

Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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

Minutes

December 18, 2019 Monthly Meeting

Valeo Behavioral Health Center, basement conference room, 330 SW Oakley, Topeka, KS

Introductions and sign-in sheet Mary Jones, President

2020 Meeting schedule - should KMHC change meeting time? Consensus to change to 9:30 start time.

The Board will establish the 2020 dates – at this time, they are tentatively: Jan 22, Feb 26, Mar 25, Apr 22, May 27, June 24, July 22, August 26, Sept 23, Oct 28, Nov 18, Dec 16

Minutes of the previous meeting. [See draft](#)

9:15 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors – Meet immediately after Coalition. Establish budget and 2020 meeting schedule.

Financial Report approved. Motion by Steve Solomon, second Shereen Ellis. Colin Thomasset is resigning effective the end of the year. Mary and Amy will fulfill the responsibilities until a new treasurer is in place.

Advocacy Committee–Grassroots Advocacy - Advocacy Day is Feb 19, 2020 - Heather Elliott The Committee is now meeting through Friday teleconferences to get the planning for Advocacy Day in place. Seeking

Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – reports by members

Prevention Subcommittee host legislative luncheon February 14.

Wes Cole was unable to attend, but looks forward to rejoining Coalition meetings now that his role as interim OSH Superintendent is complete.

Charles Bartlett provided further updates – Council is reinstating an Aging Subcommittee. Vocational Subcommittee is branching into a new Subcommittee on Evidence Based Practices.

Council is planning to host a strategic planning retreat in February.

Next meeting is January – 3rd Wednesday. They are public meetings with a call in number available. There is a public comment section on the agenda. Access information on the KDADS website. Subcommittee reports are also posted. Diana Marsh is the contact.

The Council has a number of position appointments pending. Applications are available online. There are some delays with the Governors office process.

Big Tent Coalition - Mike Burgess – following federal “Money Follows the Person” legislation.

KanCare Advocates Network – Olmstead Planning Subcommittee is meeting to develop a proposed state Olmstead Plan.

Consumer Programs - Sheri Hall, P3 – Matt Spezia – sponsoring 85 recovery events and 35 mental health events. Ramping up for supporting

There is a piece of equipment call an “owl” that can be helpful for the visual for Zoom meetings.

In 2020, will be working with St. Francis on peer mentoring for SUD.

Parity Committee - Amy Campbell – Conversation about the work of the parity committee and anticipated legislation this session. Committee does not expect to work on legislation but there may be some legislation being circulated by legislators for early introduction.

10:00 a.m. KDADS Update - Andy Brown, Behavioral Health Commissioner for the KS Dept. for Aging and Disability Services discusses the agency’s latest initiatives, budget requests and proposal to end the moratorium on admissions at Osawatomie State Hospital.

Post Audit re: mental health needs in the jails. Agency establishing two committees to look at the identified issues. Services in the jails, discharge planning, court services, and community programming are all a part of the focus.

There is a separate conversation going on regarding prisons. Have been working with the Council on State Governments on a prison initiative along with the Kansas Dept of Corrections. Anticipating an announcement in the next four to six weeks. Lengthy process.

Have met with law enforcement, peers and others regarding the needs within the prison, parole and probation. Need to stop the revolving door that exists for those with behavioral health issues.

Peer Services – making progress. Policy recently established to increase reimbursement rate by 10%. Looking at ways to increase the block grant rate to match the Medicaid rates. Working with KDHE to expand peer support codes to establish performance based measures by MCOs. Working to expand access to those peer support codes to additional providers outside the current CMHC network. Current certification is available for Level 1 (20 hours direct contact/1 hour supervision) and Level 2 (30 hours direct contact/1 hour supervision). There are separate certifications for Peer Mentors for addictions treatment and Peer Support Specialists for mental health.

Assuming a provider is willing to hire certified peer specialists to provide services, would go through the MCO to be credentialed and provide reimbursement.

Putting together an implementation team. Have not yet sent out the invites. Building blocks are being put into place now to be able to focus on the expansion. Will target rural areas, but will be expanded across the state.

Will not initially include youth peer support. Looking at youth peer support models with an eye to provide it under the Systems of Care grant and ultimately become reimbursable under Medicaid. This is a longer term objective. Members of KMHC are very interested in seeing these options available for kids and families.

FQHC Initiative for primary care/behavioral health integration – seeking several technical assistance grant opportunities. SAMHSA integration proposal and another for SUD treatment in FQHCs.

Involuntary Commitment option – applying for federal funds to assist with court involuntary commitment option to community treatment / intensive outpatient treatment.

AGENCY BUDGET REQUESTS – may or may not be included in the Governor’s Recommended Budget

Reviewed the agency’s budget requests – distributed a table from the Legislative Research Dept.

MORATORIUM PLANS – A number of the budget requests are attached to the agency’s plan for ending the OSH admissions moratorium. That plan is to be reviewed and approved by the Governor, after which we will be circulating it more broadly. Would maintain the triage and diversion programs already in place, in addition to adding capacity at OSH and with regional hospitals. Have census management protocols

Coalition can invite new hospitals commissioner/deputy secretary to discuss these plans when that announcement is final. Mike Dixon has been the interim commissioner.

PRTF REGS – Agency is planning release draft of new PRTF regs in the next month or so for comment. There have been some delays in getting new beds at Hays PRTF on line due to fire marshall concerns. Think that has been ironed out. Meanwhile, the PRTF waiting list is still longer than the Legislature will like.

Walt Hill – how many beds at Hays now? 24 with plan to expand to 54.

Walt pointed out that the closure of KVC kids hospital beds and shifting entirely to PRTF has created a major problem in Hays and for western Kansas. This issue did not really become widely known by the communities most affected until it was too late to do anything about it. Significant loss to the community of the acute care beds, there were children needing those services every month.

Secretary plans to reach out to western Kansas communities to try to come up with new partners, perhaps local hospitals, in order to try to get some inpatient resources closer to the families who need them.

Legislators are showing a significant interest in replacing the kids acute hospital beds in western Kansas. There is a lot of frustration in the Legislature that they didn't really understand what was going to happen. Amy expressed concerns that legislators are acting like this was a deceitful action by the agency, when the subcommittee did receive reports on the accreditation issue and that CMS would no longer allow the KVC facility to be dually licensed. The KDADS budget documents last year showed that the HAPHY hospitalization contract was short of funds as well, and there was not an effort to fill in those funds.

There are several really active and involved legislators, including Rep. Leonard Mastroni of LaCrosse, who is a member of the subcommittee, who are pursuing full funding and will actively campaign to have these resources available further west than Wichita. He is also a champion of Larned State Hospital.

10:45 a.m. Lobbyist Report - Amy Campbell

Expectations for Medicaid Expansion in 2020

Legislative Budget Committee reviews agency budget requests as submitted to Governor (Overview and Table)

- KVC reports bed capacity for children: acute hospital and PRTF changes in Hays and Wichita (Testimony)
- Governor announces wage increases for Larned State Hospital employees (Testimony)
- Governor hosting budget listening sessions
- Campaigns will color the 2020 legislative session

11:00 a.m. Final Consideration of KMHC Consensus Recommendations - Annual process for updates and amendment. Please draft an issue 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](#).

Update issue papers. The group ran out of time for further discussion of specific consensus items.

The Peer Certification issue needs further work, but appears to have support among many Coalition members. Will talk about next steps.

11:25 a.m. Announcements

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

2019 Schedule:

Mental Health Advocacy Day: February 19, 2020

Advocacy Committee Meetings: December 19, January – February 16: Friday teleconferences, meet after January 22 Coalition meeting.

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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