Welcome!

Here, in your hands or on your screen, is the second issue of the Kansas System of Care newsletter "Voices of Wellness."

This newsletter is here to showcase the work being done in Kansas, the needs still to be met, and the voices of those with lived experience. Our next issue, releasing in Spring 2019, needs YOU. What stories do you want to read? What experiences do you want elevated?

Your voice inspires change and lets others know they are not alone in their experiences. This newsletter is an opportunity for you to speak loudly about the things that matter to you. If you’d like to be part of developing future newsletters, please contact Kaela to get started (email: kaela.moore@wichita.edu, call/text: 316-358-1518).

Thank you for all you do.

Sincerely,

Kelsee Torrez
Kansas System of Care Project Director
Research Through a Transition-Age Lens

My name is Jake and my role in the System of Care is to work with and learn from the research team at Wichita State University. I am 18 years old and attend Johnson County Community College. I am have a family member with a behavioral health diagnosis.

My goal is to help others see research from the eyes of a teen and to bring a voice to the research in this project. I look forward to this journey of living, learning, growing, and advocating for programs and services that will help us to improve the lives of persons with behavioral health issues and their families.

Community Partner Updates

South Central Mental Health Counseling Center

South Central Mental Health (SCMH) hosted a community wide Back to School event through collaborations with area schools in need of learning opportunities for parents to develop transition skills in getting youth back to school as a structured process. School supplies were distributed as incentives to attend these training opportunities and to those qualifying as in demographic and leadership development needs.

SCMH attended several back to school parents’ nights and students’ assemblies and provided information about mental health programs to youth, school staff and parents alike. Additionally, SCMH coordinated with the Child Advocacy Center in implementation of Electronic Safety in the schools, assisted them in meeting with the school, setting up piloting groups, and potentially helping facilitate the groups.
Meeting the Governor

Hello! My name is Maggie and I was given the opportunity to meet Governor Jeff Colyer. During the meeting, he signed a document recognizing mental health awareness. When I was first presented the opportunity I thought it was a joke, so I was like, are you serious?? And they were like yeah, you can come represent Y-Link/Life Savers so, I said alright let’s do it!

Now on the way to Topeka I was freaking out like omg I’m meeting the governor omg what is he gonna be like? What if I embarrass myself? What if I make a fool of myself and totally wreck this??!! Everything that could go wrong was playing thru my head. When we got there I met some kids from other groups who were pretty awesome. Everyone there was actually really nice and friendly.

When I met him I realized that he’s just a person. I mean, yes, he holds a somewhat high spot in society but, he’s human like everyone else. He was a very friendly guy actually. He made small talk with me, listened to my ideas, he even took a selfie with me!! It was really funny because he was like, “Wait! Wait! Get the buffalo in the picture! Tilt it up, yeah perfect!!” [There was a buffalo head on the wall behind us] Overall it was a great experience and I don’t regret a moment of it.
Kansas System of Care

Advisory Council

Changing behavioral healthcare in Kansas starts here.

You + Others with Similar Experience + Take Action =

- amplify your voice and the voices of others
- create and enhance statewide policies and practices
- support the infrastructure for the development, implementation, sustainability, and expansion of the Kansas System of Care

Kansas System of Care

Local Advisory Councils

Changing mental healthcare in your community starts here.

Wyandotte  Sumner  Butler  Finney

- join local, site specific System of Care efforts
- create and enhance local policies and practices
- impact the well-being of community members
- provide updates on progress, barriers, and efforts to overcome barriers to the SOC State Advisory Council

For more information or to be part of the Kansas System of Care Advisory Council, email KDADS.systemofcare@ks.gov
Call/Text: 316-358-1518
Kansas System of Care

Committees
You can make a difference!

Social Marketing Committee

Join this committee if you...
- want to help develop and implement new ways to talk about mental healthcare in Kansas
- want to influence policies and practices through communication
- like to create
- like to brainstorm new ideas

Training & Workforce Development Committee

Join this committee if you...
- are passionate about helping people succeed
- like to ensure that others have the right tools for their job
- enjoy seeing people grow and learn new skills
- like to organize and create

Culture & Linguistic Competency Committee

Join this committee if you...
- are passionate about improving access to care for underserved populations
- have ideas on how to engage diverse communities
- want to see improved strategies for elevating the voice and experience of underserved populations

Discovery for Success Committee

Join this committee if you...
- want to help find new solutions to improve mental healthcare in Kansas
- are excited about identifying needs and discovering new ways to meet them
- feel strongly about expanding the availability and quality of care for Kansas youth and families

facebook.com/KSSystemofCare/

For more information or to be part of one of these committees, email KDADS.systemofcare@ks.gov
Call/Text: 316-358-1518
Contact Us

Site Coordinators

Debra Garcia
South Central Mental Health
Project Coordinator & Parent Support Lead
debragarcia@scmhcc.org

Kaitlin Heaton
Sumner Mental Health
Project Coordinator
kheaton@sumnermentalhealth.org

Nicole Stafford
Wyandot/PACES
Project Coordinator
Stafford_n@WMHCI.org

Kim Fisher
Compass Behavioral Health
Project Coordinator
kfisher@compassbh.org

Kansas System of Care Team

Kelsee Torrez
Project Director
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
kelsee.torrez@ks.gov

Simond Messmer
Project Coordinator
Wichita State University
simon.messmer@wichita.edu

Jane Adams
Executive Director
Keys for Networking
jadams@keys.org

System of Care Online

kdads.ks.gov/SOC
facebook.com/KS
SystemofCare/
@KSSystemofCare