

# KANSAS SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL MINUTES



## School Mental Health Advisory Council

### Details

Date February 13, 2020

Time 9 am – 2 pm

Location Washburn Technical Institute  
Topeka, KS

**Call to Order:** Kathy Busch called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Welcome new members. New members please stay about 5 minutes after the meeting to meet with Pat about reimbursements.

### Roll Call

Members: (x present, blank absent):

X	Kathy Busch		Dr. Jane Groff	X	Cherie Blanchat Chris Perry
X	Shelby Bruckerhoff	X	Jose Cornejo	x	Denise Cyzman (Melody Martin)
X	Misti Czarnowski		Alison Despard OR Kristen Garner	x	Bobby Eklofe
X	Diane Gjerstad		Jessica Griffin		Dr. John Heim
	Leia Holley	X	Dr. Ken Hughey		Representative Russ Jennings
	Kimber Kasitz	X	Kathy Kersenbrock- Ostmeyer		Monica Kurz
	Ronny Lieurance	X	Dr. John McKinney	x	Kathy Mosher
	Representative Monica Murnan	X	Deana Novack	x	Judi Rodman (Carla DéHatre)
	Shirley Scott	X	Rachelle Soden		Senator Dinah Sykes
	Senator Mary Jo Taylor	X	Kelsee Torrez	X	Mark Torkelson
X	Juliane Walker		Pam Weigand	X	Holly Yager

KSDE Staff: Members (x present, blank absent):

X	Laura Jurgensen	X	Kerry Haag	X	Bert Moore
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X	Myron Melton	X	Kent Reed	X	Amy Martin
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## Approvals

### Agenda

Motion to approve: Kathy Kersenbrock-Ostmeyer

Second: Bobby Eklofe

Motion Passed

### December Minutes

No action was taken.

### Mandated Report Training – Laura Jurgensen

State Board has received as part of the accreditation regulations in January. The Board approved yesterday to approve and move those regulations on for review. No changes were made to your recommendations in December.

### Emotional Disturbance -Laura Jurgensen

Change of term requested by school social worker. SEAC studied and discussed the request the request and any potential unintended consequences that might occur. Following discussion, they made a recommendation to the State Board at the February meeting to change the term to Emotional Disability. It will go back to the board for action at the March meeting. This is a change in term only and will not impact eligibility or requirements for services to be received.

The house as also had a hearing on this topic and has moved the bill out of committee for full house for consideration.

### Bullying Legislation -Myron Melton and Kent Reed

HB 2330; SB 410

Kent and Myron attended meetings last week in the house to share Bullying Task Force recommendations. At that meeting they discovered that last years house bill was being worked on the senate committee. Copies of both bills were provided as an information item as what is currently being worked in the legislature.

Senate bill is less prescriptive than the house bill. The legislative bills both require action of the local board and the state board.

Discussion:

- It appears that this bill applies to only public schools and not private schools
- The leadership team has decided we will get some subcommittees together that will meet in the off months. This work is going to take more time and it needs to move fairly quickly.

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- Considerable discussion about reporting apps for students. A list of Apps being used in schools at this time are in the packet.
- Senate hearing next week on bullying.
- Kathy is hoping to be able to work on the legislation potential in a collaborative fashion.

## **Bully Task Force Recommendations**

Dr. Rick Ginsberg (PowerPoint)

We are very pleased that our work is being moved on to this council for action.

Current definition problem is in the court case Theno vs. Kansas. It states the bullying can be pervasive, repetitive or persistent. It does not require events that take place over time which should be required. It also needs to include language about a power imbalance.

Changing culture takes time. Any program a school wants to use needs fidelity of implementation and evidence of impact on student behavior. The council had a lot of discussion around restorative justice practices. Zero tolerance just doesn't work in bullying situations. Must address perpetrators, victims and bystanders. Requires a community effort and involvement.

Clear targets for improvement must be defined before changes are made so that progress can be measured. Schools must figure this out as they consider what work they need to do.

