

Mental Health Modernization and Reform Committee – Working Group Charter

Discussion Draft

Purpose

The Special Committee on Mental Health Modernization and Reform (the Committee) was tasked to analyze the state's behavioral health system to ensure that both inpatient and outpatient services are accessible in communities, review the capacity of current behavioral health workforce, study the availability and capacity of crisis centers and substance abuse facilities, assess the impact of recent changes to state policies on the treatment of individuals with behavioral health needs; and make recommendations on steps needed to make Kansas a nationwide leader on behavioral health delivery, specifically focusing on how Kansas should modernize its behavioral health delivery system.

To achieve this directive, the Committee established three working groups related to Finance and Sustainability; Policy and Treatment; and System Capacity and Transformation. The three working groups will work in between each of the Committee meetings and report back on progress as requested. The Committee will determine what information from the working groups is included in a final product to the legislature. In addition to this determination on final products, the Committee will also provide leadership to the working groups through the development of a guiding vision statement for the final product, the identification of key performance indicators to be included in a final product and input on any criteria that should inform the priorities put forward by the working groups.

Scope

- Finance and Sustainability – workforce, funding and accessibility, community engagement
- Policy and Treatment – prevention and education, treatment and recovery, special populations
- System Capacity and Transformation – data systems, interaction with the legal system and law enforcement, system transformation

Note: Topics as designated in crosswalk of behavioral health and mental health recommendations. Any additional topics identified by the Committee should be assigned to a work group.

Related to each of these topics the working groups will review and update past recommendations, additionally the working groups may identify new recommendations as needed. All recommendations will seek to include the following:

- Identified policy mechanism through which the recommendation could be made actionable
- Available notes related to net costs that may affect the feasibility of implementation
- Identify collaborating partners to ensure effective implementation
- Available notes related to equity or sustainability that should inform how recommendation implementation is prioritized
- Address any known barriers related to the implementation of the recommendation

Working groups will seek to make recommendations to promote health, equity and sustainability, support cross-sector collaboration, define mutually beneficial goals, engage stakeholders and create structural change.

Product

The working groups will share a summary of their work for consideration by the Committee in their final product. It is expected that the final product from the Committee will provide long-term strategic direction for the modernization and reform of the mental health system in Kansas. This final product is also anticipated to have immediate, near term action steps to support the implementation of this plan.

Membership

Membership in working groups will be voluntary. Working group membership may be considered in the following categories.

- **Chair and Vice Chair:** The Chair and the Vice Chair of the group should be identified from among the content experts included in the working group. Working group staff may consult with the Chair and Vice Chair when timely decisions must be made about agenda and other meeting logistics. The Chair and Vice Chair should be ready to volunteer to present to the Committee on the product and process of their working group.
- **Content Experts:** Content experts on the working group should aim to participate with the goal of sharing information related to their expertise and using that expertise to ask questions of others in the group. Content experts may be asked to present information shared in the working groups with the full Committee.
- **Legislature:** Members of the special committee could volunteer to participate in the meetings of the working groups as consultants with the goal of gathering information that may inform the final prioritization provided by the committee. Legislative expertise will be especially valuable to the working groups in identifying policy levers by which the aims identified by content experts may be achieved.

Individuals with supplemental expertise (e.g., state agency staff) may be invited to attend the working group to provide information as appropriate.

Operating Process

Each working group will be guided by the following operational processes.

- Active virtual engagement
- Consensus-based decision making
- Virtual meetings up to two-times per month
- Review relevant reports and materials ahead of meetings
- Come ready to discuss and compromise
- Working groups will be live streamed to allow for public viewing and relevant materials to the meeting will be shared with members and stakeholders
- Working group may set other ground rules as needed to support their effective collaboration