



SOCCEED, Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters

Meeting Summary for 4-21-26

Next Meeting is: 5-19-26

Thank you to everyone who attended the meeting and/or provided information before, during, or after. The information shared today will have a positive impact on all our communities. Thank you also for the many great questions and comments that generated some excellent discussions.

The following is a summary of today's meeting:

Our April meeting in keeping with the theme for 2026, "Create Don't Wait" focused on some of the most impactful, life-changing, and supportive services right here in our very own communities. April is also "Minority Health Awareness Month" and this was the focus of the SOC. More specifically, presentations focused on health disparities from multiple perspectives and groups as well as discussions about gaps in services, resources, and how we can begin to close these noted inequities. Health issues are community issues because when a community is healthy, it prospers.

The following was our first presentation:

- **Nathan James, Senior Program Health Specialist and Angel Surdin, Chief Officer of Minority Health Equities: MO DHSS**
 - Nathan.James@health.mo.gov and Angel.Surdin@health.mo.gov
 - <https://health.mo.gov/>
 - The slide deck from Nathan's presentation will be posted to the SOC's website once available.
 - Discussed was the organization's mission, values, and strategic plan to close health care disparities.
 - Dashboards, health literacy initiatives, social drivers of health, and more were reviewed.
 - <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/minorityhealth/sdh-dashboard.php>
 - Various webinars related to health care and disparities were highlighted.

- Community engagement, how to and importance of were presented.
- Additional helpful resources were cited.
- The Health Equity Stakeholders meeting was discussed.

Our second presenter was:

- **Dan Crenshaw, Executive Director of the KC Health Collaborative**
 - dan.cranshaw@kchealthcollaborative.org
 - <https://www.kchealthcollaborative.org/>
 - Dan's slide deck and any additional materials will be posted to the SOC's website once available.
 - Reviewed were health care disparities amongst the races.
 - Algorithms embedded in health care systems that can drastically alter the care someone receives were discussed.
 - Discussed was the fact that people from two different races can present with the same symptoms and be perceived and treated differently. These delays in care worsen health issues.
 - What we as individuals and providers can do to close these disparities was discussed.
 - The average span of life can vary widely by zip code and race. Two examples were reviewed and possible reasons for such.

Our third presenter was:

- **Alea Surrender, Director of Public Health Services: Mattie Rhodes Center**
- asurender@mattierhodes.org
- <https://mattierhodes.org/>
- Alea's slide deck from her presentation will be posted to the SOC's website once available.
- This presentation looked at health care disparities in the Latino/Hispanic community.
- Discussed were social determinants of health.
- Public health services available at Mattie Rhodes were reviewed.
- Objectives to close health care disparities were discussed.
- Data was examined and themes noted.
- Action items were presented.

Our final presenter was:

- **Jade Byrd, Director of the Developmental Disabilities Health Home and Tommica Pope with Fire Fly Services.**

- jade.byrd@fireflyservices.org and tommica.pope@fireflyservices.org
- <https://www.fireflyservices.org/>
- The slide deck from this presentation will be posted to the SOC's website once available.
- Jade focused on health care disparities and resources for people with developmental disabilities.
- Specific services that can be provided were presented as well as how to access them.
- The impact that tax and related cuts will have and how this will increase health care disparities amongst people with disabilities were discussed.
- Additional resources were given.

The following resources were shared during or after the meeting:

1. I (Jennifer) reported on some additional related resources that are included with this summary.
2. As summer approaches, the SOC can again provide assistance with fees and some 100% sponsorships of kids to go to favorite camps or get to do a specific activity. Please reach out if you know of someone that could use some help!
3. We will have more gas cards available by the end of the month. Please though reach out at any time if you are serving a person or family that has some sort of need.
4. Dorian Sugar, Cass County reported that Cass County Project Connect is on June 26th. This is a one day public health service event for under-served adults. This will be from 9-3 at Belton High School: 801 W. North Avenue, Belton. For vendor and other information, please contact Donovan Bock: 660-287-3909.
- 5.

News from the Geiger Gibson Program in Community Health

Dear Colleague,

Community health centers (CHCs) play an essential role in caring for both young children and teens, providing comprehensive primary care, behavioral health care, and dental care in low-income and medically underserved communities. In 2024,

CHCs served about 1 in 8 U.S. children, offering access in rural and urban communities across America. School-based health centers (SBHCs) play an important role in this landscape by reducing barriers to essential services.

