



KANSAS
MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH

Kansas Maternal and Child Health Council

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Youth Engagement Specialist

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Youth Engagement Specialist

Kansas Department for Aging
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KANSAS YOUTH SUBCOMMITTEE

By: Jessica Sun, Izzy Blackwood

MEET THE EXEC TEAM



Jessica Sun
(Co-Chair)



Isabelle Blackwood
(Co-Chair)



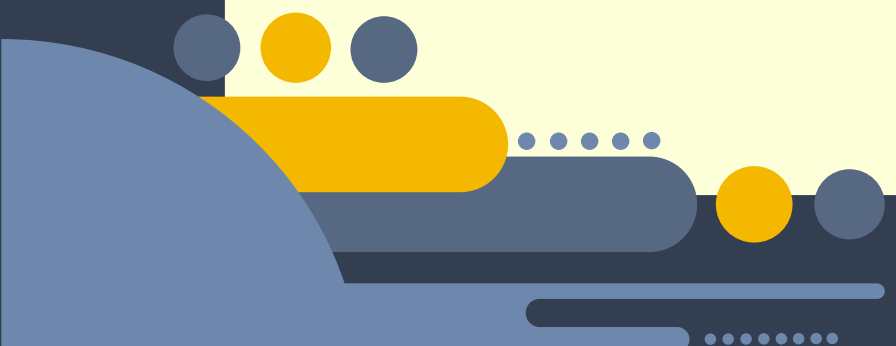
Bailee Bradford
(Secretary)

Brady Clark
**(Subcommittee
Representative)**





ABOUT THE SUBCOMMITTEE

- A youth-led advisory group under the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council
 - Includes diverse youth aged 14–25 across Kansas
 - Works in partnership with adult allies, mental health professionals, and policy leaders
- 

WHAT MAKES US UNIQUE?

- Youth-led, not adult-run
 - Collaboration with adults
- Focuses on lived experience, not just clinical knowledge
- Connects voices to state-level decisions
- Supports peer-to-peer engagement and leadership development

WHY I JOINED

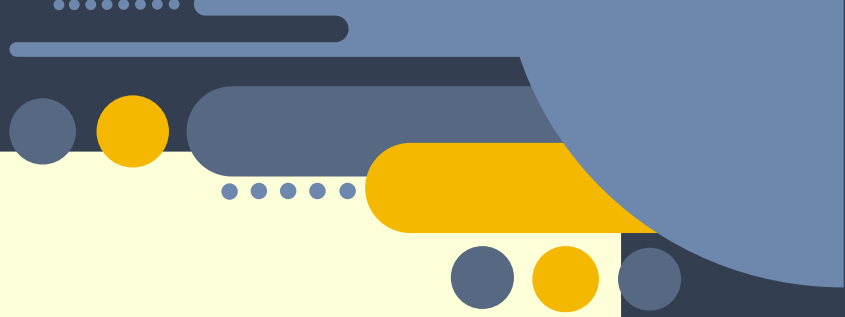
Izzy

- Family history of suicide and addiction
- Passion for mental health advocacy and suicide prevention
- A need for my voice to be heard by more influential people
- An opportunity to connect with other youth who share the same passion and drive as me

WHY I JOINED

Jessica

- Passion for youth mental health and advocacy
- I wanted youth voices to be heard
- Personal experiences that pushed me to get involved
- To help other young people feel seen, supported, and safe
- I believe real change starts with us



1:340

***mental health provider to
population ratio in johnson
county***

1:320

***mental health provider to
population ratio in US***

1 in 8 Johnson County adults report
inadequate emotional or social support



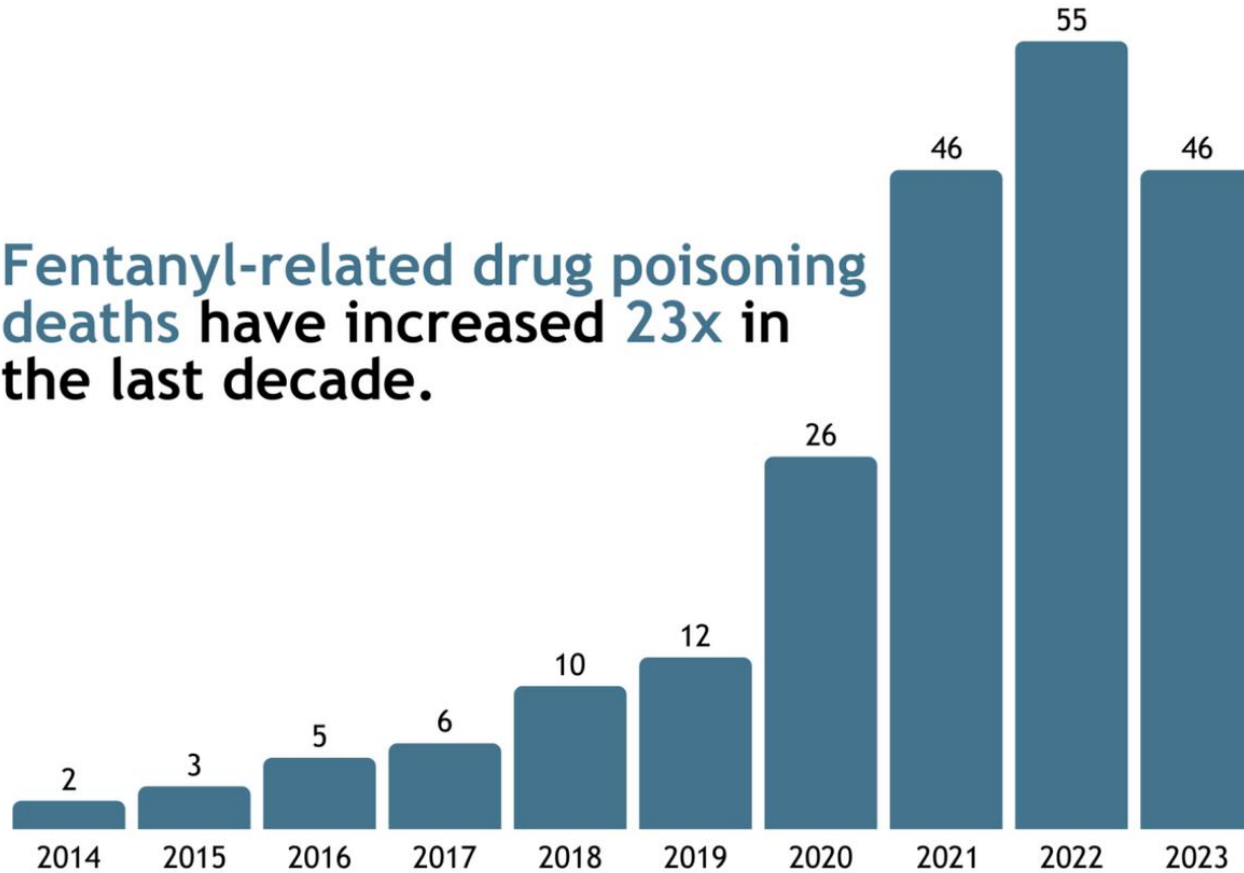


One in six

Johnson County adults has been diagnosed with
depression.

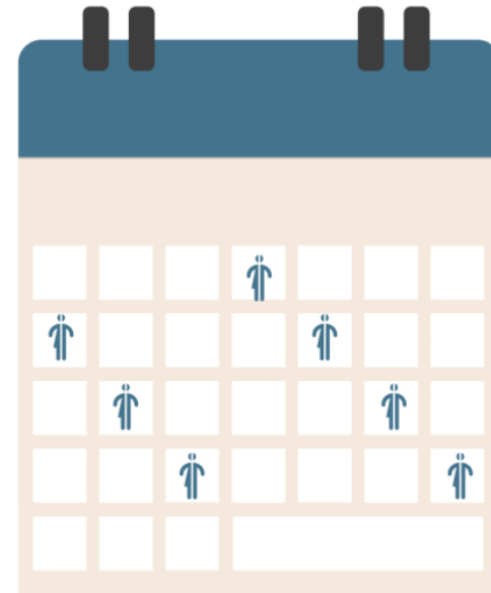
Sources: KDHE BRFSS 2020

Fentanyl-related drug poisoning deaths have increased 23x in the last decade.



