

# 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.*

June 23, 2021

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

Amy Campbell  
Ashley Grill, JoCoMHC  
Michelle Ponce, ACMHCK  
Heather Richardson, ACMHCK  
Colin Thomasset, FSGC  
Mike Burgess, DRC  
Susan Montague, St. Francis  
Stephanie West-Potter  
Chad Childs  
Kurt Haberkorn, Crosswinds  
Matt Spezia, P3  
Monica Kurz, KSPHQ  
Dave Ranney  
Joan Tammany, COMCARE  
David Larson  
Mallory Lutz, BHA  
Susan Zalenski, J&J  
Dana Schoffelman, Florence Crittenton

Brenda Groves  
Jane Rhys  
Sue Lewis, MHAH  
Steve Solomon  
Ira Stamm  
Bill Persinger, Valeo  
Jolee Eckert  
Julianna Sellers, P3  
Sherrie Vaughn, NAMI  
Nancy Jensen  
Temidayo Omoyele, student  
Susan Murphy  
Guests:  
Rep. Emil Bergquist  
Gary Henault, KDADS  
Janis DeBoer, Deputy Secretary

**Minutes of the previous meeting approved.** [Read minutes](#) Motion Tammany, second Spezia.

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

**Board of Directors** - Meet immediately following Coalition meeting.

**Financial Report** approved.– Amy Campbell - \$2559.54 - Dues are due now. Please log in to the website to renew membership. Motion Spezia, second Tammany.

**Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network** - Mental Health Advocacy Day – February 22, 2022

**Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council** – Gary Henault – Planning Council has been very busy. Setting up a meeting with subcommittees to discuss lessons learned. Gary attended the Recovery Conference and said it was wonderful.

**Big Tent Coalition** - Mike Burgess – Coalition met and submitted variety of recommendations to KDADS for distribution of the FMAP / ARPA funds to boost direct service workers, employment, and improve access. Had 12 or more recommendations. TBI Waiver work group is meeting. That waiver utilization is up and needs to improve transitions off of this rehabilitative waiver to other long term waivers or off services. Big Tent meets the third Thursday of each month.

**KanCare Advocates Network** – Alliance for a Healthy Kansas – KMHC will sign on to a letter requesting Congress create a path to coverage for people who are not eligible for Medicaid (too much money) and not eligible for ACA coverage (not enough money). Hoping to have good representation from the 12 states that have not expanded Medicaid. KAN committee is looking at the MCO contract process to develop recommendations for improvement.

**Consumer Programs** - Matt Spezia, P3 – Peer information campus is accepting training, workshops, and other content that can be posted for consumer use. If qualified, we will pay you for it!

We have Story Circles every month on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and on the last Saturday each month from 2 pm to 4 pm. The next one will be on Sat June 26th from 2 pm to 4 pm, event page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/312581103768565> then Wed July 21st from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm and Sat July 31st from 2 pm to 4 pm

We also have a CCAR (Connecticut Community of Addiction Recovery) Peer Recovery Coach training coming up in person in our office on July 26-29th. This training will be in person in our office in Kansas City, Missouri from 9-4:30 pm each day. Lunch and snacks will be provided. I've attached a flyer for that.

We are excited to partner with KDADS to bring WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan) training to peer support specialists and others who are interested all across Kansas. Right now these trainings are being held virtually. Our next one will be July 24-25th 9 am - 5 pm each day.

If anyone is interested in signing up for CCAR or WRAP, they can go to [https://bit.ly/P3\\_CCAR](https://bit.ly/P3_CCAR) contact us at [info@poetryforpersonalpower.org](mailto:info@poetryforpersonalpower.org) if they want instructions on how to take advantage of scholarship options.

**NAMI** – Scheduling a number of training and advocacy opportunities – follow on Facebook!

NAMI Kansas is hosting NAMI Smarts in July:

July 16, 1 – 2:30 PM, Model 1 Registration: <https://namikansas.org/event/nami-smarts-for-advocacy-module-1-telling-your-story/>

July 23, 1 – 2:30 PM, NAMI Smarts Model 2: <https://namikansas.org/event/nami-smarts-for-advocacy-module-2-contacting-your-policymaker/>

July 30, 1 – 2:30 PM, NAMI Smarts Model 3: <https://namikansas.org/event/nami-smarts-for-advocacy-module-3-meeting-your-policymaker-2/>

**Parity Committee** - Amy Campbell - "Tour de Parity" in development. Meeting with Insurance Commissioner July 29. [See updated graphic on various state actions to end discrimination in health coverage from the Kennedy Forum](#). Special thanks to Matt Spezia for helping with the technical work. Will be hosting a public forum for interaction with the insurance industry. Committee will meet again August 17. Tamara Werth is stepping down as the chair and is succeeded by Audrey Dunkel of the Kansas Hospital Association.

**10:15 a.m. Lobbyist Report** Amy Campbell

[Governor Kelly Signs Transformative Bill to Strengthen Mental Health System in Kansas](#)

American Rescue Plan Act funds - process for distribution and priority development will run through the Governor's Recovery Office then require legislative approval. BCG - Boston Consulting Group - serving as consultants.

FMAP Increase - waiver programs - up to \$80 million for specific waiver services for 3 year period. Agency provide plan to CMS by mid-July. Special requirements placed on the use of the funds. [See letter to Medicaid Directors](#). [View guidance powerpoint](#).

Unemployment Compensation Modernization and Improvement Council - June 24-25

Preliminary Summaries of 2021 Legislation now available at [KLRD Website](#)

Interaction with legislators – information sharing. We will need to build connection

Stephanie – Class Action lawsuit against the state foster care system.

Difficulties of serving foster care children once they have been screened. Essential training and expertise not well maintained. Can have undiagnosed brain injury or intellectual disability issues. Need more comprehensive screening to provide appropriate and effective interventions.

988 Coalition – Monica Kurz - Planning coalition has been meeting monthly and includes a good cross section of representation. Mary Jones representing KMHC.

**11:00 a.m. Agency Update: Janis DeBoer, Deputy Secretary and Gary Henault, KDADS**

Busy summer at KDADS! Something to celebrate. Believe we had a very successful legislative session for behavioral health. Thank you all for your work. The CCBHC received some initial funding to roll out the program. It will take us a while to set up what our agency will do to certify the CCBHC and the rate setting process. There was progress for the 988 rollout with Governor's recommendation for

NFMH funds for specialized services within the homes.

Also dollars for housing options. Hoping to build a good foundation.

That work could keep us busy all summer but we also need to work on the federal dollars. We distributed \$80 million CARES funds and are working with auditors to wrap that up.

About \$18 million has been approved for block grant dollars (CAA Funding) with an additional \$20 million ARPA Block Grant funds that has a plan due July 2<sup>nd</sup>. BH, SUD, Crisis Response, Housing and Employment.

\$80 million FMAP HCBS waiver funds investment – still building how we can do this. Access to care, Employment, Workforce are the three buckets. About \$40 million will be targeted to Workforce. Would like to identify how many folks are there who are direct care workers, how can we get funds into their hands in terms of bonuses – not sure about operationalizing strategies, but want the bulk to land in their hands through bonuses or sign-on bonuses. All 7 waivers are eligible. There are all sorts of stipulations – how to keep them on, etc. Going to exhaust ourselves to make that happen. We have heard from you all regularly that the workforce is critical. So, we hear you and let's get the bulk of these funds out to the front line workers.

Criteria will be the 7 waivers, because that is how it is targeted by CMS. And want to find a way to help you to build your workforce through these funds but difficult to operationalize as it is of course one time money to be spent in 3 years.

Bill – what does CAA stand for? Congress December legislation – HO133 – no good name for it. Workforce is a problem for Valeo – can't open our residential crisis beds due to lack of staffing.

Steve Solomon – workforce a problem for PRTFs

These funds are limited to waivers, but there are a lot of other streams of funding that are being tapped for the broad needs of the system.

Gary Henault – Yes – recognize the major workforce crisis for most areas. 120 PRTF beds not open due to lack of staffing with wait list of 140 – big issue! There are other pots of funding that might be able to be targeted for the workforce development incentives. Encourage you all to develop a list of needs.

Janis – we have not submitted our plan yet and will need CMS approval but we think the bonuses will be approved.

Council applicant information will be distributed. Always encouraging more peer participation as well as youth involvement. Have expanded YLINK from 4 groups to 12?

Susan Montague – How can we change the work environment and character to develop a career ladder for mental health workers? Too many young people come into work at a PRTF or other facility and work for low pay. They leave as soon as they finish their education (college) and find other work.

Gary – fully agree.

Janis – We are applying for the FMAP money to also apply to training/education and workforce development. Think there are also opportunities with the block grant. Agree that whenever you talk about workforce, you have to talk about training and career path opportunities.

Gary – years ago when I started, there was a career ladder there that kept me in this field. We know how important that is!

Kansas will get \$1.6 billion ARPA funds to run through the Governors Recovery Office / SPARK / Legislative process.

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

Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition kicking off September 24. Monica Kurz – KDADS, KDHE, KS Attorney General's Office – coalition will work to coordinate activities with the state.

Dana Schoffelman – Florence Crittenton will talk about their outpatient program

Recovery Conference had 90 people – so meaningful to be together again! It was great to see so many people in person. Biggest lesson is that it is difficult to tie virtual and in-person conference at the same time. It was a lot of work and it worked out, but a challenge. Nancy Jensen

KPC Connecting Cultures Series looking for people with lived experience to attend. Email Chad for more information.  
– Chad.Childs@wichita.edu

**11:30 a.m. Adjourn**

**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

**Mental Health Advocacy Day - Virtual Event:** February 17 - 24, 2021

**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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