

**Kansas School Mental Health Advisory Council**

**December 13, 2018**

**9:00 – 12:30 p.m.**

**Meeting:**

**Washburn Technical Institute**

**Topeka**

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order by Kathy Busch

**Members Present**

Bert Moore  
Dr. Jane Groff  
Judi Rodman  
Lara Bors  
Representative Russ Jennings  
Senator Mary Jo Taylor

Bobby Eklofe  
Dr. Ken Hughey  
Kathy Busch  
Leia Holley  
Representative Ed Trimmer  
Shirley Scott

Cherie Blanchat  
Holly Yager  
Kathy Mosher  
Rachelle Soden  
Ronny Lieurance

**Members Absent**

Annie McKay  
Dr. John Heim  
LeEtta Felter

Christie Appelhanz  
Dr. John McKinney  
Pam Weigand

Diane Gjerstad  
Kimber Kasitz  
Senator Pat Pettey

**KSDE Staff**

Laura Jurgensen  
Amy Martin  
Kent Reed

Kerry Haag  
Susan McMahan  
Myron Melton

Pat Bone  
John Calvert

**Guests**

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion to approve: Ronny Lieurance  
Motion second: Shirley Scott  
Action: Motion passed

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve: Bert Moore  
Motion second: Dr. Ken Hughey  
Action: Motion passed

**Public Comment:**

None Received.

**Safe Schools**

Susan McMahan and John Calvert, KSDE Update on Safe Schools work

2018 House Substitute for Senate Bill 109 provided funding to KSDE to employ two additional employees to review and evaluate school safety and security plans and provide technical assistance to school districts on these plans. Nine standards on school safety and security

have been developed. An Executive Council was created to collect input and work with stakeholder partners. The Council has approved the standards which have also been reviewed by law enforcement. The standards were shared with superintendents at the Council of Superintendents meeting in November. They were presented and received State Board approval on December 11, 2018.

**Safe and Secure School Standards:**

1. Critical infrastructure - barriers
2. Camera Systems Use
3. Communications System– between schools and local law enforcement
4. Communication with parents and community – consistency and pre-scripted messages development
5. Crisis Plan – working to develop plans and templates. Working with schools and school resource officers. Planning a full scale exercise in a district next week. Components to be included in plans:
  - a. Working for a standardization, template for use as districts choose.
  - b. What is your school doing and how is it responding?
  - c. Health care part
  - d. Hazard threats
    - i. Suicide detection and intervention
  - e. Natural hazards
  - f. Knowing how to build our schools and where in those schools to put our children in an emergency
  - g. Recovery from crisis
    - i. Psychological recovery
    - ii. Reunification
6. Training for staff and students on Crisis Plan
7. Crisis drills – 9 types, multi-hazard planning
8. Crisis Plan Collaboration at local level
9. Fire Arm safety
  - a. Local choice

Susan and John will continue working with Myron and Kent to coordinate efforts in the area of school and student safety.

Safe and Secure Schools Mission Statement – To assist school districts by helping them build solid foundations of readiness, security and resiliency to withstand ALL Hazards and anything man-made (intentional or unintentional).

**Discussion:**

- Do you work with Community Mental Health?
  - They will at the local level. We need the collaboration. These support systems are critical.
- Template – Is it a state template – Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) or state developed?
  - We are making choices from several resources. The Safe and Supportive Schools template used in the 2010-2013 time frame has been the most complete former document.
- Susan and John will do school safety walk troughs. Nothing will occur without relationships. We are working to develop these relationships with stakeholders involved in all areas of need.

- Can we follow you through on a school safety walkthrough to learn about the process?
- Kansas Highway Patrol Hazardous Devices Unit is also doing building threat assessments for free.
- Kansas Homeland Security, within the Adjutant General's Department, is also a resource.
- Please share the template developed with this council when it is completed. Template may be completed in February.

Please contact Susan or John for more information, presentations, or school walkthrough planning. Susan – [smcmahan@ksde.org](mailto:smcmahan@ksde.org) or John – [jcalvert@ksde.org](mailto:jcalvert@ksde.org)

Susan and John requested ideas on ways to share templates with our mental health partners.

### **School Mental Health Survey Results–**

Myron Melton

PowerPoint and Handout

- Kasey Monroe and Amy Gaumer-Erikson of our TASN Evaluation team, thanks to them for the evaluation of our survey results.
- Clarification to data on the community mental health center (CMHC) map in the handout. Only the main offices are on the map. Most of the CMHCs have satellite offices throughout their service areas.
- CMHCs can provide the speakers/facilitators for schools to use that are among the requested resources for what respondents say they need.
- From the last question on the survey, it is clear that schools are asking for help and resources.

