

KANSAS COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER COALITION



spotlight

Supporting our Kansas Families

Children belong with their family, and we know kids have better outcomes and well-being when they remain in their homes,” says Kristin Peterman, the Foster Care Administrator for Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF), “Foster care is a necessity but should be a last resort. We need to support families – kids do not grow up in isolation and we need to take care of their parents.” Safety in the home is a top concern for DCF, but the removal of children becomes necessary if safety concerns cannot be addressed.

However, DCF does offer services to help support children and their families. Families are referred to the Family Preservation services through a hotline for a request of services. This process may create stigma because a Child Protective Services (CPS) worker assesses the family for services. From past experiences or historical traumas, families may be distrustful of the CPS worker, but Sara Knight (Assessment and Prevention Administrator, DCF) assured, “It isn’t the case that families need to be perfect. We spend a lot of time deescalating, educating and building relationships with our families. We are not there to take children, but we are there to help.” For children removed from the home, families may go through a reunification process. DCF provides aftercare services to support families in their transition to a different familial system.

Connecting families with resources is critical in preventing child maltreatment or at-risk environments from developing. Peterman explains disparities within referrals for the Family Preservation services are centered on resource access and quality. Finding low-cost or uninsured/under-insured services is a barrier keeping families from accessing care. Community Health Workers can help their clients contact resources and navigate systems that might otherwise be inaccessible.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Kristin Peterman & Sara Knight, DCF
Samantha Bradfield,
Community Engagement Institute

Virtual Event
Tuesday, June 8, 2021, 12pm-4pm



<https://kschw.org/symposium/>

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NEWS & EVENTS

IN THE NEWS

CDC PLANS TO PROVIDE \$332 MILLION TO SUPPORT CHWS FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION AND CONTROL

Recently, the CDC is hoping to scale up and sustain a nationwide program of CHWs who support populations at high risk and communities hit hardest by COVID-19 through additional funds. You can read more [here](#).

RESOURCES

NEIGHBORHOOD NAVIGATOR

Check out [this interactive tool](#) from The EveryONE Project to connect your clients with supportive resources in their neighborhoods.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

ADDRESSING THE "C" IN ACES: COMBATting THE NATION'S SILENT CRISIS

Join APHA in their webinar focused on sharing knowledge and best practices on preventing and responding to ACEs through a resilient and equitable framework [here](#).



COMMITTEE UPDATES



The **Executive Committee** met and reviewed resources for combating misinformation and fears around the COVID-19 vaccines. They also discussed developing a logic model from the committee work plans. Updates include **Northeast Kansas & Tribes:** Gov. Kelley visited the Prairie Band Potawatomi Tribe to congratulate their vaccine efforts; **Southwest Kansas:** held pop up vaccine clinic, requesting opioid education for CHWs; **KDHE:** Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) is doing a qualitative survey on CHWs, with literature review and inventory of CHWs/peer support specialists working in this capacity. The Executive Committee will meet again **Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 1 PM.**

The joint **Advocacy and Sustainability Committee** met and discussed going through the work plan. They also discussed ROI-programs being unwilling to share data related to the measurements of success. **Tuesday, May 18 at 1:30 PM.**

The **Symposium Committee** met and selected speakers for the break out sessions: Social Determinants of Health (Dr. Paigton Mayes), Social Justice (Vice Mayor Brandon Johnson) They also discussed CHW of Year selection process and potential topics for 1 hour session topics (potential speakers: Ed Ehlinger, Amanda Mogoi). The Symposium Committee will meet again on **Monday, May 17, 2021 at 10 AM.**

The **Education Committee** discussed launching in SW Kansas as reintroduction. They are continuing forward with integrating oral health slides. For service learning, the hope is to have CHWs look at other areas of work such as food, vaccines, etc. There five spots left in the upcoming cohort. The next meeting will be **Tuesday, May 18 at 3:00 PM.**

For more information about Kansas CHW Coalition meeting dates, please contact alissa.rankin@wichita.edu.

KC REGIONAL CHW COLLABORATIVE

Have you participated in the Kansas City Regional CHW Collaborative meetings? The mission of this collaborative is to integrate CHWs into the health and human services systems through capacity building, advocacy, and sustainability. You find more information [here](#) or contact Hannayd Ruiz at hruiz@marc.org.

CAPACITY BUILDING SUBCOMMITTEE

Monday, May 5, 9:00 am

ADVOCACY SUBCOMMITTEE

Thursday, May 27, 8:00 am

KC REGIONAL CHW FORUM

Thursday, May 24, 9:00 am

KC REGIONAL CHW COLLABORATIVE

Returns in June

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