Data Source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics, Analysis by JCDHE Epidemiology Division

One suicide
every 4 days
in Johnson County



*In 2023, there was one suicide every 3.92 days in Johnson County.
Source: Kansas Department of Health and Environment - Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics

MISSION & VISION

Mission

- To strengthen youth mental and behavioral health across Kansas by empowering young people to shape the policies and services that affect them.

Vision

- A Kansas where youth mental health is prioritized, supported, and understood in all communities.

CORE GOALS

Jessica

- Youth Voice & Empowerment: Amplify lived experiences to influence systems.
- Mental Health Advocacy: Promote access, awareness, and equity in services.
- Policy Influence: Provide input on legislation and agency practices.
- Peer Support Promotion: Normalize mental health conversations among youth.
- Collaboration: Bridge youth perspectives with adult decision-makers.

CORE GOALS

Izzy

- Youth Voice & Empowerment: Give those who have faced adversities not only the recourses they need but also a platform to share their experiences and connect with others.
- Mental Health Advocacy: Advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves
- Policy Influence: Provide personal experiences to help influence decision makers
- Peer Support Promotion: Reduce the stigma surrounding mental illnesses
- Collaboration: Connect with other passionate youth

FOCUS AREAS

- Suicide prevention
- Substance use and recovery support
- Reducing stigma in schools and communities

WHATS NEXT?

- Expanding membership diversity
 - Location, Age, Ethnicity
- New policy proposals for school-based supports
- More direct input into state legislation



THANK YOU

Heidi Hartner



Senior Manager –
Policy Initiatives

KDHE – Division of
Healthcare Finance

Elaine Johannes

Andres Mata

Kari Harris

Heather Braum

Alyson Dalrymple

Domain Workgroups

Expectations for Domain Work Groups

Stay present and participate actively.

Invite everyone into the conversation. Take turns talking.

ALL feedback is valid. There are no right or wrong answers.

Value and respect different perspectives (providers, families, agencies, etc.).

Be relevant. Stay on topic.

Allow facilitator to move through discussion questions.

Avoid repeating previous remarks.

Disagree with ideas, not people. Build on each other's ideas.

Capture "side" topics and concerns; set aside for discussion and resolution at a later time.

Reach closure and summarize conclusions or action steps for small group reports.

Expectations for Domain Work Groups

Actively listen.

Be Part of the
Conversation.
Speak your mind.

Share the Workload.
Volunteer for Action
Steps.

Set action steps and team
roles in the remaining 5
minutes of the discussion.

Work Group Questions

1. What were the most critical takeaways from today's presentations?
2. Summarize your workgroup's progress on your Special Project since the last meeting.
3. Update your action plan with action steps and identify work group members responsible for tasks.

Work Group Projects

Women/Maternal: Develop a universal, consistent prenatal risk assessment form that includes clinical and social determinants of health data.

Perinatal/Infant: Welcome postcard for all Kansas babies.

Children: Help parents and caregivers access resources to address their child's behavioral health needs.

Adolescents: Improve civic engagement for adolescents.

