

The KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative

(KMMC) was created out of a desire to better understand how KanCare is performing.

KanCare is the state’s comprehensive managed care program that combines Medicaid and the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP). While it has been in existence since 2013, there are differing views of how well the program is meeting its goals from the perspective of the state, the consumers enrolled in the program and other key stakeholders. There is a shared desire for more timely and accessible data that can show how well the program is meeting the needs of Kansans.

KMMC is a coalition of KanCare consumers, stakeholders, researchers and state staff whose goal is not to evaluate the KanCare program, but instead to establish consensus around which data and metrics are most needed to better understand the performance of the program.

Meaningful Measures

Hundreds of metrics are produced each year from KanCare data, many to meet federal requirements or to include in the KanCare evaluation reports. While all of these data are important, the sheer volume of information can make it difficult for stakeholders to find key metrics that help them to better understand how KanCare is performing. Furthermore, some important outcome measures are not publicly reported, making it difficult to know how well KanCare is meeting the needs of vulnerable Kansans.

One purpose of KMMC is to establish consensus around a smaller set of measures – Meaningful Measures – that are important to KanCare stakeholders. Additionally, KMMC seeks to foster understanding of current KanCare data and to build capacity to generate and use data effectively, even across administrations. Ultimately, these purposes seek to ensure that taxpayer funds are being invested effectively and efficiently in KanCare so that the program appropriately serves its more than 400,000 members.

Working Groups

Members of KMMC participate in one of two working groups:

- The Stakeholder Working Group, comprised of individuals with a variety of experiences and perspectives with KanCare, help identify and prioritize questions about the performance of the program.

- The Data Resources Working Group, comprised of experts in measurement and data analysis, assesses data sources for feasibility, comparability and other key attributes and identifies measures that can be used to answer the questions raised by the Stakeholder Working Group. In examining data sources and metrics, this working group develops recommendations for Meaningful Measures and places them into three categories: Existing Meaningful Measures, New Meaningful Measures and Other Recommendations (right).

Each KMMC cycle begins with consumer engagement to identify priorities. These priorities are then discussed by the Stakeholder Working Group and shared with the Data Resources Working Group. The two groups exchange information continuously to identify and prioritize possible Meaningful Measures and develop recommendations.

Through this process, KMMC members have identified nine initial priority topic areas – Enrollee Treatment, Quality Assurance, Care Coordination, Social Determinants of Health, Access to Health Care, Pregnancy Outcomes, Network Adequacy and Setting of Choice.

Learn More

KMMC has published three reports to highlight a subset of the Existing Meaningful Measures identified for three priority topic areas – Pregnancy Outcomes, Care Coordination and Network Adequacy. These reports are intended to provide examples of the work of KMMC, and may not provide a full picture of KanCare performance in any given area. Information on data sources also is presented for each topic, to support interpretation of the metrics presented.

Existing Meaningful Measures
These measures already exist across public KanCare reports.
New Meaningful Measures
These measures are not currently available in public KanCare reports and can be classified into three groups:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data are available but require additional resources to construct the measures. • Data are not available but could be adapted from measures developed elsewhere. • Data are not available and measures have not been developed elsewhere.
Other Recommendations
Further study and investment in these areas are strongly encouraged to address data limitations and other issues related to methodology.