

Kansas Mental Health Coalition

Minutes

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December 16, 2020 Monthly Meeting

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

Amy Campbell
Steve Solomon, Emberhope
Brenda Adams, NAMI
Doug Bowman
Jeannine Hurford, KVC
Sue Lewis, MHAH
Heather Richardson, ACMHCK
Marcia Epstein
Mallory Behavioral Health Assn.
Emily Jensen
Brad Chapin, Stormont Vail BH

Monica Kurz, Suicide Prevention HQ
Susan Montague, St. Francis
Bill Persinger, Valeo
Jane Rhys
David Williams, KS Clubhouse
Kayla Mitchell, KS Clubhouse
R.A. McMillan, CAC / Pawnee
Matt Spezia, P3
Colin Thomasett, FSGC
Kathy Billbry

Minutes of the previous meeting adopted. See Draft. Sue motion, Matt Spezia second – consumer program note – mspezia@poetryforpersonalpower.org

9:45 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors – December meeting – moved to Thursday. Please let us know if you can make it at 1:00 p.m.

Financial Report–Amy Campbell Bill motion, Sue second.

Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network- Have you ever thought of getting more active with the Coalition? Please volunteer for Advocacy Committee – add Brenda Adams.

Looking at facilitating a virtual Advocacy Day – perhaps hosting online panels, issue education, and facilitating conversations with legislators.

Virtual conferences are happening throughout the pandemic and we should be able to create a meaningful experience for our advocates.

Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – Wes Cole, Chair – no report.

Big Tent Coalition – Jane Rhys – meeting tomorrow to plan for advocacy. Access to COVID vaccinations is a top issue, as well as guidance for who should be vaccinated when living with or serving people who are vulnerable.

KanCare Advocates Network - Sean Gatewood

Consumer Programs - Report from Poetry for Personal Power, Consumer Run Organizations, Consumer Advisory Council

Wellness Recovery Action Plan (WRAP) is a tool that has been around since the late 80's. P3 offers training for national level certification.

January Peer Support Certification Training – join us! KDADS has done a good job updating their online peer training offerings. Highly recommend that as well.

We can sponsor community events if you are willing to ask your participants to do surveys – at \$150.

Looking for Peer Information Campus proposals for workshops to add to our campus. Sponsorships are available. Mspezia@poetryforpersonalpower.org This could be anything from a mental health tool to entrepreneur tools. Eventually this will include in person trainings, but the campus is to be a resource for all. There are so many amazing peer resources out there, but they are not centrally available.

Parity Committee - Amy Campbell – Committee is meeting and communicating with the Kansas Insurance Department. Please complete the provider survey to assist the committee in building a resource of providers experiences with insurance / third party payor utilization review processes.

10:05 a.m. Lobbyist Report - Amy Campbell

- Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform - DRAFT Strategic Framework from the Work Groups

- Bethell Committee for HCBS and KanCare Oversight - Recommendations made for interim report include MHMR Telehealth recommendations. Also held special meeting held to examine long term care concerns and integrated care models.

SAMHSA Integrated Care Presentation

- CARES Act and Emergency Orders KDADS Update to Leg. Budget Committee

- Legislative Budget Committee ACMHCK Testimony - CMHCs and the Pandemic High Plains MHC - KS Mental Health and the COVID Crisis

- 2021 Legislative Session *Leadership Elections held last week. Senate Committee Chairs announced.*

10:30 a.m. KDADS Update - Andy Brown, Commissioner of Behavioral Health –

- Exciting news – just published our Suicide Prevention plan through 2025. 18 months work with participation of Prevention Subcommittee and many agency staff. On the website. Will share with Coalition. Very happy to have this document out for public review. We seem to be seeing more attention for suicide prevention from policymakers and other state agencies. Started a steering committee to launch a suicide prevention coalition next September. Defining roles and responsibilities and operations. Invitations will eventually go out and have already put some of the plans in place for a September meeting.
- Currently working on a 988 plan – grant opportunity through Vibrant. 988 is coming. Deadline to switch over is July 2022. Need to make sure we have done all we can do as a state to support that change and assure that there is a network to provide assistance when people call the number. We anticipate increased use of a 988 number over the current suicide prevention number. There has already been a significant increase in the use of the national suicide prevention lifeline number, perhaps due to increased awareness. Goal to increase our in state answering number above the 90% range, so that callers are connected to someone within the state to help connect them to resources. There is a planning grant opportunity that includes a stipend for our NSPL operators to help them to provide the data we need to facilitate a good implementation. Right now, our in state answer percentage is more like 60%. That means 40% of the calls go to a national partner and some are not answered at all. Looking at how to fund

crisis services to link those services to that 988 number so people are connected to an in person crisis response if they need that level of care. Want to treat 988 as a response to a mental health crisis where a referral and followup actually occurs instead of having people slip through the cracks because they don't know where to go for help.

- The Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform has a lot of recommendations that we want to implement and so we expect to very busy engaging in that work in the next year and with the Legislature.

Q & A – suicide prevention plan – will send to Amy so she can send it to the Coalition. Will be sending it around pretty broadly and will have a press event after the holidays.

NSPL – currently information from the calls are retained by local center and not transferred to any kind of national database. It isn't treatment so there aren't

Kathy Billbry – think this is way overdue. Spoke of her family's experience with the military and high suicide rates.

Believe that there is some interest in developing a full time state suicide coordinator – feel like that should be a part of our overall state infrastructure plan.

Updated KanCare Oversight Committee – really worked hard to reduce PRTF wait lists – currently down around 110. We are proud of that work, it is a significant decrease from last year. Will present at the KanCare Public Meeting. Also added beds at Kids TLC (50 bed facility) and working on an RFP for a kids hospital in Hays, Kansas to serve inpatient psychiatric treatment needs. Close to having a new PRTF at Emberhope in south central Kansas. It is an ongoing challenge and oftentimes I feel like it wouldn't take too much of an increase in need to really bump into our overall capacity. The time that kids are in treatment has actually increased in recent years, so kids who are waiting still have to wait for a bed to open. Our average wait time may be down but it is still a significant issue. Sometimes the issue is a PRTF doesn't have the right bed for that individual – can't put an 18 year old into a unit with kids who are all under 14. History of violence or aggression or sexual behaviors also create placement issues. There are a lot of challenges to assist those who are on the wait list. Part of the reason we are excited about the 50 beds at TLC is that we need to serve kids with special needs and high acuity and the new facility will have five or six different areas that can serve special populations. Will provide specialists who can serve these high acuity needs. We hope it will be in place six months from now so we can achieve more reasonable wait times. Don't have a crystal ball but think it is going to have a significant impact.

McMillan – thanks for your work and your staff at KDADS and stay safe!

11:00 a.m. Consensus Recommendations Review

Telehealth / Telemedicine

Parity / Insurance – significant updates

Paper – CCBHC Model - Michelle

Suicide Prevention Paper – need to incorporate the needs for crisis response associated with 988. NSPL funding already a part of it, as well at state centralization. *Monica Kurz*

11:25 a.m. Announcements

Sherrie Vaughn – NAMI recently trained 14 presenters for NAMI providers training. First announcement for January provider seminar – filled in two days. February provider seminar filled in two hours.

Bill Persinger – Shawnee County working with local organizations to create a reverse warm line. Various agencies identify high risk individuals in the community who are isolated without good support systems who need someone to call and check in on them. Volunteers call selected individuals and stay in touch. Valeo has been awarded a grant to provide a mobile trailer with hot/cold water, shower, laundry called Operation Clean – KS Housing Resources Corporation. Would circulate through community with churches providing location. Also partnering to provide food resources.

Marcia Epstein – so much of what we talked about today was around suicide prevention. Holidays are very hard for many people and the person next to you may be suffering from grief related to suicide. Grief is particularly painful now. Be kind to yourself and be kind to others.

Kathy Billbry – thank you Bill – that’s awesome. My grandchildren’s mother died by suicide at 29 years old. Addicted and on the streets. A horrific life – hearing about ideas to help the people like her is so encouraging. I’ve often heard it said we treat strangers better than the people in our own household. I hear a lot of caretakers on this call and it really means a lot – this phone call has been very encouraging to hear positive things happening.

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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