



## **AGENDA**

### **Sustainability Committee**

*The goal of the Sustainability Committee is to .....*

Date: Tuesday, May 28, 2019 • Time: 10:00 am – 11:00 am

- ❖ **Members present:** Lucia Jones, Beth Nech, Matt Thibault, Randy Johnson, Kim Downes, and Alissa Rankin
- ❖ **Continued Business**
  - Review activities since October 2018
    - Letter for KDHE Director of Healthcare Finance (KanCare/Medicaid)
      - This was sent to John Hamdorf before he left his position as the Director of Healthcare Finance at KDHE. The group reviewed the history of why this was sent and why a State Plan Amendment is not currently feasible for Medicaid.
    - CHW Value Presentation was created to be provided to increase interest in rural CHW programs by impressing the value of CHWs based on return on investment and decreasing costs associated with healthcare. These slides are available upon request.
    - The committee has been working to increase CHW capacity to advocate for themselves and their jobs and to help them get involved in sustainability conversations
      - Lucia has been able to secure an Advocacy Training in the Kansas City metro region
        - The trainer will provide a four, 1-hour session training
        - It will take place at the monthly meetings
      - It is possible that we could offer this to the rural populations after it is completed in Kansas City
    - The committee is working on increasing KDHE support and participation
      - KDHE has traditionally provided funding for the Coalition but more direct and decision making support and participation has been recommended by the Coalition
      - During an internal KDHE meeting, staff decided to form a KDHE CHW “champion team”. Kolloh Nimley is planning to speak to the new Secretary of Health and Environment at KDHE, Dr. Norman. She will impress upon him the importance of integrating CHW related activities into all KDHE divisions. An example might be that a division would work to achieve their program deliverables by working directly with

CHWs who have been employed and or include CHW education, involvement, etc. in new federal funding opportunities that they seek.

- Kelly Nightengale is pushing forward this discussion of having a team of champions at KDHE.

## ❖ New Business

- Letter to KDHE Secretary, Dr. Norman
  - This letter is described above.
- CHW Certification
  - History: Lucia asked Matt if the Education Committee was interested in leading the CHW Certification discussion. Matt recommended the Executive Committee leading this. The Executive Committee recommended that this discussion be held in the Sustainability Committee. Lucia proposed this with the group. They agreed that this would work.
  - Survey results summary are available upon request.
  - There has been some Peer support certification
    - Follow-up on KDADS' response to the questions that Lucia and Executive Committee had regarding the process for Certified Peer Support Specialists.
    - Randy Johnson from Aetna mentioned that he has some knowledge of the process by which the CPS certification was developed.
    - Below in blue are the questions and responses from the Wichita State University Community Engagement Institute staff and the current status of CPS in KS. Further conversation regarding this will need to also include Teresa Strausz from WSU CEI and Carrie Billbe at the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.

*Who regulates the Peer Support Specialists in KS? The Kansas Certified Peer Specialist (KCPS) program is overseen by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). KDADS certifies all Certified Peer Support Specialists in Kansas as well as all Peer Mentors serving the Substance Use Disorder community. KDADS, through the online platform KS Train, monitors training completion and certification for KCPS. The WSU Community Engagement Institute (CEI) is providing support to KDADS as they have sought to reinstate the certification process, engage stakeholders in the process, and the role CEI has played in developing and supporting previous versions of the KCPS program.*

*Are they Certified? As of April 2019, there are two Levels of training and an application process to complete for KCPS certification. Level one training is online and open to anyone interested in learning about Peer Specialist work. To pursue full certification, the Level one exam must be passed at 80%. After level one is completed, each peer has up to one year to complete application which includes providing required documents, becoming employed by an organization that can bill for peer specialist services (currently Community Mental Health*

*Centers and state mental hospitals), and completing Level two training which includes a 15 hour in-person applied learning training. Level two training also requires passage of a corresponding exam by 80%. KDADS then provides and approves certification. There are peers with prior training who serve in organizations such as Consumer Run Organizations but who may not be fully certified or certified under the new process. WSU CEI is assisting with training support for both Levels of training, advanced trainings and supervisor training.*

