**Kansas Mental Health Coalition**

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

**Minutes**

**September 28, 2016   Monthly Meeting**

**Valeo Behavioral Health Center - 330 SW Oakley, Topeka, KS - Basement Conference Room**

**Introductions and sign-in sheet**           Susan Lewis, President

Amy Campbell

Eric Harkness

Rick Cagan, NAMI KS  
Heather Elliott, ACMHCK

Susanna Honaker, KAAP/Little Govt Relations

Sky Westerlund, NASW KS

Carol Manning, MHA SCK

Michael Kress, MHA SCK

Bill Persinger, Valeo

Wes Cole, GBHSPC

Lynn Lemke, Marillac

Patrick Yancey, KHS

Mary Ellen Conlee, Keys & Breakthrough Club Wichita

Jane Adams, Keys for Networking

Nick Reinecker, Inman KS

Dantia Maur MacDonald, Morning Star CRO

Dantia Stitt, Morning Star CRO

Sandra Dixon, DCCCA

Ken Kerle, CIT  
Mike Burgess, DRC

Steve Fitzgerald, FSGC

Kevin McGuire, JoCo MHC

Jane Rhys

Dave Ranney, Lawrence

Amy Henson, MHA intern

Chris Beal, Otsuka

Ira Stamm

Bob Chase

Kyle Kessler, ACMHCK

Chad Benhardt, Cenpatico

**On the phone:**

Megan Chizek, Marillac

Steve Feinstein, ELC

Cherie Bledsoe, SIDE CRO

Dawn Brooks, Leving KS

Marcia Epstein

Lisa Sublett, Bleeding Kansas

David Elsbury

Denise Baynham, SIDE

Walt Hill

Sam , WSU

**Guests:**

Jim McLean, KHI News Service

Tammy Broadbent, KDADS

Susan Fout, Commissioner, KDADS

John Hostetler, BH Director, KDADS

**Financial Report**           Andy Brown, Treasurer

*Please renew your membership at*[*KMHC website*](http://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.onefireplace.com/)*.  First, log in, select your membership renewal and the site will generate an invoice to pay by check.  Contact Amy if you have questions.*

**Minutes of the previous meeting** approved. Lemke motion, Persinger second.   [Read minutes](http://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.onefireplace.com/resources/Pictures/Minutes%208-24-16.pdf).

**9:15 a.m. Reports**

**Board of Directors -** Quarterly meeting today. The Board met by teleconference and voted to have NAMI take the lead on the Kansas Health Foundation health disparities grant application with the support of the Coalition, rather than submitting a Kansas Mental Health Coalition grant application separately. The intent of the application for the Coalition is to facilitate a more robust grassroots advocacy network

The Board also signed on to the NAMI application to the Kansas Leadership Center training grant, along with multiple other organizations, which could give us access to several complimentary slots for KLC training. Coalition member organizations should consider if they are interested in taking advantage of these leadership training events – the grant will be announced October 6.

 **Advocacy Committee –Grassroots Advocacy Network** **-** NAMI is applying for Kansas Health Foundation health disparities grant with support from KMHC. Next meeting of the Committee is Oct 26.

**Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council –** Wes Cole – Last meeting in Dodge City at Compass Behavioral Health Center. Toured the new building funded by the local government. Not all of the subcommittee reports have been presented to the Secretary yet. The Children’s Subcommittee will be guiding the new Children’s Continuum of Care Committee. That subcommittee has worked with the Department of Education to develop a resource manual for the schools for mental health. Jane Adams shared that this is also available online and is usable and useful, available to the schools and endorsed by the Department of Education. Next meeting date is tentative.

The agency plans to implement the recommendation by the Justice Involved Youth and Adults Subcommittee to create a staff position within the agency to work with the CIT program and Veterans programs.

**Subcommittee Reports - Housing and Homelessness -** Michael Kress

**Recommendations: (ADD FROM MY COPY)**

**Continue to work with the SOAR program – approval rate with SOAR is approximately 64% across states, but we are at around 88% in Kansas through the effective use of this program, designed to help people access disability services.**

**Supported Housing Funds – encourage better access to those funds, protect the level of the funding. Kim Wilson Housing processes those funds for us. Last year, helped 204 people with those funds.**

**Subcommittee is going to be revisiting the issue of residential care facilities and push for regulations update. Also seeking more opportunities for these services.**

**Investigating the opportunity for Kansas to implement a per diem rate for residential care. Most of our surrounding states use these rates. We have actually seen a reduction in the availability of residential beds due to the difficulties for facilities to be reimbursed by the MCOs under KanCare with our fee for service model.**