Cyberbullying must be address through families. Schools can hold awareness activities to involve families in both the problem that is occurring and the potential solutions. Include students in discussions about addressing cyberbullying.

This work directly ties into the Social Emotional and Character Development focus occurring in the state of Kansas.

Discussion:

- Rec. 6 – appreciate the inclusion of students in addressing issues. It made a big difference in Shawnee Mission schools when they involved students in finding solutions to the problem that was occurring.
- Beloit program is a system the teachers built for their students using PBIS and Boystown programs. It is a districtwide system that started at the high school.
- Bullying overlap with trauma informed care, suicide, and mental health. Did you look at those connections? The taskforce work is done but many would be willing to help this group move the work forward that now needs to occur.
- Role of teacher preservice programs – what are your thoughts? We felt it needs to be addressed in teacher prep programs. Deans of Education are discussing this subject and feel it needs to go through the professional standards board. Education is the only professional area that is impacted by the legislature when it comes to what is being taught.
- Mental health in the schools. Has there been research or study on how to impact the

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culture of schools? No. Paula Fite, KU, is working on research in this area but there is no conclusive research available at this time.

- KCTC survey – suggestions to review and look at the data. What other things do you think are important? There may be other tools that could be used. KCTC needs to be updated to be effective. Communities use this data to receive funding. Other opportunities could include, school climate surveys to identify area of need that we could learn from; need thoughtful discussions about outcomes, Identify and prioritize the outcomes being looked for and how we will access and measure it; Teacher perception data; involve kids in data collection in some way;
- KCTC, there is a lot of good information that comes from it. It needs to be opt out not an opt in system.
- Will need to get baseline data soon.
- Elementary, SW Kansas, seeing a lot more trauma and mental health. I'm hearing a lot about teacher training. We use PBIS. We have limited resources. Have you research or discussed more mental health involvement? Building in some guidelines around school counselor, psychologists, social worker, caseloads is important.
- Merging of school mental health, bullying, and teacher preparation. SMHI is one way we are working to build capacity. Trying to build systems to learn how to respond recognizing that tier 2 and 3 students will need more support that the school building can address on its own and will need the assistance of mental health centers. MTHI is another program working to connect schools and mental health providers.
- Rick has a superintendent circle he meets with. They discuss the current issues they need support addressing. Trauma informed care has been a hot topic for these conversations.

Thank you, Rick, James, and the whole taskforce, for your work. This council will be asking for your input and support as it moves forward with this work.

### **Social Work Presentation – Beccy Fast**

PowerPoint

Different licensing options and requirements of training and the roles each are prepared to play in the school setting. Are there recommendations this council should consider to improve our school programs?

- Importance of social worker in schools and families are now asking for the support and legislators are hearing how important they are. This is so exciting.
- Historically the involvement has fluctuated up and down.
- Seeing increasing needs for elementary students
- More residential care is becoming a necessity.
- Schools are a safety net for social needs of families.
- Continuum of services has suffered due to lack of funding.
- All social workers must pass the same test to become licensed. This is a nationwide requirement.
- Kansas passed a law last year that will allow social worker to be licensed in Kansas that

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are currently licensed in other states.

- BSW cannot bill insurances or Medicaid. They can work in a school to fill IEP requirements. Special Education directors understand the rules but general education may lack understanding.
- School counselors are often licensed through KSDE and BSRB to be professional counselors.
- Many counselors attending school are optioning for the licensed professional counselor.
- Disconnect is occurring because KSDE does not license social workers. Is this standard across the country? This is an issue with shortages of social workers in schools across the country. Many state legislatures are addressing changes due to this shortage.
- Need to be able to bill teletherapy.
- Medicare does not allow teletherapy.
- How do we address the high rate of retirees remaining active in the profession?

### **Suicide Awareness and prevention recommendations**

Myron

PowerPoint

- Our work is not completed. Myron shared an updated on what has been accomplished and what remains to be addressed.
- Differentiated training requirements remain to be addressed on the Jason Flatt Act training.
- Suicide Awareness – KCTC survey alignment with bullying, suicide prevention, and adjustments.
- We must continue the work of the training that is provided.

