

Children's Subcommittee

2021-2022 Annual Report

Highlights of Progress

- ▶ Kansas was the first state to legislate a requirement to implement Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) statewide and is on track to implement the transition by July 2024
- ▶ Launch of Youth Mobile Crisis Response in October 2022
- ▶ Implementation of Adult Mobile Crisis Response (pending)
- ▶ Transition to use of the 988 National Suicide Prevention Hotline in July 2022
- ▶ Work of the Positive Practices Implementation Team
- ▶ State Plan Amendment that provided a policy change in May 2022 allowing family therapy services without the child present
- ▶ Postpartum Medicaid Extension allowing coverage benefits to be extended from 60-days to 12-month post-delivery
- ▶ Parent Peer Support expansion (pending)

Goal 1: Children with Dual Diagnoses

Explore and identify the need and gaps in services for dually diagnosed children (IDD/MH; ASD/BH) including workforce issues such as lack of training and availability of providers, funding, system involvement and limits.

Goal 1: Children with Dual Diagnoses

Recommendations:

- ▶ State agencies (and other groups) should advocate to fully fund the waiting list.
- ▶ State agencies should look into implementing and funding a dedicated acute inpatient service, and intensive outpatient services targeted at this population.
- ▶ Specially trained (and reimbursed) foster families to support this population in foster care.

Goal 2: KSKidsMAP

Continue to serve as the Advisory Council for KDHE's pediatric psychiatric access program grant, KSKidsMAP, as well as identify and support program sustainability strategies.



Expert Support for Primary Care Physicians and Clinicians



Consultation Line

- Case Consultation with Pediatric Mental Health Team
- Toolkits and best practice information
- Clarification on medications
- Telehealth resources
- Resources for referral

Primary Care Physician or Clinician



TeleECHO Clinics

- All Teach/All Learn environment
- Mentorship through case-based learning
- Clinical discussion
- Brief-focused didactics



Physician and Clinician Wellness

- Creating a network of support and wellness
- PCP wellness resources



Goal 2: KSKidsMAP

Recommendations:

- ▶ Make pediatric primary care workforce development opportunities (e.g., training, technical assistance) widely available. These efforts will ensure gap-filling treatment services in mental health professional shortage areas are high-quality and follow best practice guidelines.
- ▶ Fully fund a statewide psychiatry access program (e.g., KSKidsMAP) to lead these activities. Current funding ends June 2023.
- ▶ Fund initiatives that enhance the number of highly trained professional practicing in Kansas, including child and adolescent psychiatrists and child psychologists.

Goal 3: Continuum of Care & Parent and Community Engagement

Explore how Community Mental Health Centers, Federally Qualified Health Centers, Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facilities, Qualified Residential Treatment Program are engaging the community to educate and collaborate with primary care providers, caregivers and parents, schools, and other agencies.

Goal 3: Continuum of Care & Parent and Community Engagement

Recommendations:

- ▶ As the system switches from CMHCs to CCBHCs the state should ensure that:
 - ▶ Family and individual therapy is available and provided in the most accessible and family supportive way (in-home and in-office) and is reimbursed at rates that allow providers to provide the service with in the most effective, family friendly, and quality way possible.
 - ▶ Requirement for family engagement are implemented in ways that are not tokenizing but substantive, including supporting or requiring policy or governance councils made up of parents and recipients of services that actually review and make recommendations and decisions.
- ▶ Reimbursement rates for providers, especially private providers, needs to be equitable (Family therapy, individual therapy, in-home, in-office, etc.)
- ▶ Programs should focus on family systems.

Goal 3: Continuum of Care & Parent and Community Engagement, cont.

Recommendations, cont.:

- ▶ The state should invest in more Therapeutic Foster Homes for children in foster care (and their families).
- ▶ Sustain and/or increase funding for the Mental Health intervention Team (MHIT).
- ▶ Require Mental Health First Aid for university degree programs so that professionals working with children come to jobs with this basic skill.
- ▶ Improve reimbursable service policies for primary care providers to align with best-practice integrated care models.
- ▶ Support local communities is convening and connectivity between current providers. The state should provide guidance regarding confidentiality and protected health information.
- ▶ Identify and apply for funding opportunities to invest in mental health and behavioral health workforce.

Other Recommendations

▶ **Statewide data systems and dashboards.**

The need for consistent, summarized and even analyzed data to inform our work and other people's work, including decision making of state agencies, is a consistent need we see and other committees identify. This points to the need for better data systems, especially for our in substance use disorder, mental health, and child welfare systems. We recommend that state agencies work together on a plan to identify system and data dashboard needs and a plan to consistently fund and maintain such systems.

▶ **Public Connections Campaign.**

Our subcommittee identified challenges of isolation during the COVID pandemic as a concern. In review of several resources, including the [U.S. Surgeon General's Advisory to Protecting Youth Mental Health Report \(2021\)](#), we identified a Public Connections Campaign as a possible strategy to address this concern. We recommend that a state agency (KDADS or KDHE) be identified to develop a campaign to target awareness around the negative effects of isolation and the benefits of connections.

Other Recommendations

- ▶ **Telehealth:** Reminder of recommendations from last year's report.
Recommendations:
 - ❑ Support investments in digital infrastructure to increase access to Telehealth.
 - ❑ Support providers in the provision of Telehealth with specific populations, situations, and appropriate use within the continuum of care, including to youth in crisis or awaiting placement.
 - ❑ Ensure inclusive and equitable access to telehealth services, irrespective of provider codes, site, or diagnosis.

2022-2023 Goals

▶ **Goal 1: KSKidsMAP**

Continue to serve as the advisory council and support the sustainability of the KSKidsMAP program.

▶ **Goal 2: Parent Engagement**

Review the system of care to identify current resources and needs, make recommendations to ensure parents know what services are available and how to access them (and professionals are educated to refer parents/caregivers to services/support).

▶ **Goal 3: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**

Focus on unserved and underserved populations with a focus on race, ethnicity, gender identity, language, and culture.

Other topics considered by not prioritized for the 2022-2023 year include: Lack of support for adoptive parents; adolescent substance use (other groups and systems are focusing on this); how to work together better (e.g., coordination, breaking down barriers, triaging care).

Feedback and Questions