

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.

May 24, 2023

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

Minutes of previous meetings adopted. Motion by McMillan, second Houlberg. [See March minutes.](#) [See April minutes.](#)

9:35 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors – no report.

Financial Report adopted. \$10,772.27 with Advocacy Day bills paid. Motion by Barnes, second Stidham. – Amy Campbell

9:45 a.m. Guest Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director, KDHE - brief update - Sarah will join us again at the July meeting. Please send your input for the Kancare reprocurement to kancare.renewal@ks.gov. Held public input sessions.

The public health emergency unwinding means that Kansas must reinstitute eligibility reviews annually for Medicaid participants. This is a heavy lift because reviews were suspended for several years. There have been multiple lessons – in spite of a lot of planning for this effort, call waiting times were very long as the call center was overwhelmed. Wait times are now down to an average of 10-15 minutes, but the goal is two minutes. Another complication is the unpredictable change in delivery times for the postal service. It can take as long as 9 days for some documents to reach the Clearinghouse. Bizarrely, mail from Topeka to Topeka can take a week. Trying to hold participants harmless where possible.

Most importantly, return your information WITH YOUR SIGNATURE in order to start the renewal process – even if you do not yet have all of the required documentation in hand.

Participants can help by sending their information well in advance of the deadline and by signing up for the Kancare Member Portal online. This does require you to create a login and password, but gives you direct access to your own information including your renewal date. You can also get your renewal date from the call center.

Working to assure that members are not removed from Kancare for anything other than eligibility reasons, but there were participants removed during the earliest rounds for not returning their eligibility materials.

Every participant has 90 days to fulfill the requirements and be reinstated (with coverage backdated) if they pass eligibility requirements. Eligibility rules have not changed.

Providers who discover a patient has been removed from Medicaid will not be able to discern if it was due to a change in eligibility status or if it was due to a failure to complete the renewal documents. Encourage the patient to do so.

The agency can bump up the process for people pending surgery or other time sensitive procedures. If you are aware of individuals who are at risk, please reach out to Sarah Fertig or Christine Osterlund directly.

The agency is working with CMS to determine what standardized data will be reported regarding the renewed eligibility process. The number of people expected to be no longer eligible for Kancare has decreased from 120,000 to less than 100,000, but we will not know until much later in the year.

Advocacy Committee – Colin Thomasset / Monica Kurz – Committee did meet for a full debriefing and beginning plans for 2024. The dates are March 5 or 6 pending confirmation from Statehouse Facilities Management.

Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – Wes Cole has had heart surgery. Please send your healing thoughts

Big Tent Coalition - Mike Burgess – DRC gathered partners to advocate the Kansas Board of Education change seclusion and restraint interpretation that had not required parental notification if there was an adult in the room. KMHC signed on to the advocacy letter and the Board did change the policy to assure that parents are to be informed.

KanCare Advocates Network - Sean Gatewood

Consumer Programs – Recovery Conference is June 6-7 and will feature Advocacy 2.0 with Lori Barnes, Sherrie Vaughn and Colleen Garrison.

Parity Committee - Amy Campbell / Rick Cagan - Providers are encouraged to participate in the 2023 Provider Parity Survey - [Letter](#) [Survey Link](#) [Examples](#)

Suicide Prevention Coalition / 988 Crisis Line - Brenna Vicosky – extensive report.

10:30 a.m. Lobbyist Report Amy Campbell (abbreviated list)

- Governor signed omnibus budget Senate Bill 25 [See press release](#)

See omnibus conference committee report brief [CCRB SB 25](#)

- KDADS announces SPARK funding – see press release attached.
- BSRB Legislation passed - reduces some continuing education requirements, facilitates reciprocal licensure, and makes it easier for those licensed in another state to become licensed in Kansas.
- Governor signed Sub for HB 2184 - the mega-budget bill with a number of line item vetoes [Governors Line Item Vetoes Message](#) [Supplemental Note for HB 2184-MegaBudget 2023](#)

11:00 a.m. Annual Elections Open nominations from the floor for Board seats for 2023-2026.

Accepted motion by Susan Montague and Deb Stidham to approve retaining Board members – Kyle Kessler, Lori Barnes, and Marcy Johnson. Approved.

Accepted nominations for Sherrie Vaughn for Vice President (1st full term) and Lori Barnes for Secretary (1st full term) for 2023-2025.

Accepted motion to approve Vice President and Secretary by R.A. Mcmillan and Deb Stidham.

CURRENT Officers and Board Members:

2022-2024 President – Mary Jones (2nd full term)

2022-2023 Vice-President - Sherrie Vaughn (1st partial term)

2021-2023 Secretary - Jane Rhys (2nd term) *Thank you Jane, for your service!*

2022-2025	2020-2023	2021-2024
Colin Thomasset	Kyle Kessler	Chad Childs
Dr. Sherrie Vaughn	Lori Barnes (2022)	Susan Crain Lewis
Jane Rhys	Marcy Johnson	Mary Jones
Monica Kurz		Matt Spezia

11:25 a.m. Announcements

CWLA Virtual Summit – Susan Montague – June 20-22 Rural Issues

Gateway of Hope – affordable MH services to JoCo Women – low income, Spanish language – operating with an ARPA grant.