### **Council Role in Bullying Task Force Recommendations**

Kathy Busch

- Formation of Subcommittees to continue the work.
- The council leadership team met with Rick and James to outline the work.
- Handout on Subcommittee work
  - Include perpetrators with the victims and bystanders
  - Investigative process allowing local flexibility
  - Emphasize communication and collaboration to be sure everyone is aware of the processes
  - KSDE's KIAS system does collect data on discipline incidents including bullying. Need to strengthen current collection system to improve results as building self-report.
  - Strengthen and coordinate current data collection tools.
  - Gamify – data collection from students
  - Family perception of bullying in survey's
  - Climate survey? Randomize collection of teacher data.
  - Have we missed any of the task force recommendations in our subcommittee's

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- work? Please review and let us know if we have.
  - o Where does harassment enter into bullying situations. Need clarity on how to distinguish and look at them through the same lens.
  - o Must address adult behavior in schools
  - o Must include anyone in the building or involved with school activities.
  - o Harassment when does it become a legal issue? Individual incidents may be assault or battery but not be repetitive and constitute bullying.
  - o Copy of recommendations from Diane Gjerstad who was listening to legislative testimony.
- Looking for volunteers – please inform Laura
  - o 1Bullying definition – lead by Laura Jurgensen, John McKinney
  - o 2Development of prevention information and resources – Rachelle Soden, CMHC, Kelsee Torrez, Laura Marshall, Juliane Walker
  - o 3Policies and plans- Kathy K-), Susan McMahan, Cherie Blanchat
  - o 4Data – Juliane Walker willing.
  - o 5Cyberbullying – Law enforcement training center will have resources, students, telephone providers. Rachelle, Jose, Ronnie Lieurance? Suggested, Bark App. Social media contracts with student and parent.
- Subcommittees will meet in the off months to further the work. One organizational meeting and then committees may work separately. Use of zoom is an option for the subcommittee work.
- Diane anything but definition, Kathy any one committee. Jose picked 2 or 5, Shelby 2 or 3 preferred. Shirley any area where needed.

We will update today's handout and ask for clarification on volunteers. Look for an email soon following up on this work.

Legislature very busy next week. Reporting to committees will continue. Kent was asked to report back to house committee in April. We will inquire of testifying to the Senate next week on our plans. SB410.

### Council Member Updates

- o Bobby – KDADS has been holding meetings in western Kansas. Webinar on services results and recommendation on KDADS website. Availability of residential beds.
- o School Counselor Camp – Ken. May 26-27. Manhattan.
- o Diane – SMHT program – two forums legislatively. HB SB386. Expansion by 5 million dollars. Would change partnership to include other community center. No cost to parents. Representative Landwehr's bill in the house K-12 budget expands the current partnership financially by reducing the district match by 50%.

### Wrap-Up

- By-Law updates will be added to the next agenda.
- Transition into bullying taskforce recommendations – Kathy

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- o Subcommittees
- o Appreciate our volunteers. More information coming soon with updated information.
- o March meeting date for subcommittees  
30<sup>th</sup> in the afternoon probably 4 hours. 12:30-4:30. Location to be determined.  
Prepare for April meeting of full council.

Timeline for completion to Bullying work – Progress moving forward is the current goal. Each group will be different. Pieces will be completed at different rates. If legislative action occurs, it will impact the work required by the council.

Kathy will communicate with our legislative liaison and communicate our plans.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20PM.

For more information, contact:



Name Pat Bone  
 Title Sr. Administrative  
 Specialist  
 Team SETS  
 Phone 785-291-3097  
[pbone@ksde.org](mailto:pbone@ksde.org)

Kansas State Department of Education  
 900 S.W. Jackson Street, Suite 620  
 Topeka, Kansas 66612-1212  
[www.ksde.org](http://www.ksde.org)

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