



GBHSPC Rural & Frontier Subcommittee

FY2022 Annual Report

Leadership

Amanda Pfannenstiel, LCP, LCAC – FY2022 Chair

Executive Director Clinical Services

Saint Francis Ministries

Monica Kurz, LMSW – FY2023 Chair

VP Policy & Prevention

Kansas Suicide Prevention HQ



Annual Report Overview

Vision, Mission, and History

FY2022 Objectives and Progress

FY2023 Goals and Plans

Vision

A photograph of an elderly couple embracing in a field, with a family in the background, symbolizing community and care. The scene is set in a rural, hilly landscape under a bright sky. The couple in the foreground is seen from behind, with the man in a green jacket and the woman in a plaid coat. In the background, a family of four is walking away, and the overall atmosphere is warm and hopeful.

Behavioral Health Equity
for All Kansas

All residents of rural and frontier
communities of Kansas will have
access to essential, high quality,
behavioral health services

March 24, 2016, Rural/Frontier Charter



Mission

To collaborate through research to statistically understand and promote accessibility and availability of behavioral health services in frontier and rural Kansas counties.

FY2022 Goals and Progress

Evidence-Based Practices

Suicide Prevention and Postvention

Service Accessibility

Data Integration and Information Sharing

Goal 1: Evidence-Based Practices

- Identified leading evidence-based practices (EBP) being implemented in Kansas which would have a significant impact to the Rural/Frontier populations: telebehavioral health, 988, Zero Suicide, CCBHC, and Sequential Intercept Model (SIM).
- Shawna Wright, a leading expert on telebehavioral health, continues to advise the subcommittee on current activities as well as speak across the state on telebehavioral health.
- The R/F subcommittee has multiple members involved in the process of implementing CCBHC's into their organizations and communities (Compass, Four County, Iroquois Center, High Plains, Southwest Guidance Center).
- Audra Goldsmith, Senior Policy Analyst for Stepping Up, assists the subcommittee in our awareness of how EBPs affect adults with mental health moving through the justice system.
- The R/F Subcommittee invited the Chair and Co-Chair from the Evidence-Based Practices Subcommittee to present and collaborate on the cross over between subcommittee goals.
- Additional education opportunities on the Stepping Up Initiative, The Sequential Intercept Model (SIM), HRSA Network Development for Cultural Competency in Agriculture, and CCBHCs.

Goal 2: Suicide Prevention and Postvention

- Both Monica Kurz and Shawna Wright were able to strongly represent the rural and frontier voice through their service on the Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition Steering Committee.
- As part of the launch of the Kansas Suicide Prevention Coalition, membership and leadership include participation from all areas of the state including regional suicide prevention coalitions serving rural/frontier counties.
- The KSPC conducted a series of small group discussions about the current state suicide prevention plan and gathered input and feedback about needs of r/f communities as well as feasibility of the plan. This year, the sub-committee added a member, Sarah Gideon, who is engaged in rural suicide prevention work in the NE region of the state through a health care collaborative of hospitals.
- Lisa Southern, Dave Anderson, Amanda Pfannenstiel, and Shawna Wright participated with a variety of community partners to explore SIMS implementation (made possible by Stepping Up/Audra Goldsmith) in their respective regions as a means of preparing for 988 and mobile crisis role out.

Goal 3: Service Accessibility

- BSRB Executive Director, David Fye, and Assistant Director, Leslie Allen, attended a R/F Subcommittee meeting to have discussion on advocacy items.
- BSRB and the R/F Subcommittee engaged in conversation on reciprocity of licenses across state lines. BSRB has procedures in place. HB 2066 last year created an expedited licensing timeline and looked at reciprocity not just from the traditional standards but a new path to look at if a behavioral health provider practiced under a similar scope of practice, that provider is eligible to move forward in the state of Kansas. Allowing more individuals to provide services from other states. However, BSRB must examine compact language, licensing fee structure, and collaboration with other states.
- The R/F Subcommittee continues to support and advocate for all behavioral health disciplines to maintain COVID-19 waiver changes for reimbursement from federal payors HR945/S286.
- The R/F Subcommittee continues to advocate for measures to increase workforce availability and behavioral health service access. BSRB stated they must balance between being stringent enough to have good quality while also not standing in the way of increasing workforce.

Goal 4: Data Integration and Info Sharing

- The R/F Subcommittee did initial exploration into the current access/use of a shared platform such as Microsoft Teams. This is a common goal across multiple subcommittees. KDADS shared the idea of “owning” a Microsoft Teams site that would give access to identified members of each subcommittee. Unforeseen circumstances have delayed the forward movement of this project.
- If a shared platform is established, the R/F Subcommittee would have the secretary of the subcommittee take lead on uploading R/F data to platform. Both the Chair and Co-Chair would ask for access to increase collaboration across subcommittees.
- The R/F Subcommittee takes opportunities to educate other subcommittee members and members of legislature on rural/frontier needs. Over the last year, this has included presenting the R/F Maps PowerPoint, hosting a Virtual Coffee, attending meetings sponsored by the GBHSPC, and engaging with the EBP and KCC subcommittees.

Noteworthy Efforts FY2022

- Member involvement in local and state initiatives to represent rural and frontier geographies
- Hosted a Virtual Legislative Coffee in November 2021
- Cross-collaboration and membership with other subcommittees
- Diversifying membership





FY2023 Leadership

Chair: Monica Kurz

Co-Chair: Audra Goldsmith

Secretary: Ian Brown

FY2023 Goals and Objectives

Crisis Response in Rural and Frontier Communities

Suicide Prevention and Postvention

Service Accessibility and Workforce Shortages

Goal 1:

Crisis Response in Rural and Frontier Communities

- Objective 1. Review mobile crisis definitions and provide recommendation on standard definition.
- Objective 2. Organize roundtable with ACMHCK to review rural and frontier community examples.
- Objective 3. Review crisis response models and connection to law enforcement in rural and frontier communities.
- Objective 4. Provide recommendations on rural frontier crisis response to GBHSPC.

Goal 2:

Suicide Prevention and Postvention

- Objective 1: R/F Subcommittee will continue to have 2-3 members involved in the Suicide Prevention Coalition to provide a rural and frontier perspective.
- Objective 2: Review youth models developed in urban areas for adaptation to rural and frontier communities.

Goal 3:

Service Accessibility and Workforce Shortages

- Objective 1: Advocate to BSRB on reciprocity of licenses across state lines as a short-term strategy for addressing workforce shortages.
- Objective 2: Advocate for the expanded viability of telehealth and telephonic services.
- Objective 3: Evaluate workforce building strategies from other states and Kansas communities to make recommendations for workforce enhancements.

Recommendations

- The R/F Subcommittee recommends championing use of telebehavioral health to address barriers.
- The R/F Subcommittee recommends the inclusion of rural and frontier representatives on all State behavioral health initiatives
- The R/F Subcommittee recommends advocacy for reciprocity of licenses across state lines to address service accessibility and staff shortages
- The R/F Subcommittee recommends statewide adoption of KDHE's Frontier through Urban Continuum definition via partnerships with GBHSPC and other subcommittees by Executive Order.
- The R/F Subcommittee recommends the adoption of a common software platform to assist collaboration and communication with other GBHSPC subcommittees.
- The R/F Subcommittee recommends the dedication of resources to strengthen the continuum of care in Kansas by opening respite opportunities for youth not receiving SED Wavier services.



Thank You

The Rural and Frontier Subcommittee thanks you for your continued support and dedication to the citizens of Kansas





Questions

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