



Kansas System of Care Advisory Council Meeting  
Minutes  
Thursday, September 7, 2017

**Meeting Highlights**

- Previous meeting minutes approved
- Kansas System of Care Advisory Council Charter adopted
- Social Marketing and Communication Plan approved with recommended changes from youth, families and partners
- Evaluation report reviewed; formatting changes requested
- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis of youth and family service systems conducted with all council members

## **Complete Minutes**

**Present** (see below)

**Call to order:** Council Chair Candy Hester brought the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

**Minutes:** The minutes from the previous meeting were read, and the floor opened for comments and amendments. Amy Lofton made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Rick Gaskill 2nded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**Charter approval:** Candy Hester introduced the proposed Kansas System of Care Advisory Council Charter (see attached), which was then reviewed by the committee. The floor was opened for discussion, and there was none. Debra Garcia motioned to accept the charter as written. Scott Wituk seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

**Principles Group Activity:** The Chair then engaged the council members in a quick exercise/reorientation to System of Care principles. Each principle was written on individual flipchart-sized sticky-notes that were placed on the walls of the meeting room, and the council divided up by month of their birth. The principles were then discussed by the small groups, and with notes on the principles recorded by Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) and Community Engagement Institute (CEI) staff.

A summary of the activity notes is being compiled by CEI staff. A report will follow.

**Review of materials:** The Chair then oriented advisory council members to meeting information which was distributed in individual packets. This information included evaluation results and information from each of the community mental health centers who currently contract as part of the Kansas System of Care cooperative agreement, and the proposed Kansas System of Care strategic marketing plan (see attached).

**Marketing plan discussion and approval:** Kaela Moore (CEI staff and Social Marketing Committee task lead) then introduced the proposed strategic marketing plan (attached), which was developed by the Kansas System of Care Social Marketing Committee. Social Marketing Committee members include the Chair of the Advisory Council, family members of children receiving behavioral health services, youth receiving behavioral health services, mental health center and KDADS and CEI staff.

Kaela Moore explained the plan's main goals, its target audiences, its main messages, and the channels through which the messages will be delivered. She noted that the plan is considered a "living document" that will change over time and as course corrections are required.

Council Chair Candy Hester then gave a brief overview of Social Marketing Committee work, and noted that the "care provider" audience could include anyone in the child-serving system, not just mental health center staff.

She mentioned that the next Social Marketing Committee meeting is scheduled for September 26, 2017, after which the plan will be sent to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) for approval.

The Chair then opened the floor for questions. Council members inquired about a virtual option for Social Marketing Committee meeting participation, which is available.

Additional comments about the social marketing strategic plan:

- Perhaps the word “common” should replace the word “normal,” as “normal” could imply a stigmatizing attitude toward lived experience of the behavioral health system
- Secondary trauma is not uncommon and not unusual, but those who experience it might not be given a diagnosis or assigned symptoms—the words “chance of” were suggested as a substitute
- “Some people experience secondary trauma” or “some people will” were other recommendations
- It might be noted that secondary trauma can affect the ability to work

Chair Candy Hester called for a motion to approve the plan with recommended changes. Jack Mansfield moved, and Maggie Pickering seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Advisory Council took a 15 minute break.

**Evaluation updates:** When the Council reconvened, Brittany Brest of CEI’s Center for Applied Research and Evaluation and Lael Ewy, of CEI’s Center for Behavioral Health Initiatives, presented evaluation results for the last quarter (June-August—see attached).

The Chair opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion focused around the discrepancy between youth and families on reports of trauma and attempted suicide.

Discussion highlights:

- Youth and their parents may have different ideas about the nature and severity of behaviors. Suicidality may be defined as self-harm or statements about suicide by parents, but youth may view these things as not indicative of actual suicide attempts
- A stated definition could be part of the assessment tool
- Trauma may result from bullying at school that a parent may not see
- Reports may be based on fear on the part of the parent, which may influence their interpretation of events
- Youth may not trust those giving the assessment enough to answer honestly about suicide attempts—there might be fear around more intense system involvement
- Parents may be interpreting the questions more broadly than youth

- Kids may quickly change their minds about suicide or may say things to shock or create a desired reaction
- Peers or trusted adults may be more likely recipients of information about trauma or suicidality than those who work in the behavioral health system
- The fact that the evaluation was given to all parents but only to youth aged 11-18 may skew results
- There's a "data lag" of 6 months

Advisory Council members requested that in the future, this research instrument should include explanations of the questions and helpful definitions without changing the questions themselves.

**Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats (SWOT):** The Council then engaged in a SWOT analysis, exploring strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats across the entire system of care—inclusive of any elements that might impact the lives of kids facing behavioral health challenges (e.g. community mental health centers, schools, juvenile justice authorities, foster care). Chair Candy Hester, and Kelsee Torrez, System of Care Project Director at KDADS, facilitated the analysis by breaking Council up into small groups who were given a chance to give input on each of the SWOT elements, which were placed on flipchart-sized sticky notes at various locations around the meeting room.

CEI staff recorded the responses, which will be summarized and submitted to the Council before the next meeting.

**Discuss of election process:** Kelsee Torrez and Candy Hester then led the Council in the nomination process for the next Advisory Council Chair and Vice-Chair:

- Nominations are open until Sept. 30, 2017, in order to be available for voting at the next meeting.
- Nominations for Chair and Co-chair should be emailed to Kelsee ([kelsee.torrez@ks.gov](mailto:kelsee.torrez@ks.gov))
- Nominees will be contacted by Kelsee to accept/decline
- Those who accept will need to provide a brief biography. CEI staff will be available to assist in creating this if needed
- Nominee information will be distributed to the Council prior to the next meeting

Youth who are receiving or have received behavioral health services or family members would be preferable for these positions.

The floor was opened for questions:

What are the responsibilities for the Chair?

- Runs Advisory Council meetings
- Sets meeting agendas
- Provides meeting minutes
- Fosters the creation and maintenance of Advisory Council documents, such as the charter

- Enacts communication plans
- Helps with System of Care newsletter
- Pursues engagement opportunities with potential system partners
- Assures that the work is the work of Council members and is informed by lived experience

Chair Hester reminded the Council that KDADS and CEI staff are available to support the those in these positions.

The Council thanked Candy Hester for her service as its initial Chair.

**Next meetings:** Advisory Council meetings were tentatively set for:

- January 25, 2018 at CEI offices in Wichita
- April 26, 2018 – Wyandotte County
- July 26, 2018 in Wichita
- October 25, 2018 at Compass Behavioral Health in Garden City

Council members were reminded that they can get involved with the strategic marketing plan for year two of the System of Care cooperative agreement before the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

## Attendees

Candy Hester  
Cameron Mayo  
Kaitlin Heaton  
Debra Garcia  
Scott Wituk  
Briana Searight  
Rick Gaskill  
Jack Mansfield  
Maggie Pickering  
Hannah Dewitt  
Kayla Moore  
Kay Moore  
Creighton Talkington  
Mercedes Kennedy  
Deanna Bushell  
Jonathan  
Sam Demel  
Janell Stang  
Simon Messmer  
Gary Henault  
Kelsee Torrez  
Lael Ewy  
Judi Rodman  
Brittany Brest  
Anna Turosak  
Bree Looney  
"Compass-Web"  
Lisa Southern  
Judith Rodman  
Sam Philbern