



Kansas System of Care Advisory Council Meeting
Minutes
Thursday, April 26, 2018

Present (see below)

Call to order: Council Sarah Mace brought the meeting to order at 5:10 p.m.

Introductions: Sarah thanked all for participating in the meeting, explained the evening's format and asked all present to introduce themselves. Members joined from remotely from three locations: Garden City, Kansas City and Wichita. A number of participants were also present online and/or via phone.

Minutes: The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, and the floor opened for comments and amendments. Sarah made a motion to accept the minutes as written. Debra Garcia seconded and the minutes passed unanimously.

Social marketing committee updates: Kaela Moore provided an overview of recent social marketing and awareness activities. This included a summary of the communication survey highlights and the upcoming youth mental health awareness art competition. Kaela also opened a discussion about improving SOC outreach. Sarah Mace noted a need to improve communication with schools and other youth and family-serving systems. Kim Fisher recommended that a more individualized approach be taken when communicating, especially with youth. Snapchat, Instagram and direct text messaging were identified as platforms that might be more effective in building awareness and marketing SOC activities.

Sarah Mace motioned for the Council to formally recommend that KDADS and the SOC partners explore the implementation of Snapchat and Instagram channels. The motion was seconded by Holly Gurs and passed unanimously.

Project Director Updates: Kelsee Torrez, SOC Project Director, provided an overview of the February SAMHSA site visit (see handout) and the recommendations that emerged from it. One significant recommendation was that a relationship be developed with the statewide family network. This change has been made and Keys for Networking is now a formal SOC partner. Jane Adams, Executive Director and Khalani Britt, Lead Family Contact were present at the meeting and introduced.

A second significant recommendation from SAMHSA was that the SOC Council revise its structure to better involve additional partners and integrate more youth and family voice. In addition to the existing Social Marketing Committee, the Council will also now include similar committees for

evaluation, cultural and linguistic competence and workforce development/training. Kelsee invited members to sign up for committee involvement during the meeting or to contact her to join.

Kelsee then asked the Council to break into small groups to discuss what else might be done to strengthen it's role and structure.

Small Group discussion notes:

- How will the committees really talk when all over the state?
 - o Be creative with the meeting structure
 - o Make sure no committee meets at the same time due to some people being on multiple committees
 - o Maybe the committees can use the format used tonight - there is support for meetings that happen in multiple locations and include videoconference options.
- Who will be leading the committees and how will they be structured?
 - o This is up to each committee to be decided
- We need to get the youth more involved by teaching them new things and giving them leadership roles within the committees and council
- We need strategies for improving youth involvement
- Slowly at SC the pool of youth and parents getting involved is growing – positive impact over time
- Hopefully Keys will have advice for getting more parents and youth involved
- Have case managers (or whoever is inviting youth) to share this as an exciting opportunity to be a part of something and learn leadership skills, as though they have been chosen over others for this

What resources and supports are needed to strengthen the Council?

- New members should be given an orientation to the Council and SOC. This is especially important for youth and parents who may not be knowledgeable about all the systems and policies that are relevant.
- Members should be invited to a “pre-meeting” to network with each other and prepare to be involved. This is particularly important for youth and parents who may need support in becoming more empowered.
- KDADS and the SOC partners should create an accessible, online database of key documents and materials that members can visit to view materials and information – it was noted that the existing SOC website might be expanded to serve this purpose.
- Members expressed their wish to have fewer agenda items for the meetings to allow for more discussion. It was noted that much of the work previously conducted by the full Council may in future be delegated to the committees.
- There are a number of youth and family councils and committees in other family-serving systems in Kansas. SOC should explore integrating with them.
- Several parents expressed support for the development of a “parent collaborative” or similar venue for parents and partners to connect directly with each other to get support and share information.
- Make meetings more enjoyable for youth- last meeting youth were uninterested, disconnected and checked out (hanging out by bathrooms)

- Give youth leadership roles in the council
- It is important to make sure adults do not talk over youth and we do not tokenize them by calling them out or putting them on the spot because “we haven’t heard a youth speak”
- As adults, we should be more aware and speak up if another adult talks over youth
- How do we help youth take ownership while a part of the committees?
- It would be helpful to talk about the purpose of evaluation and why it is important so the importance is seen
- We should re-evaluate how we are marketing the committees and council for the community
- We need to be really intentional about how we make sure youth and adults are working together equally
- Invite representatives from youth group who can share what they do with the council and then what the council is doing with their youth group
 - o since not all youth are interested in joining but that would keep them in the loop
 - o have youth figure out goals for why they are on the committees and what they want to accomplish

The small groups worked through the break.

Evaluation updates: Nicole Freund, SOC Evaluation Coordinator at CEI, provided an update on the evaluation activities conducted since the last meeting. Particular emphasis given to a summary of the youth and parent focus group findings (see power point slides). A handout of quarterly CMHI enrollment and outcomes was also provided.

After giving an overview of the focus groups, Nicole asked the members to break into small groups to discuss the findings.

Small group discussion – Focus group results: What do you see as the most influential/important finding? How do you see these results guiding decisions in your local CMHC?

- One parent noted that she needs more information about what services would be most effective for her family. This focus group report doesn’t appear to have enough information to support informed decision-making.
- Several members noted that there is a need for improved communication within support service teams.
- A critical issue that impedes family engagement with services is staff turnover. Providers and the system should address this barrier.
- One parent noted that there is a need for services are specific to child/youth age groups – support should vary based on child/youth developmental needs.

SWOT recommendations summary: Kelsee Torrez provided an overview of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats (SWOT) analysis conducted in the previous Council meetings. A summary of the recommendations that the Council made was provided as a handout. Kelsee explained that these findings would be distributed in a formal report and used to guide policy decisions, including the creation of the Strategic Finance Plan. Kelsee asked the members to review their recommendations and to discuss them in small groups.

Small group discussion – SWOT recommendations: What might we have missed? What are there recommendations that should be given particular priority?

- Each site needs to look through this and figure out what they are doing right now and what they need to improve on
- The state plan is too ridged for what we are trying to do with SOC. It is as though KDADS/the system is working against us. It was noted that this is what system change feels like.
- Providers reported that they are already doing a lot of things already listed as recommendations.
- How can we expand the SOC community outreach when our SOC services can only be our county/catchment area?
 - o South Central has a lot of youth from Sedgwick County, but they can't enroll them in SOC
- There is this "silo mentality" that needs to be addressed
- How do we help everyone understand we have to work together for the youth?
- There is a million-dollar grant in Wichita and KC to get more therapist in schools
 - o <http://fox4kc.com/2018/04/09/kansas-lawmakers-approve-school-mental-health-pilot-program-select-kck-district/>

Next meetings:

- 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 Finance Plan. A meeting will be held in Wichita on May 15th. Contact Kelsee Torrez for additional information.

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

Attendees

Candy Hester
Nick Mayo
Joanna Harader
Kevin Duarte
Judi Rodman
Larry Montgomery
Gary Henault
Jane Adams
Khalani Britt
Simon Messmer

Amy Lofton
JoAnn Gross
Natalie Lynes
Yvonne Breckon
Amanda Greer
Jennifer Walker
Nathan Walker
Kay Moore
Phyllis Thomas
Stormie Wilson
Rachel Tipton
Brad Luthe

Sarah Watkins Mace
Janell Stang
Nicole Freund
Tara Gregory
Kaela Moore
Kaitlin Heaton
Debra Garcia
Briana Searight
Holly Gurss
Anna Turosak

Kelsee Torrez
Marla Lira
Kim Fisher
Jina Arellano