

Data Systems Recommendation 7.5: Cross-Agency Data [Strategic Importance]

Recommendation: Encourage state agencies to develop policies that improve their ability to access and review cross-agency data for making service and program decisions based on a thorough, shared needs assessment.	
Rationale: A version of this recommendation was originally developed by the Prevention Subcommittee of the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council. Improved processes and policies on sharing data across agencies could lead to improved prevention efforts across the state, help establish common goals across agencies and increase efficiency. Additionally, it could highlight gaps in care for some vulnerable populations that are served by multiple agencies.	
Ease of Implementation (Score 1-10): 6	Potential for High Impact (Score 1-10): 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could require systems and agency memoranda of understanding to implement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could impact a large population. • Could lead to increased efficiencies and improve decision making by highlighting needs across systems.
Measuring Impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More work is needed to identify measures appropriate to capture the impact of this recommendation. 	
Action Lead: KDADS	Key Collaborators: KDHE, DCF, KDOC, KSDE

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Interactions with Legal System and Law Enforcement

Through collaboration among the legal system, law enforcement and others in an interdisciplinary behavioral health team, a modernized behavioral health system has the ability to make timely connections for individuals in crisis to services in the least restrictive setting appropriate to ensure safety. A modernized approach will increase treatment options for justice-involved adults and youth. Training will be made available to law enforcement officers, the courts and others in the legal system to increase awareness of mental health issues and to support timely connection to treatment opportunities. Treatment opportunities will include those for a full spectrum of behavioral health issues include mental health and substance use disorder (SUD). More collaboration between the criminal justice system and behavioral health professionals will be needed to ensure this. Sufficient community support services, such as housing, will also be necessary to maintain clients in least restrictive setting possible while maintaining safety. Key strategies may include expanding crisis intervention teams (CIT) and crisis centers so that first responders have robust and efficient options for responding to mental

health crises, expanding specialty courts, utilizing robust data system to help communities identify high utilizers of crisis services so that those individuals can be connected to services.

Recommendations

The Working Group advanced four high priority recommendations for interactions with the legal system and law enforcement, with three highlighted for immediate action and one for strategic importance.

Interactions with Legal System and Law Enforcement Recommendation 8.1: Correctional Employees [Immediate Action]

Recommendation: Expand training provided in correctional facilities to allow employees to better recognize those with substance use disorders, use a trauma-informed approach to identify other mental health needs, and connect those with needs to available services.	
Rationale: A version of this recommendation was originally developed by the Governor's Substance Use Disorders Task Force. ³⁵ The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) has existing training for employees of correctional facilities, and implementation of this recommendation would expand the current reach and breadth of those trainings for employees throughout the justice system. While the current training largely focuses on mental health, the Working Group spoke to the importance of educating employees on substance use disorders and incorporating a trauma-informed approach to identification of mental health needs. Expanding these trainings will require additional financial resources, and they should be offered on a consistent and ongoing basis.	
Ease of Implementation (Score 1-10): 8	Potential for High Impact (Score 1-10): 9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require an expansion of existing training efforts. • Would be a low-cost recommendation. • Could require changes to grant cycles, state agency contracts and agency budget development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would benefit a large population. • Would benefit urban, rural and frontier communities. • Could generate cost savings by reducing recidivism, if individuals are connected to treatment.
Measuring Impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percent of unit team counselors working in a correctional facility that received training on substance abuse programs and services • Number and percent of staff working in a correctional facility that received trauma informed training 	
Action Lead: KDADS	Key Collaborators: KDOC, local law enforcement agencies.

