



Kansas Maternal & Child Health Council (KMCHC)

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, January 15, 2025 – Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Ali Braun, Amy Dean-Campfire, Antje Anji, Brandi Markert, Brenda Bandy, Cari Schmidt, Carrie Akin, Cherie Sage, Christy Schunn, Cora Ungerer, Cristi Cain, Deborah Alliston, Deena Carmona, Dione Guyton, Drew Duncan, Elaine Johannes, Elizabeth Whitson, Heather Braum, Heather Schrotberger, Holly Frye, Jamie Kim, Jaquita Clark, Jeni McDonald, Jennifer Bruning, Jennifer Miller, Juliet Swedlund, Kali Steelsmith, Kari Harris, Karly Lauer, Katie Schoenhoff, Kayla Stangis, Kelsee Fout, Kendra Wyatt, Kourtney Bettinger, Kristi Weaver, Linda Buchheister, Lisa Chaney, Lisa Frey Blume, Lisa Shoop, Madeline Wegner, Mariah Chrans, Melissa Valenza, Oluwakemi Onyenagubo, Paige Leonard, Patty McNamar, Rebecca Bell, Sara Hortenstine, Shalae Harris, Shane Morris, Stacy Clarke, Stephanie Coleman, Stephanie Jerguson, Susan Pence, Tara Wells

Guests: Monique Koerner, Pempho Moyo, Patricia Fox, Elizabeth Whitson

Staff: Denise Cyzman, Marisa Guerrero, Angela Collier

Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions and Decisions
Welcome and Member Introductions	Dr. Kari Harris, KMCHC Chair, welcomed attendees and made a special welcome to new members Sapphire Garcia and Tara Wells.	
KMCHC Member Updates	Heather Schrotberger, Executive Director of the Kansas Head Start Association, discussed KHSA’s mission and vision and its services in the state of Kansas. Dr. Deborah Alliston, Clinical Associate	View Presentations Here (Pages 5-19)

	<p>Professor at KU School of Medicine, discussed the medical school and her role as a professor, as well as the pediatric clinic.</p>	
<p>State Child Death Review Board Sara Hortenstine, Executive Director, Child Death Review Board</p>	<p>Ms. Hortenstine provided an overview of the State Child Death Review Board, emphasizing the importance of understanding the factors leading to these deaths to prevent future occurrences. Ms. Hortenstine also shared information specific to infant deaths from 2018-2022, noting most deaths are natural deaths. The second highest cause of death for infants is Sleep-Related Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID), in which the cause is not obvious before investigation, usually occurring during sleep or in the infant’s sleep area. Only 21% of infants were placed in a crib or bassinet at the time of death, while 53% occurred while the infant was sleeping on an adult bed. Ms. Hortenstine shared a link to the annual report, which provides comprehensive data and recommendations for preventing child and infant deaths.</p>	<p>View Presentations Here (Pages 20-39)</p>
<p>Birth Defects Program Drew Duncan, Birth Defects Program Section Chief Paige Leonard, Birth Defects Program Coordinator</p>	<p>Ms. Leonard presented on the Birth Defects Program, highlighting its vision, key events, and recent activities. The program is responsible for the collection of information concerning birth defects (congenital anomalies), stillbirths and abnormal conditions of newborns and children up to the age of five in the state. It then creates a surveillance system for data collection used to review and verify reports and conduct any necessary follow-ups. Ms. Leonard also highlighted the need for specific funding to support the program and the importance of strengthening collaboration with other programs.</p>	<p>View Presentations Here (Pages 41-50)</p>
<p>Kansas Legislative Session and Federal Policy Updates Heather Braum, Senior Policy Advisor, Kansas Action for Children</p>	<p>Heather Braum, Senior Policy Advisor with Kansas Action for Children, provided a legislative session update. She discussed the fast-paced nature of the session, key dates, and changes in the House and Senate leadership. Heather also highlighted the changes in the Health and Human Services Committee and the Social Services Budget Committee, and the need for stable revenue sources for programs. She also mentioned the upcoming budget</p>	<p>View Attachment B for more details and links presented by Ms. Braum.</p>

	hearings for large agencies like DCF, KDHE, and KDADS. Next, she provided an overview of KAC's tracking of key issues, including tax policy, social issues, education funding, and health, highlighting potential property tax relief and the need to protect maternal and child health services. She also discussed support for Medicaid expansion and potential federal funding cuts. She encouraged the council to stay informed through the Statehouse Snapshot Weekly Newsletter.	
Expectations for Domain Work Groups	Denise Cyzman reviewed the expectations for the Domain Workgroups and then adjourned the meeting for a break before the workgroups reconvened for a 1-hour discussion and working meeting.	
Domain Work Group Report Out	See Attachment A on the next page for a summary of the workgroup discussions.	
Member Announcements and Updates	Throughout the virtual meeting, members shared numerous resources and information. A compilation can be found online here: KMCHC Jan 15 Compilation Links and Resources.pdf	
Closing Remarks Kari Harris, MD	Hearing no new business, Dr. Harris thanked everyone for participating and adjourned the Council meeting.	

