:48 Yep.

10:52:45 Hi, can I step in real quickly on that Louisiana model? On several work groups here in which Todd and we're talking about potential legislative action items.

10:52:55 Is this something that if we sort of champion, it would be a good time to do that?

10:53:01 Well, I, I think it's always a good time to be talking proactively about how it could address.

10:53:14 And I, you know, one of the things that, represented, about yesterday was, you know, how do we help to find what the populations are that we're responding to.

10:53:24 And for me that's kind of easy because, we really have one main population that we're focused on around homeless issues and that's books they're either dealing with SPMI or have, SCD, as a, diagnosis.

10:53:41 And we kind of have 2 responses to that. One is permit supported housing. And the other one is our, work with Oxford houses.

10:53:53 And, both of those programs. Balloon over the last 4 or 5 years as we've been investing.

10:54:01 Training and technical assistance and things like that into the state's infrastructure. To support that work.

10:54:10 You know, and we do have very, subject matter experts available. I think your group has already maybe worked with Julie Orlando.

10:54:19 But she's on contract with us and we also have a contract with Sam Simras. Here's the original founder of the Housing First model.

10:54:30 And so those, 2 individuals' are available to not support communities in developing. You know, what I would call a either a consolidated or a.

10:54:42 Upgraded way of approaching housing for funding. And then the challenge obviously is like the federal funding that we receive at K to add is available to support the services, right?

10:54:57 We can build Medicaid. We can get path phones, other federal funds that we're able to access.

10:55:04 And then the state dollars that we receive for housing first, for services as well. What we don't have, right, is funding for construction.

10:55:16 Development, property, those kinds of things. And. So we've worked with.

10:55:23 Kids is housing resource center. Right. It's been, you kind of receives those buds that come into the state to help with those particular items.

10:55:32 But the state itself. Isn't investing a significant amount of money at this time. And setting aside any of those, for people that have SPMI diagnosis.

10:55:44 And that's what Louisiana did that I think has been really effective.

10:55:49 Well, Andy has That I have kind of had this question on my mind for some time. It seems to me that there was a time.

10:55:59 That cities had these requirements for developments. Especially you know, like apartment complex type developments. Wear or or condos or things like that where a percentage of them were required to be

10:56:20 Yeah.

10:56:24 Good.

10:56:19 Affordable. I don't know that they were dedicated to people with disabilities so much as they were just they had to be.

10:56:28 Affordable units and and but It's like that has all disappeared. And I can understand how it would be really beneficial for the state to get into those requirements where we put money into development.

10:56:48 But it seems to me it would be more easily accomplished and more effective. If instituted on a local level.

10:56:57 Am I misunderstanding the history?

10:57:01 No, I don't think so. And I don't know the programs have actually gone away as much as the There hasn't like the I feel like the appetite for those sorts of developments, right?

10:57:20 So across Kansas, right? Most of our communities. Are no longer. What we would call like rural communities, right?

10:57:31 And so there's not a lot of, New development happening. Especially multi-family.

10:57:39 Units, right? And so the communities where those are being developed, I think they still do have a lot of local.

10:57:51 Funding and support available and policies that Great that affordable housing. I don't think any of those have ever specifically targeted.

10:58:00 You know, a number that are reserved for, specifically for mental health.

10:58:09 Moment supported housing services, right? There's usually requirements on like, you know, number of units that need to be 88 compliant, those kinds of things.

10:58:23 And oftentimes there's depending on what funding is being accessed by the developer.

10:58:26 There's requirements on

10:58:30 How we need to be considered affordable. Part of the problem too though is what's considered affordable. Is oftentimes still outside the reach.

10:58:39 Of people that are on disability. And so without a voucher. That's connected to the unit.

10:58:49 It's the fact that it's affordable doesn't mean that somebody is on disability and has a limited income.

10:58:56 Is able to afford that. Right. And then that's the challenge that I think. You've seen And then the landlords.

10:59:06 Essentially you know even though they might have a requirement for having a certain number of affordable units. They're not necessarily required.

10:59:16 To participate in the patcher program. The biggest thing that impacted. Low income, property was.

