

Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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

Agenda

Click on underlined items for web links.

May 26, 2021 ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

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

Minutes of the previous meeting adopted. [Read minutes](#) Motion by Ellis, second Rhys.

Annual Elections - Nominations are welcome from the floor in addition to those from the nominations committee.

Board Nominations for 2021-2024: The committee nominates the following directors to renew their positions: Bob Chase, Sue Lewis and Mary Jones and accepts resignation of Dave Ranney and Dana Schoffelman. Nomination for Matt Spezia to replace Lewis Brown as a Director. Motion by Jones, second by Ellis. Nomination for Chad Childs by Ellis, second by Jensen. Motion passed.

Nominations adopted.

Officers: The committee nominates Shereen Ellis for her first full term as vice president. Motion by Tammany, second by Rhys. Motion passed.

9:45 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors - next meeting in June

Financial Report adopted. \$1892.80 – Amy Campbell - We need your dues paid in order to keep our organization operational. Please log in to the website to renew membership. Motion Spezia, second by Rhys.

Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network – Send poll with potential meeting dates. Tentatively looking at February 22 for 2022 Advocacy Day.

Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – Met in May – talking about better collaboration with the subcommittees and possibly creating a platform for document sharing.

Big Tent Coalition – Jane and Amy attended. Like KMHC, they reviewed the 2021 Legislative actions. Supported Decision Making Act was postponed to next session. Appears the federal HCBS access act will be set aside due to the high cost and priority for Biden’s relief legislation.

KanCare Advocates Network - Sean Gatewood – Protected Income Level was increased to 300% of SSI, which is a big deal for people served by HCBS waivers or PACE. Should really improve the daily lives and living conditions for people served on the waivers who will now be able to keep more of their income and social security support

Alliance for a Healthy Kansas – Medicaid Expansion – Working to bring more people into the alliance working for expansion. Hoping to get involvement from law enforcement and business folks. If you have relationships with leaders from these groups, we could use your help getting their involvement. Email sean@expandkancare.com.

Consumer Programs - Matt Spezia, P3 – We are going to have more funding available to direct services from SAMHSA. mspezia@poetryforpersonalpower.org P3 is starting in person events again. Very excited to have

crowds again with the effectiveness of the vaccines against COVID 19. Online events have had a great impact in allowing access for more people to many advocacy events, but we

P3 is going to be working with the Parity Committee on their public information campaign.

I don't think there has been any organization I've been involved with that has taught me more about how to be an effective advocate.

Juliana – Story Circles May 29 and June 16. Will bring Wellness Recovery Action Planning (WRAP) training June 15-16 with partnership with KDADS. CCAR Peer Recovery Coach training (4 days) July 26-29.

Parity Committee - Amy Campbell -

10:00 a.m. KDADS Update - Andy Brown, Behavioral Health Commissioner

10:30 a.m. Lobbyist Report Amy Campbell

CCBHCS Enactment

988 - Pursue legislation in 2022 - startup money provided

Telemedicine

American Rescue Plan Act Funding - process to distribute federal funds

11:00 a.m. Agency Update: Sarah Fertig, Medicaid Director

The implementation for CCBHCS will be complex and a challenging timeline. We will have to put together a State Plan Amendment for CMS approval and will work on that with consultants. Starting work with the actuaries today to put together the cost based rate adjustments system.

Governor signed the omnibus budget – very pleased it included the DD provider 5% increase from April 1 to June 30 and 7% starting July 1.

Specialized Medical Care rate for TA waiver will go up to \$43 / hour which should help additional access to in home nursing.

Just got approval for mid-year 2020 rates from CMS – these delays are a concern as we want to get the PACE / HCBS protected income level increase approved as soon as possible.

American Rescue Plan Act amendments –

New opportunity to extend Medicaid eligibility for pregnant women to 12 months post-partum. Would allow the change to be added through a state plan amendment instead of an 1115 waiver. We are studying the outcomes possible to see if this is a direction that makes sense for Kansas.

10% FMAP increase for HCBS and PACE through March 30 2022. Just received the guidance on what we are allowed to do May 13. 26 page document. Trying to figure out the best way to implement it. It is a one time influx of money and we can spend it slowly over three years. Want to use it for long-term capacity improvements but difficult to do with one time money. Supposed to submit a plan by June 12. National Association of Medicaid Directors, KDADS and KDHE meeting – we are asking for a little more time to incorporate stakeholder process for crafting the plan. They have recently indicated they may consider extensions. They do not explain how to use the money and continue to comply within our budget neutrality cap.

Yesterday, found out that Biden's CMS Director was approved by a narrow vote. She has a lot of experience with CMS and seems to be a very pragmatic person. Jerry Moran actually broke ranks with Republicans and voted to approve her.

MCO Contracts expire end of calendar year 2023. RFP is posted for a consultant to help create a new RFP and handle the stakeholder engagement. Want to avoid an abbreviated RFP process – would like to post in January. The posting itself takes some time. It is about 100 pages plus a number of details attachments. Then we have to review the proposals and once an award is selected, there has to be a readiness review. It is a lengthy process.

If there are facets of the current contracts that need to be revisited or improved upon, you are welcome to submit that information. It will be more formalized once we have the consultant in place. I recently heard from an advocacy group that equity was a big concern and they wanted to see more equity within the contract process and implementation.

New program set to launch in July is STEPS – it is an employment program. Our staff has been doing trainings and I hope your members have been able to participate. We have funding for up to 500 participants, but it is a finite appropriation, so we will be monitoring the monthly costs to try to stay within the budgeted funds. It will fill a need that isn't served now.

Provides some pre-employment supports – interviewing skills, etc. Will have access to benefits specialists. Access to community supports coordination. MCOs will have responsibilities and there will also be support personnel to help them.

Target population – IDD waiver or wait list folks for IDD, BI, or PD waivers and folks with certain behavioral health diagnosis and who receive SSI / SSDI. This is an 1115 Waiver program. Participants will be held harmless if they try the STEPS program and then need to come back to the waiver or wait list. Will hold their place. This was supposed to get off the ground in 2019.

Mental Health Medication Advisory Committee – proposed step therapy for certain anti-psychotics at the May meeting – tabled until August. Expressed concerns and history of Coalition opposition to step therapy for antipsychotics and asked that they not propose such policies unless there is a clear abuse of the current formulary or actual harm / death from misuse. Mary Jones shared her organization's continuously being bogged down in dealing with all of the prior authorizations already in place. Sarah took notes.

Also asked that the agency continue to require a single formulary for KanCare. Sarah replied she had not heard any suggestion for changing that.

11:25 a.m. Announcements

The Recovery Conference June 8-9 – Junction City Marriott or online access – reach out to nancyjensen35@gmail.com

11:30 a.m. Adjourned Motion by Rhys, second Jensen.

2021 Schedule: Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 24, Apr 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, Sept 22, Oct 27, Nov 17, Dec 15

Board Meetings: 12 noon quarterly the 4th Wednesdays (March 24, June 23, Sept. 22, Dec. 15)

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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