

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.

August 26, 2020 Monthly Meeting *Teleconference access only.*

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

Mary Jones, MHASCK	Lori Marshall, ACMHCK
Amy Campbell, KMHC	Susan Zalenski, J&J
Kiersten Adkins, Pathways to Hope	Bobby Eklofv, KVC Hospitals
Matt Spezia, P3	Will Warren, Sunflower
Ashley Grill, JoCoMHC	Doug Bowman, KDADS
Jessie Kaye, Prairie View	Sherri Luthe
Kevin McGuire, JoCoMHC	Juliana Sellers, P3
Anne Marie Arensberg, KVC	Jane Rhys
Wes Cole, GBHSPC	Dantia McDonald
Heather Richardson, ACMHCK	Sue Lewis
Marcia Epstein	Mike Burgess
Jenna Gross, Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ	Bill Persinger
Rick Cagan, NAMIKansas	

Minutes of the previous meeting. Draft link is not live. Send out.

9:45 a.m. Reports

Board of Directors – meet after September Coalition meeting

Financial Report – Amy Campbell \$17,280

Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network - Committee meets by Zoom following the Coalition at noon. Have you ever thought of getting more active with the Coalition? Please volunteer for Advocacy Committee. The next Advocacy Day at the Capitol is scheduled for February 17, 2020.

Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council – Wes Cole, Chair – The Council has experienced tragedy with the accidental death of Chris Ellis, member of the Subcommittee and Governor’s Challenge on Veteran’s Suicide. This is a big loss for us and our friend Shereen Ellis, who is his mother.

Council is creating an agenda to provide presentations to the Agency Secretaries and lead staff. The block grant application is out for public comment now. We still have volunteers for the reconvened Aging and Problem Gambling committees, but they haven’t been convened as yet. Brad Luthe is the son of Sherri Luthe and presented an incredible topic to the Council about how he came through the system and his participation in YouthLink. He has his degree (his mom very proud with his straight A’s). He will be mentoring the two youth on the Council. Wes encouraged the Coalition to invite Brad to speak to the Coalition.

Wes will be speaking to the Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform to talk about the Council and its work.

Big Tent Coalition - Mike Burgess

KanCare Advocates Network – developing a candidate survey. We have been asked to submit a mental health and substance use section.

Consumer Programs – Matt Spezia, Poetry for Personal Power, still working on Peer Information Campuses works to put coordinated information from the many disparate groups working for

There is a course available

Wellness Recovery Action Plan training is also available, let us know if you would like to bring that into your organization.

Peer Support – KDADS has expanded online modules including a supervisor training.

Story Circles will end at the end of October. These are incredible wellness tool. Dates August 29 2 pm, Sept 10 11 am, Sept 26 2 pm.

We have some funding for messaging events and can help sponsor.

Peer Support groups and single are available primarily online. Our in person space is more limited, but we do have space that allows for distancing if you prefer that format. We have all been locked in our house

Funding available for Technical Assistance as well for CROs and RCOs.

Parity Committee - Amy Campbell & Rick Cagan – Meeting with Insurance Commissioner took place. Investigations – market conduct

Legislation – agency distributed possible legislation to update Kansas parity law.

Attestations – insurance companies must sign an attestation that they are complying with federal parity law.

Great meeting with the agency and we were very pleased to learn of multiple activities they are pursuing to improve parity insurance coverage.

Committee created a document called Guiding Principles for Medicaid Necessity – the agency does seem to be looking at a number of these concepts for their own parameters.

Next meeting is September 22. Considering a provider survey to gather more information about their experiences with parity.

Peer Certification - working committee - Mary Jones – no update.

10:00 a.m. Elections – Amy shared information about the results of the primary elections and information about the upcoming November elections. KMHC does not have a PAC and does not endorse parties or candidates, but does participate in sharing information. We have candidate lists and information about the targeted races. Individuals are urged to access their voter information at ksvotes.org, where you can enter your information and find out your districts and ballot information. Use that information to get active, contribute to candidates, put up yard signs, or use your social media to support candidates. The ugly national political scene is drawing attention away from the state and local races that determine the people who will be making decisions on the issues we care about, whether it is Medicaid Expansion, mental health programs, substance use treatment, or anything else. As a lobbyist, Amy attends candidate information sessions and is eager to share that information with our members. Anyone with interest is encouraged to contact Amy. In addition, we will schedule a mid-September Zoom meeting for members to learn more about the state level candidates and races.

10:30 a.m. Lobbyist Report Amy Campbell

KDADS Agency Budget Stakeholder Input - [See document](#)

Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform - Thursday 8-27 and Friday 8-28 [See Agenda](#) [See Testimony](#) [See KDADS Update to MHTF Recommendations](#)

Special Committee on Foster Care Oversight - Tuesday 8-25 and Wednesday 8-26 [Agenda](#)

Joint Legislative Budget Committee - Sept 3

SPARK – CARES Act funding – Rounds 1 and 2 are in the works, with funds distributed to counties for further distribution to cities and entities in that county. State is distributing funds directly through KDADS and other

agencies. Medicaid providers are eligible for up to 5% of their Medicaid billings for the three month period Apr-June.

Rick Cagan – At one time, it appeared that \$100,000 might be added to Community Support Medication Program. Were advocating for these funds to potentially be available for tobacco cessation – but the priority was set aside for now.

Federal Provider Relief Funding - HHS extended provider relief portal deadline – Sept. 13 – for Medicaid or Medicare providers that have not already received relief funding. Guidance for first round said those who have already received some relief were not eligible but now it appears that it has been opened up. These programs are constantly evolving and is difficult to stay on top of the rules changes.

Link to testimony for Bethell Oversight Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight http://kslegislature.org/li/b2019_20/committees/ctte_it_robert_g_bob_bethell_joint_committee_1/documents/?date_choice=2020-06-23

11:08 a.m. Announcements –

Marcia Epstein – September is a time that we hear more about suicide, and we know that people who feel connected and have enjoyable lives are less likely to experience suicide. Sept. 10 – Words Save Lives 2020.09.10 – occurring virtually – diverse performers: Kansas Poet Laureate, and numerous individuals

785ArtsConnect and Poetry for Personal Power – House Concerts – artist community has been hit very hard by the lack of live events. These events are advertised through ArtsConnect Topeka and SevenEightFive.com – donations are welcome and 80% of the funds go to the Artist

MHAH.org – 21 Days of Kindness – partner with Lady Gaga Born this Way Foundation. In competition for SafeCo \$3,000 grant – will push link to Amy.

Johnson County will issue proclamations for Suicide Prevention Month – Ashley Grill

NAMI Smarts for Advocacy Overview - Sept. 18

NAMI Smarts for Advocacy - December 5

NAMI Smarts for Advocacy - January 9

ACMHCK 41st Annual Conference for Behavioral Health - September 15-18, 2020 – virtual event - Pre-Conference session focus on early childhood mental health. Full agenda for the 3 days. <http://www.acmhck.org/annualconference/2020-annual-conference>

11:30 a.m. Adjourn motion by Sue Lewis, second Matt Spezia.

2020 Schedule:

Mental Health Advocacy Day: 2021

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 4th 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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