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2025 Meeting Dates

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

January 15, 2025 Domain Workgroup Reports - Summary

Women/Maternal

Response to presentations: The group appreciated the legislative update and found the Child Death Review insights valuable, especially regarding SUID awareness. The group agreed with the need for dedicated funding for the birth defects program. There is an opportunity to align with the State Legislature and Senator Marshall to support Kansas MCH work and funding. The discussions reinforced the importance of staying informed and engaged in legislative matters.

Special Project Update: The group discussed the impact of Missouri's redesigned NOP process and the opportunity to apply lessons in Kansas. They explored tangible maternal health initiatives, including expanding maternal mental health resource distribution, integrating hotline information into patient materials, and leveraging digital tools like patient portals and QR codes. There was interest in engaging the State Employee Health Plan and pediatric offices for broader outreach. Additionally, a potential collaboration with KHIN was noted to bridge MCH and HITECH efforts.

Perinatal/Infant

Response to presentations: The group is excited for Dr. Quinlan's upcoming GPHC presentation in March. The Birth Defects program remains unfunded and is tied to Newborn Screening statutes, with legislative education being a key challenge. There was surprise about a potential state grant, though concerns remain about possible legislative restrictions. The Medicaid billing expansion through schools is on hold, while the *Transforming Maternal Health (TMaH) Model* will provide \$17 million over 10 years, fostering Medicaid collaboration across state agencies.

Welcoming Babies Initiative – Pilot Project

- **Goal:** Send a postcard to 5,000 families with normal newborn screening specimens, providing links to helpful resources.
- **Launch Date:** March 1st
- **Details:**
 - The postcard will include a QR code linking to the [Welcoming Kansas Babies on the Newborn Screening website](#), which features program descriptions and resources.
 - Website administrators have the ability to update content even after launch.
 - There was discussion about including an additional card on Safe Sleep, potentially sent with birth certificates through Vital Statistics.
 - A text-based resource, Vroom, was suggested, though it should be verified as KDHE-approved.
 - WIC currently uses similar information, and additional resources, such as Pelvic Floor Therapy and Breastfeeding “911” from KBC, will be added.

- A handout with the QR code and brief details will be prepared for distribution at GPHC.

Child

Special Project Update: The children's group is creating a template for local organizations to customize with behavioral health resources, while awaiting survey results to inform future policy recommendations.

Adolescent

Response to presentations: There is still work to be done in the area of Safe Sleep. It was noted that sleep-related deaths receive less media attention compared to other causes of death. However, it is encouraging that the challenges parents face are being considered in safe sleep education. Heather's presentation raised concerns.

Special Project Update: The adolescent group will collaborate with the Kansas Leadership Center on infusing civic health into their youth leadership curriculum and training. The group discussed funding a trusted youth organization focused on civic health and engagement, considering initiatives like KLC's *Mobilizing Youth to Lead* and YLink. There was interest in supporting an existing civic health curriculum for expansion rather than developing a new one. Advocacy dates were noted, including School Mental Health Advocacy Day (Jan. 23), Prevention Advocacy Day (Feb. 26), and Youth Mental Health Advocacy Day (Mar. 13). The group also expressed interest in inviting KLC to KMCMC and learning more about CCBHCs' role in adolescent health. Potential partnerships with KSDE to offer KLC training to educators were discussed, and KAAP will handle funding distribution.

Attachment B



Heather Braum

Senior Policy Advisor, Kansas Action for Children

heather@kac.org

Links from Ms. Braum's Legislative Updates:

- KAC website: www.kac.org
- House: https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/chamber/house/
- Senate: https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/chamber/senate/
- Committees: https://www.kslegislature.gov/li/b2025_26/committees/
- Medicaid cuts at the federal level
 - <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/01/10/spending-cuts-house-gop-reconciliation-medicaid-00197541>
 - <https://www.politico.com/newsletters/politico-pulse/2025/01/13/health-programs-on-the-gop-chopping-block-00197733>
 - <https://ccf.georgetown.edu/>
 - <https://www.cbpp.org/research/health/medicaid-per-capita-cap-would-harm-millions-of-people-by-forcing-deep-cuts-and>
 - <https://www.cbpp.org/research/food-assistance/republican-snap-proposals-could-take-food-away-from-millions-of-low-income>
- New Rural health and Medicaid report out today:
<https://ccf.georgetown.edu/2025/01/15/medicaids-role-in-small-towns-and-rural-areas/>
- Tracking bills and committee information, testimony, etc.: www.kslegislature.gov
- YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@KSLegislatureLIVE>
- KAC Statehouse Snapshot newsletter sign up – www.kac.org/join
- Kansas Reflector -- www.kansasreflector.com – daily newsletter
- KIDS COUNT data sheets: https://www.kac.org/kansas_kids_count
- DCF Budget Hearing 1/23, 3:30pm, House Social Services Budget Committee (SSB)
- DCF Budget public comment 1/24, 3:30pm, SSB
- KDHE Budget Hearing 1/27, 3:30p, SSB
- KDHE Budget public comment, 1/28, 3:30p, SSB
- KDADS Budget Hearing 1/29, 3:30p, SSB
- KDADS Budget public comment, 1/30, 3:30p, SSB