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Interactions with Legal System and Law Enforcement Recommendation 8.2: Criminal Justice Reform Commission Recommendations [Immediate Action]

Recommendation: Implement recommendations developed by the Criminal Justice Reform Commission (CJRC) related to specialty courts (e.g., drug courts) and develop a process for regular reporting on implementation status and outcomes.	
Rationale: This recommendation was newly developed by the System Capacity and Transformation Working Group. This recommendation was developed to recognize the value of aligning efforts to modernize the behavioral health system with parallel efforts related to criminal justice reform in the CJRC. The Working Group was particularly supportive of the CJRC recommendation to expand pre- and post-charge diversion sobriety and treatment options for first time, non-violent, simple drug possession charges.	
Ease of Implementation (Score 1-10): 5	Potential for High Impact (Score 1-10): 8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost could be a barrier to implementation. • Would require training of courts and judicial staff. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendation could produce cost savings through reducing KDOC population and connecting individuals to treatment services in a more timely manner.
Measuring Impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and percent of judicial districts with one or more specialty courts (by type) • Consider tracking goals and outcomes using KDOC's soon to be ATHENA system 	
Action Lead: Legislature	Key Collaborators: KDADS, KDOC

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Interactions with Legal System and Law Enforcement Recommendation 8.3: Law Enforcement Referrals [Immediate Action]

<p>Recommendation: Increase utilization and development of evidence-based SUD referral as well as treatment and recovery services among persons with law enforcement contact, which could include securing funding to increase access to services for this population.</p>	
<p>Rationale: A version of this recommendation was originally developed by the Governor's Substance Use Disorders Task Force.³⁶ Additionally, this recommendation is in alignment with recommendations from the Kansas Pre-Trial Justice Task Force that focus on behavioral health issues.³⁷ The Working Group discussed the value of this recommendation in highlighting the particular need for substance use disorder (SUD) treatment among those individuals with law enforcement contact. This recommendation could be co-implemented with Recommendation 2.3 toward the goal of installing the Certified Community Behavioral Health clinics (CCBHC) model in Kansas as a requirement of the CCBHC model is the development of partnerships between behavioral health providers and law enforcement.</p>	
<p>Ease of Implementation (Score 1-10): 5</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would require a program change and implementation of new programs. • Cost would be a barrier to implementation but would be needed to support new programs. 	<p>Potential for High Impact (Score 1-10): 6</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would have a high impact for those individuals who would benefit. • Would address disparities, as this recommendation would provide the opportunity for individuals to be connected to services who are missing that opportunity in the current system.
<p>Measuring Impact:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More work is needed to identify measures appropriate to capture the impact of this recommendation. 	
<p>Action Lead: KDOC</p>	<p>Key Collaborators: KDADS, providers</p>

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Interactions with Legal System and Law Enforcement Recommendation 8.4: Defining Crossover Youth Population. [Strategic Importance]

Recommendation: Future efforts should include behavioral health within an operationalized definition for youth with offender behaviors at risk of entering foster care, as well as including diverted youth in the definition of the broader juvenile offender population.	
Rationale: A version of this recommendation was originally developed by the Crossover Youth Working Group. ³⁸ Building upon the work of that group, this recommendation highlights the importance of having a clear definition for which individuals fit within the crossover youth population and incorporating behavioral health within the definition. Understanding the behavioral health needs of individuals dually involved with the juvenile justice and child welfare systems will be critical to serving that population.	
Ease of Implementation (Score 1-10): 7	Potential for High Impact (Score 1-10): 6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost would not be a barrier to implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the needs of the crossover youth population will be important to have a high impact on those individuals.
Measuring Impact:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of crossover youth 	
Action Lead: KDOC, KDADS	Key Collaborators: DCF

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System Transformation

A modernized system will work both in evidence-based treatment and prevention with focus on the patients to address a continuum of needs. Transformation will result in a mission driven, rationally funded and outcome-oriented system of providers that uses data as an asset to identify problems and develop solutions. An important strategy for system transformation will be addressing the continuum of care to ensure an integrated and coordinated approach to care delivery. The System Capacity and Transformation Working Group also discussed barriers related to cross system collaboration, infrastructure changes, and Medicaid payment for services to families.

Recommendations

The Working Group advanced five high priority recommendations for system transformation, with three highlighted for immediate action and two for strategic importance.