

**Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council
Children’s Subcommittee 2015**

Presented to:

Wes Cole, Chairperson, Governor’s Behavioral Health Services Planning Council
Kari Bruffett, Secretary, Kansas Department for Aging and Disabilities
Sam Brownback, Governor

Vision

Our vision is that all Kansas children and their families will have access to essential, high-quality behavioral health services.

Mission

Our mission is to promote integrative, strength based, culturally competent, community based, family driven behavioral health systems of care, which will result in child and family well-being.

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Introduction

The Children’s Subcommittee was initiated in 2004 and established a membership that would bring the voices of parents, youth consumers, caregivers, educators, service providers, and other entities involved and interested in the quality, accessibility, consistency, and effectiveness of mental health services for children and their families. The subcommittee examines and makes recommendations to improve the array of behavioral health services offered to children and their families through Kansas Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC), other children’s service systems and collaboration between systems of care. Activities are directed towards Collaboration, Education and Advocacy for children and their families.

Children’s Subcommittee Members

| Chair | Vice-Chair | Secretary |
|---|---|---|
| Tiffany Smith United Healthcare/Optum Behavioral Health | Cherie Blanchat Technical Assistance System Network (TASN) | Dianne Keech Department for Children and Families (DCF) |
| Amy Mendenhall University of Kansas School of Social Welfare | Chelle Kemper Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) | Darla Nelson-Metzger Families Together Inc. and Parent Representative |
| David Barnum The Guidance Center | Elizabeth Guhman, Past Chair Prairie View, Inc. | Erick Vaughn Kansas Head Start Association |
| Gary Parker GBHSPC Member At Large | Jeff Butrick Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) Juvenile | Kathy Brown Parent Representative |
| Kayzy Bigler Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) & Parent Rep. | Kelly McCauley KVC Health Systems, Inc. | Linda Witten Parent Representative |
| Michael Hinton KVC Wheatland | Nancy Crago Family Service and Guidance Center | Sherri Luthe Parent Representative |
| Stacy Rucker WSU – T3 (Training and Technology Team) | Victoria Vossler USD 336 Holton Special Education Cooperative | Ryan Gonzales & Pam McDiffitt KDADS Liaison/Staff Support |

Significant Accomplishments In Past Years

Representatives from specialized programs and community groups were invited to present to the subcommittee to gain a better understanding of children's services throughout the State. From these presentations, as well as feedback from families and consumers and state outcomes data, the committee developed three research surveys. The surveys explored access, consistency, and effectiveness of Children's Mental Health Services, as well as gaps and barriers. The integrated survey findings were presented with recommendations in 2013.

- ✓ Completed the Statewide Children's Hospital Committee Report. (2005)
- ✓ Research and summary of findings of Gaps and Barriers to Mental Health Services for Children and Families. (2008)
- ✓ Developed recommendations for an appropriate Community Based Service Model which would provide children with essential mental health services and community resources needed to establish a minimum age requirement for in-patient treatment. (2009)
- ✓ Integrated survey findings (Service Gaps and Barriers, Children's Hospitalization study and System Collaboration Project) and presented recommendations. (2013)

2015 Accomplishments

1. Children's Mental Health Toolbox: Researched and reviewed different models which include mental health fact sheets and strategies to support families and educators working with children.
2. Children's Subcommittee Charter and Procedures: Revised and updated to maximize efficiency, outreach and align more clearly with the Governors Behavioral Health Services Planning Council.
3. Created a Central site (Google Drive) to hold current and archived documents to allow subcommittee members access to information such as subcommittee annual reports, procedures, membership information and meeting minutes.
4. The subcommittee invited stakeholders from other agencies and programs to present information about current best practices and evidence based practices for early childhood and school aged behavioral and mental health.

Presentations provided: (See Appendix for actual links)

- University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Center for Children and Families [School Based Mental Health Project](#), University of Kansas, Anne Williford and Amy Mendenhall
- [Kansas Blueprint for Early Childhood](#) Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, Janice Smith

- University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Center for Children and Families [Kansas Adoption Permanency Project \(KAPP\)](#), Susana Mariscal, KU & Kelly McCauley, KVC
- [Toxic Stress Project](#) Center for Children and Families, University of Kansas School of Social Welfare, Kaela Byers
- [Project Launch](#) Alexandra Vuyk
- [Foundation for Success: Healthy Social & Emotional Development in Early Childhood](#), United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Kim Moore

2016 Goals

1. Develop recommendations to facilitate effective collaboration, communication, and coordination between CMHC's, schools, families and out-of-home placement providers to address trauma exposure among students.

