

# Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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

## Minutes

February 26, 2020 Monthly Meeting

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

Teleconference access 1-515-606-5183, enter 567518 Meeting room wi-fi: Guest@ccess

**9:30 a.m. Introductions and sign-in sheet** Mary Jones, President

**Minutes of the previous meeting** adopted – motion Bob Chase, second Matt Spezia.

**9:45 a.m. Reports**

**Board of Directors** – Next meeting March 25th

**Financial Report adopted as presented by** Amy Campbell. Motion by Sue Lewis, second Shereen Ellis. Please log in to the website to psay your dues!

**Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network** - 400 people participated in Advocacy Day. Governor Kelly addressed the crowd during the rally. Leadership and Collaboration Awards presented to Rep. Will Carpenter and Rep. Susan Ruiz. Member of the Year presented to Corinna West. Please provide feedback on evaluation forms or through email. [Print Evaluation form](#). Please thank our generous [sponsors and exhibitors!](#) Corinna emphasized there were a lot of new faces there and if we can effectively follow up with them, they are the new recovery movement. PACES, YLINK, Zero Reasons Why, and other youth attended. The Advocacy Day Committee is seeking additional members to take on the responsibilities of Advocacy Day and building on the gains made through our training events in Topeka, Shawnee and Wichita.

**Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council** – Wes Cole, Chair – Reconvening the Aging Subcommittee. The Council is struggling with getting appointments made – there continues to be a backlog. On March 6, there is an open meeting of the multiple subcommittees here in Topeka. Will be gathering information from subcommittee members. March 19 – GBHSPC will meet and review requirements for upcoming

Working on a new Problem Gambling and Gaming Subcommittee that will specifically look at new data around gambling and work with the Prevention Subcommittee. The Veteran’s Subcommittee has come a long way, sat in on their meeting recently. The Coalition may want to have a report from that group to hear the amazing work they are doing.

Thought the 2020 Mental Health Advocacy Day was one of the best I had ever attended. There were lots of new faces, and that is very rewarding. Great to see so many young faces.

Attended the suicide prevention informational hearing at the Capitol – thought that was very important and useful. Loved the way that was set up and especially hearing from the kids and their opinions and feelings. Lots of talk about the schools, and one of the things we had talked about in one of our past reports was education. Believe teachers need more training.

Pause agenda to hear from Andy Brown.

**Big Tent Coalition** - Mike Burgess

**KanCare Advocates Network** - Sean Gatewood – Olmstead Working Group

**Consumer Programs** - Sheri Hall, P3

**Parity Committee** - Amy Campbell

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

**10:00 a.m. Special Guest - Andy Brown, KDADS Commissioner for Behavioral Health Services**

- KDADS Update –

Executive Reorganization – waiting to see if there will be any floor action. Both chambers had negative recommendations by committees.

Medicaid Expansion is clearly on hold for the moment. Still hopeful the end of the session can be fruitful, but right now it is being held as a leverage tool for other things.

There were a number of things that came out of House Social

PRTF Pilot Program in Newton

IDD / HCBS waivers

750,000 Crisis Center in Douglas County

\$3 million for youth mobile response stabilization services

\$4 million for CMHCs

\$5 million for western Kansas PRTF beds expansion/availability

Respite Care Services in KC

Don't know if we should get excited about any of that but grateful to see that there is some support among policymakers to enact some of the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Force.

Meeting was held last week about OneCare Kansas (new version of health homes) at various locations. KDHE is trying to be sure that behavioral health is represented. Appreciate all the work the MCOs have put into it. It has been a long road and I hope that it will be a good benefit for those that select that option under Medicaid.

Working on policy drafts to make changes for peer support. Want to create a parent peer support certification – then they would be able to bill peer support codes to serve parents of children with SED. Working to open the peer code to be billed by providers outside of CMHCs. SUD code is also out there and available to be billed for peer mentoring.

Enacted 10% rate increase for peer support codes for group and individual services.

Hardest thing about your new job and the best thing? Most difficult is the situation in western Kansas with KVC/HAYS having to move their acute kids beds due to the CMS regulations. There are challenges, because we know things that can work, but CMS doesn't allow for those solutions under their more rigid system. Explained the history of what happened with KVC.

KDADS hosted meetings in Goodland, Dodge City, Garden City and Hays and a webinar the beginning of this month to talk about options for providing kids acute beds for the western part of the state. WSU facilitated and is drafting a report for the Governor, agency and legislators. The problem with providing that service is mostly around staffing for a facility with the population in western Kansas. Can use telemedicine as part of the care, but that doesn't resolve the need for on site professionals.