**Recommends the use of the Tennessee model – Creating Homes. Tried to bring together agencies to facilitate this model, but run up against the same thing – lack of funding.**

**Oklahoma has used a HUD program with a goal of zero need, placing people into housing once deemed eligible.**

**Wichita has about 200 housing units, and Oklahoma has over 1000 in Tulsa. Difference between Kansas and Oklahoma is that the state worked with the local agencies to put together**

**Bill Persinger – I went to Tulsa. Great public policy for mentally ill in Tulsa – they are light years ahead of us there. They have codes to pay for it, regulations to govern it, personnel to staff it. This Coalition has the ability to influence that and I know the Adult Continuum of Care Committee has put a lot of focus on the topic.**

**Walt Hill – learned recently that the supported housing funds are not yet available this fiscal year. That is a concern.**

**Eric Harkness – know several fellow consumers who have benefited from the SOAR program.**

**January 27 or 29 – HUD requires the point in time count of homeless individuals. Different COCs manage their counts differently – most include actual outreach, going into the areas where homeless individuals congregate, on the streets and in encampments.**

**Rick Cagan – Kansas foundation is interested in contributing to supported housing for target population. I want to visit with you to be sure your subcommittee recommendations are a part of the discussion.**

**Carol Manning – Kansas is not strong for housing resources. You need a continuum of housing to be available. We’ve closed a supported housing program and a crisis facility. The margins are so slim already and it is difficult to get care approved.**

**Rick Cagan – so, we have had 3 or 4 agency secretaries that have heard these recommendations with no measurable action taking place. This Coalition may need your input (subcommittee) to create attainable, reasonable, actionable goals – perhaps modest investments into pilot projects in key communities – to pursue at the Legislature.**

**Alliance for a Healthy Kansas** - Amy Campbell

9:45 a.m.   **KMHC Consensus Recommendations**- 2016 process for updates and amendment.  Please draft an issue paper for the topic that you would like to see included in the Coalition's October or November agenda.   Linked here: [sample issue paper format.doc](http://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.onefireplace.com/resources/Documents/sample%20issue%20paper%20format.doc)

Jane suggested that in the development of the Issue Papers, there could be a paragraph characterizing how the issue affects children services rather than r

**10:00 a.m.  Updates on Contract renewals and changes**

**Wichita State University -** Medicaid administrative contract for peer certification, peer support, CROs technical support, trauma informed systems of care - Randy Johnson, Director for the Center for Behavioral Health Initiatives at WSU. Since 1999, that contract has included technical assistance for the consumer run organizations and the CAC. This year, we are being told that training is not an allowable use of Medicaid administrative funds or at least that Medicaid administrative funds won’t be used for that any more. The University has been providing matching funds for the federal Medicaid dollars. With this structure no longer being used, that won’t happen any more.

(NAMI filed a complaint with CMS about the state’s use of Medicaid funds for training.)

Contract negotiations are held to a degree of confidentiality and I respect that. At this point, the State

The WSU contract extension ran out August 30. There is no peer support training or certification operating now. There is no technical support, training for the CROs currently. I know the State is in conversations with the CROs about how to have access to the structure, network and training that had been in place.

Jane – a couple of years ago, Keys for Networking and another organization dealt with funds being cut off, and a lot of people in this room went to bat for us, advocating, letters to legislators and the Governor. I would ask this group to really get behind this. It is very upsetting when this happens, the loss of staff and interruption of services is harmful and then if and when you are operational, people don’t know whether or not you are still in business at all.

**Consumer Run Organizations** - operational contracts and technical support - Cherie Bledsoe, Dantia Maur MacDonald – Agency is asserting concern that contract services are not allowable under the Medicaid administration rules and that CMS is likely to audit us and require that money to be paid back. There seems to be some dispute about whether or not this is true.

Shared some issues she experienced with her care at Osawatomie and feeling that it was substandard. Personal feelings that agency seems to be taking the experience with decertification at OSH and applying that to a

We understand that the agency will cut Morningstar CRO, in Manhattan, by 23% to 59,000 – by going back to last year’s numbers. Happy to do the data collection – feel we have always needed that. Went to Stanford – Fulbright scholar – not easily impressed. It is not clear if the 23% cut is supposed to go to WSU for their services or if this cut is separate and there will need to be further funds diverted to pay for WSU.

SIDE in Kansas City Kansas. Recent agency meeting seemed to indicate that contracts needed to have more outcomes and measures for each CRO (13 statewide). Seemed to understand that CROs with higher needs from WSU would lose more money for those services. We didn’t hear how much our contract was supposed to cut.