YOUR FACILITATORS



WOMEN/MATERNAL

Kayla Stangis | Maternal
Health Innovation
Coordinator

KDHE Bureau of Family
Health



PERINATAL & INFANT

Stephanie Wolf | Clinical
Perinatal/Infant Health
Consultant
Kansas Perinatal Community
Collaboratives Program
Coordinator

KDHE Bureau of Family
Health



CHILDREN

Jennifer Miller | State
Maternal Child &
Health Director

KDHE Bureau of
Family Health



ADOLESCENT

Cora Ungerer | Title V
CSHCN Director

KDHE Bureau of
Family Health

WORK GROUP ASSIGNMENTS

Women/Maternal		Perinatal/Infant		Children		Adolescent	
Facilitator: Kayla Stangis		Facilitator: Stephanie Wolf		Facilitator: Jennifer Miller		Facilitator: Cora Ungerer	
Recorder: Britney Nasser		Recorder: Michelle Black		Recorder: Ali Braun		Recorder: Holly Frye	
Megan	Askins	Carrie	Akin	Antje	Anji	Jennifer	Brunning
Deena	Carmona	Deborah	Alliston	Ali	Braun	Linda	Buchheister
Patricia	Fox	Brenda	Bandy	Linda	Buchheister	Lisa	Chaney
Lisa	Frey Blume	Kourtney	Bettinger	Cristi	Cain	Amy	Dean-Campmire
Sapphire	Garcia	Heather	Braum	Stacy	Clarke	Vanessa	Eberle
Shalae	Harris	Mariah	Chrans	Stephanie	Coleman	Geno	Fernandez
Jamie	Kim	Stacy	Clarke	Derik	Flerlage	Holly	Frye
Karly	Lauer	Drew	Duncan	Cory	Gibson	Jason	Geslois
Jeni	McDonald	Stephen	Fawcett	Dione	Guyton	Kirstianna	Guerrero
Patricia	McNamar	Patricia	Fox	Kaitlin	Johnson	Kari	Harris
Pempho	Moyo	Sara	Hortenstine	Monique	Koerner	Sarah	Hinton
Jill	Nelson	Stephanie	Jerguson	Julie	Laverack	Elaine	Johannes
Oluwakemi	Onyenagubo	Brandi	Markert	Karen	Perez	Shannon	Kennedy
Amittia	Parker	Susan	Pence	Zachary	Ray	Steve	Lauer
Lisa	Shoop	Caroline	Rodriguez	Cherie	Sage	Sookyung	Shin
Chris	Tilden	Cari	Schmidt	Heather	Schrotberger	Melissa	Valenza
Juliet	Swedlund	Katie	Schoenhoff	Peter	Stoepker	Donna	Yadrich
Kristi	Weaver	Christy	Schunn	Maddie	Wegner	Daina	Zolck
Tara	Wells	Kali	Steelsmith	Elizabeth	Whitson		
Kendra	Wyatt	Maria	Torres				
		Stephanie	Wolf				

Float: Denise Cyzman, Kelsee Fout, Laigha Anderson, Simone Taylor-Hamilton

Enjoy The Break

SEE YOU BACK IN 10 MINUTES

Welcome Back

TIME FOR REPORT OUTS

DOMAIN WORKGROUP REPORT OUT



WOMEN/MATERNAL

Develop a Universal and Consistent Prenatal Risk Assessment Form that Includes Clinical and Social Determinants of Health Data



PERINATAL/INFANT

Welcome Postcard for all Kansas Babies



CHILDREN

Help Parents and Caregivers Access Resources to
Address their Child's Behavioral Health Needs.



ADOLESCENT

Improve Civic Engagement for Adolescents



Member Announcements

THE FLOOR IS YOURS!

Heidi Hartner

Elaine Johannes

Andres Mata



Kari Harris
KMCHC
Chair

Heather Braum

Alyson Dalrymple

We Want Your Feedback!



Scan the QR
Code for
Evaluation



KANSAS
MATERNAL &
CHILD HEALTH

Next Meeting Dates

October 15, 2025

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

NEW VENUE! Topeka Library

January 14, 2026

9:00am - noon

Virtual

Contact information

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Denise Cyzman
KAAP Executive Director
denise.cyzman@kansasaap.org





Department of Health
and Environment

kdhe.ks.gov

TO PROTECT AND IMPROVE THE HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT OF ALL KANSANS