Q & A:

Crisis Intervention Act – KDADS is working with RSI to see if they can certify RSI to become a Crisis Intervention Center under the Crisis Intervention Act. Want to identify if there is anything in the statute or lacking in current rules and regulations in order to facilitate a CIC. (72-hour involuntary)

Lottery Vending Machines – Nick requested update – State is receiving funds from the Lottery Vending Machines, but the receipts are below forecasts. Right now, hoping to bank that money to use it next year to expand to two programs – hope to cover what has already been promised for crisis stabilization.

Juvenile Crisis Center funding is supposed to come from the Juvenile Justice Reform Act – money is there and we are working with a bidder to see if we can secure a contract.

Nick - There is some concern with some of the policy trajectories as a citizen, appreciating the fact of what you all do.

Becky Fast – workforce shortage – possible workgroup?

Andy – working with KHI to pull together a series of meetings. Sarah Hussein is our new mental health program manager who will be involved. Carol Spiker is our problem gambling program manager, and she is also involved.

Wes – Rural and Frontier Subcommittee has a white paper on workforce development that can add to the discussion.

Andy – yes – and the goal is to develop a white paper for the Legislature. Nebraska has done a good job in developing career ladders to allow people to remain in their communities to work through their professional development. To get online programs and work programs that are available locally would be very useful.

Corinna – described SAMHSA research on workforce development

Andy – agreed. Low utilization of peer support in Kansas is often around difficulty in recruiting, retaining and supervising peers on staff.

Nick – we are all peers. When I was a police officer, I could pull someone over if I saw something. When we talk about this workforce issue they often talk about how they can't get anyone to pass the UA. Those screenings can create a weird circle around who is eligible to help and we hinder those who could be interested.

I've been coming for five years. It sometimes continues to be spinning wheels on some of these issues. I understand that everyone is working to feed their families and has a job to do. But there are some issues that work against progress when there are rules that do not change at all.

Individual employers may require UAs for peer support, but KDADS does not. KDADS does require exhibited sobriety for anyone to be a peer mentor for individuals' sobriety.

Conversation about workforce and retention issues throughout the state – state hospitals, CMHCs, PRTFs, hospitals, clinics, more – throughout the state.

Not having Medicaid Expansion and some of the other legislation that could pass that would change things. Behavioral health services are not paid well and are most commonly provided by not for profit agencies and no one is getting rich there.

Nick – also have to have people who care, in order to address many of these issues. Why would someone make \$10 hour to do this when they could make that by flipping burgers? It strikes a very interesting topic beyond just needing funding for this or that. Definitely appreciate the conversation.

Lisa Baker, Heartland Community Health Center – work there – compassionate fatigue is a real thing. You have to get patients in and out and don't get to spend any time with them any more in the primary care visits. Many need behavioral health care too, but don't have enough counselors to have them come in. Joined Coalition about five years ago, rejoined this year.

Andy – we are going to keep working on things, guys. I don't want anyone to feel dejected. It is hard work. But I do get excited about my job. It is great to see how attitudes around KDADS are changing. We are doing a lot to be more open, more transparent and work with people. Hope you feel you can bring your concerns to us and know we will do our best to work with you.

Wes – commended Andy and his team for what they are doing

**Consumer Programs** – Matt Spezia, Peer Directed Campuses – work is moving forward. Will be putting out content by the end of next month. First level training opportunities are out there, but the upward levels are still limited. We are expanding those opportunities.

Corinna West – Shared information regarding some consumer products in the room: Farm and Forage – Graphic Design – Made by Molly Moe (IDD stationery products) – Heartland Consumer Network will be hosting the Health Futurism Conference in Cincinnati Sept 11-13.

#### **10:45 a.m. Lobbyist Report** Amy Campbell

- Medicaid Expansion – SB 252: Senate Public Health and Welfare amended and voted down. Work suspended until action on constitutional amendment for anti-abortion interests.
- Executive Reorganization Order: ERO 44 to merge KDADS, DCF, and Juvenile Corrections is opposed by House Appropriations Committee.
- Mental Health Parity HB 2459: Insurance Subcommittee recommends Task Force - [see testimony](#)
- Agency Budget Reports - proposal to end OSH moratorium delayed - [see Hospitals testimony](#) - [see KDADS budget testimony](#) - [see KDHE budget testimony](#)
- KMHC Policy Documents: [2020 Consensus Policy Recommendations](#)  
[The Need for Expanded Peer Support](#)                      [Medicaid Expansion](#)  
[Community Based Mental Health Services - Repair the Safety Net](#)

## Adult Inpatient Psychiatric Treatment - The State Hospitals Crisis

### **11:25 a.m. Announcements**

Mental Health Association of the Heartland – event on March 6.

Corinna invited people to her birthday potluck on Sunday, March 15.

**11:30 a.m. Adjourn** motion Sue, Jane second.

**2020 Schedule:**    **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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  
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