10:59:26 Chiefs has happened at the federal level of HUD. Where they went from, you know, project based, rental assistance to

10:59:39 To the rental assistant vouchers, right? And that changed, you know, the situation and a lot of those units.

10:59:48 That were built with those headphones. As project based, real assistance programs. Have sort of reached their 20 year.

10:59:58 Exploration date. And now the owners and developers of those properties are able to.

11:00:06 Switch over to. You know, market based rent or sell the property is somebody else who's willing to.

11:00:14 We have them and fix them up to do market-based rents. So it's, there's just a lack of affordable housing stock.

11:00:23 In the state. And there's a big study that was done on that like year or 2 ago, here in Kansas and The main problem right now I think is we oftentimes have vouchers that are going unused because we can't find landlords that are willing to accept the vouchers.

11:00:42 And You know, and there's a lack of.

11:00:50 A lack of funding available to reimburse the landlords when damages exceed. You know, monthly deposit.

11:00:58 Right, and that's part of the challenge too. They want to make sure that and that you participate in those permanent supported housing programs have access to funds that can offset losses or things that if they claim them, I guess they're property owners insurance are gonna cause their rates to go up significantly.

11:01:17 Right.

11:01:20 And my final question on that is do we have success stories that we can highlight and share with legislators or do some sort of a social media public campaign on.

11:01:32 To point out that there are some answers to that could be helpful. And.

11:01:42 Because I feel like that information is held very closely within the. Can that provide services and provide that's housing support.

11:01:54 And it's not broadly understood.

11:01:56 Yeah. Well, and I think, I mean, communities all across Kansas are in different stages of responding to this as an issue.

11:02:05 But, you know, Kim Wilson housing and the W dot city area is a really good example.

11:02:14 Lawrence Dulles County has been, you know, regulating and tackling this issue and has some successful programs that are being stood up.

11:02:26 But there's, there's challenges all across the state. And no community in the state has yet gotten what we would call a functional 0 where they've eliminated their chronic homeless problem.

11:02:37 Right. And. You know, really when you're looking at the full spectrum homelessness.

11:02:45 That built for 0 model, the Julia Orlando promotes. Is really the only. Solution that we've found that really eliminates.

11:02:57 The sort of product street homelessness that you see. On a day-to-day basis.

11:03:06 That's good information.

11:03:06 So yeah, we, we, we can, certainly, you know, tag some folks and we're planning on sending.

11:03:12 Representing over some sort of a list of some people that you can reach out to and talk to.

11:03:20 Anybody else have questions for Andy, whether it's on this topic or anything else?

11:03:31 Well, congratulations on your promotion. And I. Hope we will have a chance to visit with you again very soon.

11:03:40 Alright, look forward to seeing you guys all soon.

11:03:45 Oh wait, is there a hand up? Wait a minute.

11:03:49 Nope, that's clapping. Alright.

11:03:53 Thank you.

11:03:51 Okay. Alright, yep, thank you.

11:04:16 They wanted, thank you, Andy. For sending that. really cool resource.

11:04:26 Yeah, they're I think they're building they have a project to Kansas City right. Now they're working with.

11:04:32 An organization that was with homeless youth. Leveraging some of those. Low income house tax credits and other foundation.

11:04:42 So. We had a conversation with them. I believe her name is Heather, is representative of Kansas City to.

11:04:50 To see if it would be good for us, but so we're still in process.

11:04:54 Yeah, I need to introduce you to Ryan, Beckland, who is also doing the same thing in Kansas City.

11:05:02 And I think he knows how they're really well too, so we need to meet with him.

11:00 a.m. Lobbyist Report Amy Campbell – please note I was down with Covid an extended time in November, so please reach out to me if I have not followed up with you or missed your communications. 785-969-1617

- KanCare RFP - [Fact Sheet](#) Stakeholder Meetings
- Special Committee on Homelessness - November 9 - [link to information](#)

(Shared by Andy Houlberg: company that develops housing units with organizations leverage LIHTC
<https://www.vecinogroup.com/communities/bodhi/>)

- Joint Committee on Child Welfare System Oversight - November 4
- Special Committee on Child Care Centers and Child Care Homes - November 1
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11:25 a.m. Announcements

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

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