Florence Crittenton – Diabetes prevention program in June open to anyone in community (Topeka area)

NAMI Walks in Topeka on May 20th was awesome – R.A. McMillan

JoCoMHC – Tell a Cop Says Stop – June 13 – 8:30 to 12:30

Clubhouse Giving Day – Andy Houlberg – link in chat

11:30 a.m. Adjourn

2023 Schedule - Jan 25, Feb 22, Mar 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26, August 23, September 27, October 25, Nov 15, Dec 13

Board Meetings: 11:45 a.m. quarterly the 4th Wednesdays (March 29, July 26, Sept. 27, Dec. 13)

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition

c/o Amy A. Campbell, Lobbyist, P.O. Box 4103, Topeka, KS 66604

785-969-1617 campbell525@sbcglobal.net

Governor Kelly Announces More Than \$65 Million in Grants for Medical and Mental Health Care

For Immediate Release

May 17, 2023

For more information, contact:

[Cara Sloan-Ramos](#)

Governor Laura Kelly announced today that the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has awarded \$65.4 million made available through the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Executive Committee and State Finance Council. This round of awards funds programs designed to close service gaps in the continuum of care by addressing statewide shortages of health and behavioral health services and the state's increasing demand for a well-trained health care workforce.

"My administration continues to be laser-focused on increasing access to mental health resources and care, which is fundamental to safe and healthy communities," **Governor Laura Kelly said**. "Thanks to the work of KDADS, the SPARK Committee, the State Finance Council, and the awardees, we are making progress in knocking down barriers to mental health care in Kansas."

"Having this money in the community will result in more services being available in certain geographic regions of the state and increased capacity through expanded services," **KDADS Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Facilities Scott Brunner said**. "Kansans with disabilities, long-term care needs, and those suffering from mental illness will be the ones to realize the positive changes and impact we'll no doubt see as a result of programs that will be implemented by our awardees."

Funds have been allocated to service providers, educational institutions, local units of government, and non-profit organizations with proposals in three program areas to the following grantees:

Expansion of health care facilities: The facility expansion must result in more services being delivered within a defined geographic area or clearly increase service capacity through more licensed bed space, expanded treatment facilities, or additional credentialed providers.

- **South Central Kansas State Mental Health Hospital- \$25 million**
Sedgwick County will create a new 50-bed mental health hospital, which will be owned and operated by the state. The regional facility would address the shortage of in-patient beds and allow patients to remain closer to home and family. Additional beds will ease jail overcrowding by shortening the wait time for inmates awaiting competency evaluations or treatment. The facility will be developed with room for expansion.
- **KVC Health Systems: New Olathe Psychiatric Hospital Joint Venture - \$12.7 million**
KVC Health Systems has formed a joint venture to build a new 72-bed state-of-the-art psychiatric hospital in Olathe. The project includes building three-24 bed units, which will provide an additional 48 youth beds and 24 adult beds to the mental health system.
- **Wichita State University and the University of Kansas: Health Sciences Education Center (HSEC) - \$15 million**
Wichita State University and the University of Kansas are partnering to build a joint health sciences education center (HSEC) in Wichita. The health sciences complex will centralize health care education, collaboration, and research. Students will receive state-of-the-art health care education that will ultimately improve the quality of health and health outcomes for all Kansans. Initially, approximately 3,000 students and 200 faculty and staff will be housed at the center with opportunities for growth in existing and new programs.

Expansion of reach of current service providers: Innovative delivery models using technology must be used to expand the reach of current service providers or to reach additional Medicaid-eligible beneficiaries.

- **Windsor Place: *Nursing Homes Without Walls - \$1.6 million***
Windsor Place will conduct a rigorous examination of its technology bundle to improve consumer well-being and impact nursing home admissions, emergency room visits, hospital admissions, and the overall cost of caring for seniors.
- **Rock Regional Hospital: *Growing Community Capacity - \$5 million***
As a small, independent community hospital, Rock Regional is working to address the needs of an aging population, declining rural hospital access, and overwhelmed urban emergency rooms. Rock Regional will undertake an expansion of service providers to serve the community with additional health care capacity.
- **The University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative: *ASPIRE Rural Transformation Model - \$1.1 million***
The University of Kansas Health System Care Collaborative is a clinically integrated network comprised of 82 health care providers across 72 rural Kansas counties, actively assisting them in the implementation of new models of care. The project will improve health outcomes in rural communities by strengthening the local delivery system through new models of care while expanding successful Medicare programs to Medicaid beneficiaries through centralized telehealth services. Target outcomes are improved quality outcomes for the management of chronic conditions, reduced avoidable emergency room visits and hospital admissions, and reduced hospital readmissions. The initial cohort will involve rural hospitals and clinics in northwest and central Kansas.

Expansion of workforce training: Workforce training expansion must increase students being trained to serve in the medical field.

- **Kansas Health Science Center: *Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine - \$5 million***
The Kansas Health Science Center – Kansas College of Osteopathic Medicine class size will nearly double the number of student doctors over the next two years. Once fully operational, 170 new physicians will be produced annually. Additionally, there is a focus on initiatives to retain physicians in Kansas.