***Are they required to go through specific training/is it standardized?** The current curriculum has been modified from previous training materials to be accessible online for Level one and in person application for Level two. It is standardized in that each peer certified goes through the same training. No other training is recognized by KDADS for certification. Previous versions of the curriculum were developed in partnership with WSU CEI and consistent with other states' areas of emphasis.*

***Where is that training housed?** Currently, KDADS oversees all aspects of the curriculum. The Level one online training is located on KS Train through KDHE.*

- The time that is going to take to make this happen for CHWs is significant.
  - The committee discussed having the Sustainability updates every other month and then the Certification updates on the alternating months.
  - The Education Committee could also carry some of the workload, that we are not re-creating the wheel.
  - Discussion that needs to happen next for Certification is, “What are the next steps?”
- Reflections about recommendation copied below from the letter that was sent to the Director of the Kansas Division of Healthcare Finance:

*Based on positive outcomes found in the literature and the experience of other states, we recommend that the MCOs serving the Kansas Medicaid program explore the use of and implement CHW structures within their care coordination models. The flexibility within managed care rate structures lends itself to creative solutions to care coordination that extend beyond traditional case management to community-oriented solutions. Flexible payment models such as the PMPM model support CHW interventions to offer a broad set of services across a variety of clinical and nonclinical settings.*

*In your development of CHW models, we recommend considering direct contracts with providers and community-based organizations with experience implementing CHW interventions. Working directly with community-based organizations and health providers will not only leverage their experience with successful CHW interventions, it will ensure clients have access to CHWs at multiple points along the care continuum (e.g. emergency department, home, community, hospital, clinic)*

The KCHWC and KC Collaborative have a multidisciplinary membership including health policy representatives that would be able to answer any questions and help plan for the expansion and development of this important workforce. We look forward to discussions with you.

- Are these recommendations still applicable to KS now?
- The Coalition would like to see that Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) [Aetna, United, & Sunflower] contract with community organizations who employ CHWs to address SDOH.
  - One option for a flexible payment models such as a Per Member Per Month (PMPM) model to support CHW interventions and NOT using Fee for Service (FFS) models.
- The RFP contracts with Medicaid are already established. It was recommended that this is where KDHE could make recommendations for the use of CHWs via contract with community organizations.
- Currently these community contracts are regulated by each MCO based on their own interpretation of the contracts.
  - KDHE allows a lot of autonomy for MCOs to do the work
  - KDHE is most likely going to be strong influencers but the MCOs are likely the decision makers for this type of discussion.
- How do we create the infrastructure to help MCOs contract with community employed CHWs?
  - One barrier is that there needs to be a way to share data.
    - ◆ For example this is one of the governing factors for Aetna. If CHWs are employed directly by Aetna, they can enter data directly into Aetna's system. If they are not employed directly by Aetna and are rather a contractor for Aetna, this data would be limited by the contract data.
  - The committee would like to have all of the MCOs working toward the same things.
  - It would be ideal to start small in multiple places.
  - Each county/city/region needs different things
- What barriers allow/do not allow these types of partnerships and recommendations?
  - The committee would like key individuals from the MCOs like Randy and Families USA and have them facilitate a discussion about barriers, who else needs to be involved, etc.?
    - ◆ How do we create systems for sharing all of this data? (e.g., bi-directional referrals)
  - Maybe KDHE would want to have a role in assisting with this process
- Community Health Council of Wyandotte County has funding for healthy lunch to host a meeting with Sunflower, United and Aetna to learn
  - What are they seeing in other states with their companies?
  - What are the best practices that they are seeing?

- Alissa and Lucia will coordinate a meeting like this outside of the meeting

❖ **Next steps**

- During the 6/26 meeting, we will do some of the work toward certification.
- Follow-up with Kolloh regarding the letter
- Plan a lunch with MCOs about CHWs and next steps

<u>Next Committee Meeting Dates</u>		
6/26/19	9/24/19 (KPHA)	12/24/19 (holiday)
7/23/19	10/22/19	
8/27/19	11/26/19	