### **Review of trends data from September meeting**

Myron Melton

PowerPoint

Review of recommendations discuss from the September meeting.

**Report on Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force** - Representative Jennings expressed gratitude to the Council and Jim Porter.

- We are thankful that all of you in education do what you do.
- Grateful for the learning provided through the Task Force and also this Council.
- Kids choosing suicide is on the increase and it is difficult to understand. We must start building our kids up from early on in school life because by middle school it is often too late.
- Solutions to suicide lie with three groups
  - Education
  - Community
  - Students
- Recognize signs of crisis and teach students to reach out in times of crisis.

### **Recommendations Discussion:**

- Create a Preventions Specialist within the Kansas Department for Health and Environment. Need to dedicate at least one full time dedicated person to youth suicide.
- Building on the three components to raise level of awareness and provide resources and tool kits to schools.

- Most times, other kids, will know before a suicide happens to another student but they lack information on how to communicate what they know and with whom to share that information.
- Barriers to accessing services. System to bypass, normal system of doing business to deal with emergency. One example was an “I need help card”, which is available in every classroom to be picked up and delivered to any adult without saying a word.
- Be sure that our recommendations include a strong component for the education community reaching out to the broad spectrum of people who deal with children’s health. There exists a natural fear of reaching out for help because they are having thoughts/feelings that are not “normal”. Stigma is a barrier they often can’t overcome alone. They need to learn how and when to reach out for help and we need to teach them these skills.
- The social emotional growth focus by the Kansas Commissioner and State Board of Education is so welcomed and needed to help our kids succeed.
- Suicide: Suicide is the second leading cause of death for our kids ages 15-19.
- Jason Flatt Act requires:
  - One hour of training for all staff annually.
  - Plan and protocol to prevent and deal with suicide.

### **January Kansas State Board of Education Meeting and Legislative Communication**

- Tiered training tied to re-licensure. Can some of these requirements be set up in electronic modules that when completed, help meet criteria for recertification? Work is beginning at KSDE for this to occur.
- Wednesday, January 15 State Board Presentation. Jane, Myron, and other volunteers to present – Bert Moore and Holly Yager. Everyone is invited to attend and support the presentation.
- Parent Access to information
  - Websites Etc..
- System that allows kids to send messages that go directly to district personnel to report stuff that may be going on with a peer or to ask for help.
- Suicide piece to crisis plan that Susan talked about. The specifics of the plan would be up to the district.
- Need to find a balance between allowing the districts to decide what is important and the sense of urgency that this is a public health crisis.
- Starting with a template protocol that districts and regions can have as tools that guides them through the process of developing their plan. This can be a starting place for districts even though it needs to go way beyond that. A template can be tailored to meet local needs.
- Social emotional growth State Board initiative along with the legislative pilot on mental health in schools is helping kids open up and start talking about suicide and mental health issues. Making it an everyday topic not one that is uncomfortable.
  - Continued emphasis on social emotional growth and onsite mental health support
  - Bridging the gap between school personnel and community mental health providers
- Kansas Communities That Care Survey –
  - Recommend that participation by each school be mandatory
  - Data is important in guiding us to where we need to focus our efforts
  - Recommend that parents be asked to opt out, not opt in

- Schools need additional screeners so intervention is possible
- Recommendations for students
  - Kansas Model Curricular Standards for Health Education include standards to support social and emotional health across all grade levels
  - Recommend that suicide prevention training be a part of the Kansas Model Curricular Standards for Health Education
  - Students learn about suicide prevention as a standard of education
  - Student to student - how do they respond, what do they do?
- Recommendations for Families
  - Recommend that we get information to families and parents
  - Making sure families are considered in all recommendations. Family is part of the system and that we see their value in the discussion

Abuse and Neglect Recommendation:

- Require training on requirements associated with being a mandated reporter.
- Training on signs of abuse and neglect inclusive of all types of abuse, human trafficking and grooming.
- District coaching and support protocol on what to do or how to report.
- Tiered approach to training based on staff role.
- Children need to know who they can talk to when they themselves or one of their peers is being abused.

Legislative Work

- Presentations to Senate and House Education Committees and House K–12 Education Budget Committee.
- A possible presentation to the House Health and Human Services Committee

January 15, 2019 Kansas State Board of Education meeting

- Jane, Myron, Bert, and Holly have volunteered to present to the board.

**Next Meeting**

February 14, 2019

Topics for possible agenda items.

- Next steps discussion after the recommendations have been made.
- Training supports
- Protocols
- What are the next steps for this council?
  - Presentation from the KSDE Technical Assistance System Network School Mental Health Initiative supports and professional development being developed
  - School mental health pilot group created by the 2018 Kansas Legislature report working with and developing partnerships to break down barriers between bureaucratic institutions. Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) discussion to continue.

Meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm