



Kansas Maternal & Child Health Council (KMCHC) Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, October 9, 2024 – Kansas Health Institute, Topeka, Kansas

Members Present: Anji Antje, Brenda Bandy, Rebecca Bell, Heather Braum, Ali Braun, Linda Buchheister, Deena Carmona, Mariah Chrans, Jaquita Clark, Stephanie Coleman, Amy Dean Campmire, Drew Duncan, Kelsee Fout, Lisa Frey Blume, Holly Frye, Jason Gelois, Cory Gibson, Shalae Harris, Kari Harris, Stephanie Jerguson, Elaine Johannes, Shannon Kennedy, Jamie Kim, Brandi Markert, Jeni McDonald, Jill Nelson, Oluwakemi Onyenagubo, Amittia Parker, Zachary Ray, Cherie Sage, Katie Schoenhoff, Heather Schrotberger, Christy Schunn, Sookyung Shin, Lisa Shoop, Kayla Stangis, Kali Steelsmith, Juliet Swedlund, Cora Ungerer, Melissa Valenza, Maddie Wegner, Kendra Wyatt, Donna Yadrich, Daina Zolck

Guests: Jackie Catron, Abriona Markham

Staff: Denise Cyzman, Marisa Guerrero, Angela Collier

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions and Decisions
Welcome and Member Introductions	Dr. Kari Harris, KMCHC Chair, welcomed everyone to this meeting and made a special welcome to a new Council member.	
KMCHC Member Spotlight	Brenda Bandy provided an overview of Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, Brenda Bandy provided an overview of the Kansas Breastfeeding Coalition, a non-profit organization that promotes breastfeeding and supports breastfeeding mothers. Linda Buchheister from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disabilities	View Presentations Here

	Services gave an overview of that department and its work as Community Health Workers.	
Panel Discussion: Care Extenders Jackie Catron, Linda Buchheister, Abriona Markham, Lisa Shoop, Brenda Bandy	Panelists discussed their work as care extenders (doulas, community health workers, parent peer support specialists, and lactation consultants) and how they provide wraparound services for the maternal and child populations in Kansas.	
Domain Work Group Discussion Preparation Denise Cyzman	Ms. Cyzman outlined the expectations of the workgroup discussion.	
Domain Work Group Discussion	After lunch, the workgroups convened for their discussions.	
Mental Health Consultation and Resource Network Kelsee Fout	Ms. Fout gave an overview of the Mental Health Consultation and Resource Network.	View Presentations Here
KDHE Staff Announcements	Ms. Fout introduced members of KDHE, including a few new staff members. Amy Dean-Campmire, Co-Bureau Director of Family Health Maddie Wegner, Child Health Consultant (new staff) Ali Braun, Family Systems Consultant Kali Steelsmith, Perinatal Infant Health Consultant (new staff) Jason Geslois, Senior Epidemiologist - Maternal Child Health (new staff) Zachary Ray, Advanced Data Analyst (new staff) Kelsee Fout, Maternal and Child Behavioral Health Director	
Domain Work Group Report Out	See Attachment A for a summary of the workgroup discussions.	
Member Announcements and Updates	Several members provided announcements about noteworthy events within their organization or community.	

Closing Remarks

Kari Harris, MD

Hearing no new business, Dr. Harris adjourned the Council meeting.

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2025 Meeting Dates

January 15, 2025 - 9 am – 12 pm

Virtual Meeting

May 7, 2025 – 10 am – 1 pm

Kansas Health Institute – 212 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, Kansas

July 23, 2025 – 9 am – 12 pm

Virtual Meeting

October 15, 2025 – 10 am – 1 pm

Topeka Library - 1515 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, Kansas

October 8, 2024 Domain Workgroup Reports - Summary

Perinatal/Infant

Response to panel discussion: Today's presentation highlighted the need for greater acceptance of doulas in hospitals and emphasized the importance of consistency in messaging across various maternal and child health roles. They also called for medical providers to embrace all support roles, regardless of reimbursement, focusing on prioritizing the well-being of mothers and babies.

Special Project Update: The group is progressing with developing a multilingual postcard featuring a QR code, piloting distribution to 5,000 recipients statewide. Efforts are focused on ensuring language accessibility, tracking metrics such as zip codes, website traffic, and resource usage, and exploring how to expand website translation beyond the current four languages. The following steps include Drew sharing a postcard draft for group review by the end of October, determining website metrics that can be tracked, and consulting the communications team on ADA compliance. The group will meet in mid-November for final edits and reviews.

Child

Response to panel discussion: Today's presentation highlighted the Kansas Family Support Center's new DCF grant for Autism and the importance of peer-to-peer programs and inclusion initiatives. It emphasized the need for better compensation for families contributing their expertise, such as doulas supporting new parents, and the value of support groups as care extenders. Additionally, discussions focused on improving Community Health Worker (CHW) training to address childhood injuries and fostering partnerships to bridge programmatic gaps while continuing efforts to break down silos.

Special Project Update: The workgroup is progressing toward developing a policy recommendation, which is now guided by a new child health consultant to enhance focus. The *Help Me Grow* survey is being distributed to families, with results expected by mid-to-late November, and the group will review survey questions and results in their next meeting. Future steps include applying for IRB approval to conduct family focus groups with incentives, planning and holding these focus groups between January and April, analyzing responses, and drafting a policy recommendation for submission during the 2026 legislative session.

Adolescent

Response to panel discussion: The discussion highlighted disparities in certifications and training among healthcare extenders, emphasizing the need for sustainable funding and livable wages for Community Health Workers (CHWs), whose roles are often part-time or grant-funded. Programs like Retainworks aim to integrate work as a health outcome by aligning employment opportunities with individual needs while encouraging employers to make accommodations. To strengthen the workforce, there is a push to engage high school students in CHW careers and explore pathways for adolescents to become Behavioral Health Technicians (BHTs), alongside efforts to incentivize continuing education for parent peers and CHWs.

Special Project Update: The group faced delays in approving a toolkit for Civic Health Month but shifted focus to addressing barriers to civic engagement, such as distance, lack of information, and systemic issues like redlining. Discussions explored using the \$1,500 special project funding to support youth-focused organizations like Telehealth Rocks or LoudLight, targeting ages 12-17, with a plan to empower these organizations to decide on fund use and report back. Elaine will draft a proposal summarizing these ideas for group review by October 18, after which it will be submitted to KAAP.

Women/Maternal

Response to panel discussion: The discussion highlighted the need for workforce development, better compensation for CHWs, lactation services, and parent-peer support, as well as improved collaboration to center care around moms and pregnant individuals. Concerns were raised about disparities in support for commercially insured and uninsured clients compared to Medicaid patients, calling for private insurers like BCBSK and Blue KC to engage in these discussions. Suggestions included addressing provider bias, integrating doulas more seamlessly into care plans (e.g., through standing orders or prenatal risk assessments), and ensuring timely payments to all involved in maternal and child health care.

Special Project Update: The workgroup is exploring opportunities to improve prenatal care by adopting a Universal Prenatal Risk Assessment (PRA), with training on Missouri's PRA scheduled for October 9. Key discussions include identifying critical medical risk factors like prenatal hypertension, addressing the challenges of integrating Health Information Exchanges (HIEs) due to cost and infrastructure barriers, and advocating for state funding to support Maternal and Child Health (MCH) initiatives. The following steps involve engaging with the Billing Task Force, promoting trauma-informed care for all staff, exploring value-based care models like Colorado's, and identifying potential funding sources, such as the Data Modernization Fund, to enhance care delivery and data systems.