Today, there are more than 4,300 CHC-operated SBHC sites, and CHCs account for about 60% of all school-based health centers nationally. In 2024, CHC grantee-operated SBHCs served nearly 1.2 million children, an increase of 80% from 2020. In addition to increasing access to care, school-based care helps reduce absenteeism and supports student engagement. While the recent growth of SBHC supports improved access and outcomes for children, Medicaid funding cuts could threaten their sustainability and future growth.

Read our latest story on CHroniCles, [CHC School-Based Health Centers Grow, Expanding Essential Access to High-Quality, Low-Cost Care](#)

A related infographic on the important role of CHCs in providing care for children is here, [Community Health Centers: Supporting the Health of America's Children](#)

Please share these updates widely and reach out to us with comments or questions.

Thank you,

The Geiger Gibson Team

We hope you share this news with a friend. If you would like to opt out or subscribe to receive our future emails, please do so below.

[Click here to visit our website](#)


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FREE WEBINAR THIS THURSDAY

6.

Webinar Title:

Beyond Survival: The Life You Build After Trauma

 **Thursday, April 23rd, 2026**

 **12 p.m. – 1 p.m. Central**

Presenter:

Kaleb Stoppel

Description:

Trauma does not end when the moment is over. For many, that is where a different kind of journey begins.

In this session, I share my experience as a former school administrator who survived a school shooting and the reality of rebuilding life in the aftermath. While survival is often recognized and celebrated, far less attention is given to what follows. The identity shifts. The emotional challenges. The slow and intentional process of healing.

Through personal storytelling and reflection, this presentation offers insight into how trauma continues to impact individuals long after the event, and how we can better support those navigating life after trauma.



METRO COUNCIL

FREE WEBINAR

Beyond Survival: The Life You Have to Rebuild After Trauma

 **Thursday 4/23**

 **12pm - 1pm CST**

MentalHealthKC.org

**Presented by:
Kaleb Stoppel**

Meet the Presenter:

[Kaleb Stoppel](#) is an author, speaker, and mental health advocate who shares his journey of surviving a school shooting and rebuilding life in its aftermath. He is the author of *One Step at a Time: Surviving a School Shooting, Rebuilding My Life, and Rediscovering What Matters Most*, a book written to help others feel less alone in their own struggles. A former assistant principal and athletic director, Kaleb now speaks to organizations and communities about resilience, mental health, and the power of human connection. Through his work, he aims to be a resource for others and to remind them that healing is possible, one step at a time.

[Register Here](#)

7. (See next page):

MENTAL HEALTH KC CONFERENCE 2026

Presented by Metropolitan Council of Community Mental Health Centers

Registration Now Open!



REGISTER NOW FOR THE MENTAL HEALTH KC CONFERENCE

MAY 28TH - 29TH 2026

[Find our more here!](#)

Registration is open for the Mental Health KC 2026 Conference, taking place May 28–29 at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS.

For more than a decade, the Mental Health KC Conference has been one of the region's premier gatherings for anyone committed to advancing mental health awareness and reducing stigma in the Kansas City community.

Registration Pricing

Early Bird (now through May 10).....\$60

Late/On-Site Registration.....\$80

CEUs (optional add-on)..... +\$30

[Register Today!](#)



8.

[View this email in your browser](#)



Child Care Providers in NW KS

Join Links to Quality — A FREE Continuous Quality Improvement Program for Child Care Providers

You work hard every day to care for children and support families.

[Links to Quality is here to support your growth.](#)

Through this free program, you can:

- ✓ Strengthen your business practices and daily operations
- ✓ Build stronger partnerships with families
- ✓ Discover practical strategies to support children's growth
- ✓ Boost health and safety confidence in your program
- ✓ Make your day-to-day work easier and more efficient

Our team walks alongside you with personalized guidance and practical tools — all at no cost.

If you're ready to grow your program and feel more supported, we'd love to connect.

Reply to this email or contact us today to get started with Links to Quality.

[Learn More](#)

[Email Us](#)



Providing statewide leadership that builds a diverse, high-quality child care system.

The next SOC meeting is scheduled for **May 19th at 1 p.m. on Webex**. The focus will be on summer programming and resources so that children and families may have a safe,

educational, and fun summer. There will also be a wonderful presentation about TFH's or Treatment Family Homes and what supports that they can provide to families in need of behavioral health supports.

Thank you for everything that you do and have done for the SOC. Please never hesitate to reach out if we may be of assistance!

Sincerely,

Jennifer L. L'Heureux, Ph.D.

**Systems of Care in Community Emergent Events and Disasters-Chair
(www.jacksoncountysoc.com)**

Chief of Children's Community Operations-MO DMH-DBH

Jennifer.LHeureux@dmh.mo.gov

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