

For additional information contact:

Aaron Dunkel & Sydney McClendon
KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative
212 SW Eighth Avenue
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3936
Tel. 785.233.5443
Email: KMMC@khi.org
Website: www.kmmcddata.org

**Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and
KanCare Oversight**

February 28, 2020

An Update on the KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative

**Aaron Dunkel
Executive Committee Chair
KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative**

The KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative (KMMC) is a collaborative effort of stakeholders created out of a desire to better understand KanCare. The goal of the KMMC is to bring together KanCare consumers, stakeholders, researchers and state agency staff to increase the visibility, credibility, validity and usefulness of information broadly available about KanCare. The KMMC is facilitated by the Kansas Health Institute and supported by a grant from The REACH Healthcare Foundation.

Chair Landwehr and Members of the Committee:

The KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative (KMMC) thanks you for your continued interest in this effort. The KMMC welcomes the opportunity to provide you with a written update on our work ahead of our meeting on March 2nd, after which the KMMC will have a substantive update regarding recommendations on meaningful measures for the KanCare program.

KanCare Meaningful Measures Collaborative

The KMMC was created out of a desire to better understand how KanCare, the Kansas Medicaid program, is performing. The goal of the KMMC is not to evaluate the KanCare program, but instead to establish consensus around high priority, meaningful metrics by bringing together KanCare consumers, stakeholders, researchers and state agency staff.

For additional information on the KMMC, its members and past and present meetings, please visit KMMCCdata.org.

Progress on Priority Topics

The KMMC has been developing recommendations regarding its first four priority topics, which include: care coordination; network adequacy; pregnancy outcomes; and social determinants of health. For each of the prioritized topic areas, small task groups assessed what measures are currently available to address the topic areas, available data sources, limitations with existing data sources and measures, and gaps in existing data sources and measures. Initial assessments of available measures and data sources for three of the four topics can be found at the following link, as presented in the November 2019 KMMC meeting: <https://bit.ly/2HU1JmT>.

Each task group has developed recommendations for their topic area that fit within one of the following three categories:

1. *Existing Meaningful Measures*: These meaningful measures already exist across public KanCare reports.
2. *New Meaningful Measures*: These measures are not currently available in public KanCare reports and can be classified into three groups (below). Methodology for these new meaningful measures can be developed to ensure consistency and transparency.
 - a. Data are available in KanCare but require additional resources to construct the measures.
 - b. Data are not available in KanCare but could be adapted from existing measures developed for the federal program or in other states.
 - c. Data are not available in KanCare and measures have not been developed for the federal program or in other states.
3. *Other Recommendations*: Further study and investment in these areas are strongly encouraged to address data limitations and other issues related to methodology.

The recommendations developed by each task group will be reviewed and discussed by the KMMC at its March 2nd meeting.

Consumer Engagement

Part of the KMMC prioritization process has included working with organizations to solicit input from current KanCare consumers, often via in-person or phone interviews. To help prioritize its next round of work, the KMMC completed a second phase of consumer engagement in October 2019. The effort included partnerships with six organizations and reached more than 135 consumers across the state. Participating consumers represented various populations, including mothers, mental health consumers, older adults, and people with disabilities. Consumers were asked a set of nine questions, to assess what is important to consumers about KanCare, what benefits they have experienced with the program, potential challenges, etc.

Key findings from the report include:

- Similar themes emerged from consumer responses as the previous round of KMMC consumer engagement. This includes themes like:
 - Affordability/coverage of services;
 - Availability of services;
 - Communication;
 - Transportation; and
 - Living in community/independence/quality of life.
- A new theme emerged regarding eligibility.

While these findings provide helpful information for the KMMC to consider in its prioritization process, they should not be considered to reflect the views and experiences of all KanCare consumers due to the use of a convenience sample.

The full fall 2019 consumer engagement report can be accessed here: <https://bit.ly/2HMIFHf>