Wes Cole – GBHSPC discussed this at the executive meeting and we are very concerned about this. Often, we fail to realize people’s support systems – although we all talk about how important support systems are to recovery. The Council did send a letter to the agency with our concern.

Rick Cagan – would hope we could see a fix to this before the session occurs, but need to prepared to address this.

We understand the amendment for the CRO contracts is due October 1. CROs haven’t received their contract payments for several months. Some CROs have already closed, others have simply not paid bills. First check was two months late and there haven’t been any other payments.

Dantia – it is stressful for any non-profit to go through this, but we are a group of people with mental health issues.

**Valeo Behavioral Health Care** - transitional residential care and treatment - Bill Persinger

KDADS recently announced a new contract in negotiation with Valeo for transitional residential care and treatment to provide short term residential care and treatment in Topeka for between 15 and 25 individuals who are currently at the State Hospital but no longer needing inpatient treatment and need a transitional placement to move back into the community. We anticipate the placement may last a few weeks to a few months until they are able to move back to their own community. Expecting a memorandum of understanding today.

David Elsbury- pleased that Valeo stepped up to fill this need. Pleased that the Secretary reached out. Thank you.

**10:30 a.m. Legislative Update - Amy Campbell**

Report on the Legislature's Special Session and Legislative Interim Committees - Public Health Boards and Step Therapy topics

Mental Health Medications Advisory Committee - DUR Committee schedules

2016 Elections Information - Let us know if you have local races to bring to our attention. Contact

**11:00 a.m.  KDADS Update –** Susan Fout, KDADS

All agencies were required to submit budget proposals including 5% reductions.

**CMHC contracts** going out today. The Valeo contract is a pilot project for transitional beds.

**PATH grants** have gone through the process, but may not be finalized just yet. The affiliated program grants have been through the agency, but may also still be in process. Payment is made within ten days of finalization.

Sue Lewis – very interested in knowing when payment comes through – is November a safe date to expect all to be through?

**Mental Health Technicians** - Board of Nursing has recently signed off on the Mental Health Technician Training Program at Osawatomie. This is different than the program being discussed with Barton County Community College regarding Licensed MH Technician certification.

**State Hospitals Update** – waiting for the recertification, for CMS to revisit. OSH has submitted the application that it is ready to begin the process for recertification and will wait for CMS to arrive for the initial inspection.

Dantia – Osawatomie was a snakepit when I was there, but recently released peers have indicated the program is much better. I wonder if KDADS is overreacting to the decertification of OSH as if CMS is picking on us and if they are

**New position at KDADS** – Agency establishing a position that will serve as a state central point for CIT and Veterans coordination.

**CRO Contracts:**

There was new money put into the CROs this last fiscal year. Need ability to track data to show how these funds are being used and what are the outcomes.

Need ability to collect data. There was some additional funding, so we talked about what do you need from a support contractor? There were differences of opinion, but I think all of the CROs felt they needed the support. One of the things that was discussed was whether or not they need four meetings, if food is needed, sent an email asking the participants to rank the services they felt were important.

There were a couple of options. Each CRO could contract with a vendor to provide the service or the State could contract jointly for the support. I left the meeting feeling like it was a pretty good discussion.

We don’t want to discourage participation in the CRO, so how can we collect the data without discouraging that? If we asked for social security numbers, that might discourage participation.

We need to know how many people are on Medicaid because that determines a funding stream.

Sue – having run CRO programs on the Missouri side, I am familiar with this issue. Do you want data like numbers of unduplicated people served? Outcomes – how many are diverted from hospitalization?

Susan – yes that is part of it. We also talked about how we might get CROs as a presence with the state hospitals. Want to ask for history such as prior hospitalizations, NFMH, are they Medicaid.

Mike – could that be disaggregated data rather than identifiable data?

Susan – there were lots of ideas. I do know that for the Medicaid piece, the idea that CROs could offer reimbursable peer support services in the future.

We found out that we can’t do training with Medicaid dollars – came from a letter to the Medicaid directors.

Bill Persinger – State question – how actively does the State push back against federal interference? This has happened with our screening policy and continues to occur. We have a good team in place now with KDADS and we need to be assured that the State is pursuing our goals and will stand up for them.

Amy – I think everyone supports the State negotiating the best bang for our buck with State contracts, but very disappointing that we are dealing with new expectations and changes to contracts several months after they should have already been in place.

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

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

**2016 KMHC Meetings: 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m.** Jan 27, Feb. 24, Mar. 23, April 27, May 25, June 22, July 27, Aug 24, Sept. 28, Oct. 26, Nov 16, Dec. 14

For more information, contact: Kansas Mental Health Coalition

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