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Behavioral Health Fact Sheets: Create or identify appropriate resources for a state tool kit. This will provide strategies for teachers and school administrators to support children experiencing mental health as well as behavioral health needs.
- b. Trauma Informed Care: Promote information and training available to schools, CMHC's, parents and other service providers to address children for whom behavioral practices alone does not work.
- c. Evidence Informed/Promising Practices: Identify and recruit speakers to provide presentations and resources of current behavioral health practices.

2. Develop recommendations to advance prevention and early intervention (birth to school-age) to enhance social/emotional development and promote school readiness.

ACTION STEPS:

- a. Access to Services: Increase availability and access to early intervention behavioral health services for children (birth to school-age) and their families by promoting the addition of Medicaid billing codes and other funding sources.
- b. Access to Skilled Providers: Identify training and resources to promote and increase competent providers serving children (birth to school age) and their families.

Recommendations

The GBHSPC's Children's Subcommittee recommends that KDADS, in cooperation with its partners, support and fund:

1. Expansion of Medicaid and other funding sources to include consultation, assessment and appropriate early intervention and treatment for children (birth to school age) and their families.
2. Education and training for providers about prevention, early identification and intervention, healthy development, resiliency, risk factors, parent support and collaboration for integrated care.
3. Trauma Informed Care training and resources for schools, CMHC's, parents and other service providers to address children for whom behavioral practices alone do not work. (See the state-wide needs assessment results from the KAPP – Kansas Adoption Permanency Project)
4. Equal access statewide for available and consistent services through utilization of technological enhancements such as teleconferencing, laptops and portable printers.

Summary

Kansas has a proud history of treating and supporting mental health consumers and has been viewed by other states as a model when considering mental health care. Members of the Children's Subcommittee are committed to supporting the needs of children and families in Kansas and continuing this proud tradition.

The Children's Subcommittee strongly believes continued action and support is required to help Kansas children with behavioral health issues and their families. These children and families need services that are preventative, family driven, strength-based and trauma informed, as an integral part of reaching their recovery goals. These goals can be achieved by continuing to transform and financially support the behavioral health system to meet the changing needs of Kansas children and their families.

The Children's Subcommittee requests that the GBHSPC and KDADS support the recommendations in the report and encourage the State of Kansas to maintain the proud tradition of caring for and treating those with behavioral and substance use challenges.

Appendix

Links to the Project/Program Presentation (Pg. 3)

<http://childrenandfamilies.ku.edu/focus-initiative/schools/overview>

- University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Center for Children and Families [School Based Mental Health Project](#), University of Kansas, Anne Williford and Amy Mendenhall

<http://kschildrenscabinet.org/blueprint/>

- [Kansas Blueprint for Early Childhood](#) Children's Cabinet and Trust Fund, Janice Smith

<http://childrenandfamilies.ku.edu/focus-initiative/childrens-mental-health/current-projects>

- University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Center for Children and Families [Kansas Adoption Permanency Project \(KAPP\)](#), Susana Mariscal, KU & Kelly McCauley, KVC

<http://www.google.com/url?url=http://www.ksheadstart.org/files/download/03eb8a9fe4aee88&rct=j&frm=1&q=&esrc=s&sa=U&ei=FpzwVI3NBsKlyATR-4CoAw&ved=0CBoQFjAB&sig2=T9AQBEUv4dHfQQdGXt3GHg&usg=AFQjCNFc7yEqXP63F2vviSarCypEcU0D1A>

- University of Kansas, School of Social Welfare, Center for Children and Families [Kansas Adoption Permanency Project \(KAPP\)](#), Susana Mariscal, KU & Kelly McCauley, KVC

<http://www2.ku.edu/~ierps/cgi-bin/program/project-launch-linking-actions-for-unmet-needs-in-children-s-health>

- [Project Launch](#) Alexandra Vuyk

<https://www.healthfund.org/mentalhealth.php>

- [Foundation for Success: Healthy Social & Emotional Development in Early Childhood](#), United Methodist Health Ministry Fund, Kim Moore