

Wichita Marriott, 9100 Corporate Hills Drive, Wichita, KS 67207

8th Annual Kansas Prevention Collaborative Conference

**VOICES OF
PREVENTION**
SHARING STORIES; CREATING IMPACT

Wichita,
KS

Oct. 16-17, 2025
Pre-Conference: Oct. 15, 2025



**KANSAS PREVENTION
COLLABORATIVE**



Department for Aging
and Disability Services

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Opening Keynote



Voices of Prevention

SHARING STORIES; CREATING IMPACT

This year's theme, "Voices of Prevention: Sharing Stories; Creating Impact," comes to life through the powerful stories of four leaders working to create change in their communities. In this opening keynote, speakers will share personal and professional experiences that highlight resilience, innovation, and the power of connection. Their voices reflect the strength of our collective mission to prevent substance use and misuse, promote mental wellness, and build healthier communities across Kansas.

Keynote Speakers



Monica Forrest

B B A

Monica Forrest is a long time Kansas resident and alum of Wichita State University. She obtained her Bachelor of Business Administration in 1992 and has worked in various marketing and sales positions since that time. Sobriety led to roles in the addiction treatment industry beginning in 2017. The last 8 years was spent at Holland Pathways and Valley Hope respectively. Most currently she is enjoying work as Director of Marketing and Business Development at a rural hospital. Monica is currently pursuing a Master's degree from Washburn which will allow her to become a Licensed Master's Addiction Counselor. Monica is married and has 3 adult children and two furry pets.



Monica Kurz

L M S W

Chief Administrative Officer, HealthSource Integrated Solutions

Monica Kurz is a lifelong Kansan and Social Worker who has spent her career working in the behavioral health system in the state. Her experience includes roles providing clinical services to consumers as well as those in prevention and administration. Monica has dedicated much of her career to implementing innovative programs across the state of Kansas, including the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. Her dedication to suicide prevention grew out of her own experiences with suicide loss and mental illness, which have shown her firsthand the importance of connection and community. Outside of work, Monica is the proud mother of two and enjoys reading, gardening, and hosting her large extended family with good food and fun.

Keynote Speakers



Dave Sotelo

Director of Strategic Growth, City of Hutchinson

David Sotelo is the Director of Strategic Growth for the City of Hutchinson. He leads the City's strategic initiatives, including housing, economic development, and human relations. His background includes seminary studies, youth programming, and advocacy through community-based roles. Dave first became passionate for community-led change as a youth leader for RiseUp Reno. He spent time in the prevention world in roles at PARS Topeka and then returned to RiseUp Reno. David's journey from Mexico to Hutchinson is a story of adversity and finding safety in a new community. David draws from his lived experience to build inclusive communities where everyone belongs and has the opportunity to thrive.



Kimberly L. Freese

M P A, L A C, C P S

CEO, Via Positiva Center for Behavioral Health Innovation

Kimberly Freese (Kim) is a passionate and experienced leader in the behavioral health field, with a career that spans over three decades. Kim is dedicated to serving individuals, communities and systems impacted by substance use and mental health challenges. She brings both clinical and policy expertise to her role as CEO of the Via Positiva Center for Behavioral Health Innovation, where she focuses on transforming systems of care through financing, policy, and innovative service delivery.

Kim began her career providing direct care in women's and children's residential programs, eventually taking on executive leadership roles in correctional, residential, and outpatient behavioral health settings. Her leadership journey continued in state government, where she played a pivotal role in shaping Medicaid policy as the Behavioral Health Medicaid Coordinator for Kansas. Ultimately as the Director of Managed Care for the state, she helped develop and lead major initiatives, including a 1915(b)/(c) managed care waiver, a statewide integrated managed care model under an 1115 demonstration waiver, and later, Health Homes for those with serious mental illness and other chronic conditions.

Kim served as the Region 7 Director for the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) from 2015 to 2025, working across Kansas, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, and nine tribal nations. There, she helped advance behavioral health systems through collaboration, innovation, and federal leadership. Kim loves system level work.

Kim holds a bachelor's degree in Sociology and a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Kansas. She is a Licensed Addictions Counselor, a Certified Peer Support Specialist, and a person thriving in long-term recovery—something she brings to her work with both humility and purpose. She's also a mentor at heart, known for building strong teams and lifting others up.

Closing Keynote



Still Here:

RESILIENCE AND BUILDING BACK BETTER

In this powerful keynote, Justin G. Maffett—corporate lawyer, advocate, and multimedia storyteller—shares his lived experience with mental health challenges and the quiet, daily work of resilience. Opening with his autobiographical short *The Wildest Pearl*, Justin reflects on navigating bipolar disorder, rebuilding after crisis, and the courage it takes not just to survive—but to reclaim life with purpose. This closing session calls on attendees to consider how we build back better—individually, in community, and in systems of care—and what it truly means to say, “I’m still here. For me, the only way out was through.”

Closing Speaker



Justin Maffett

J.D.

Justin Maffett is a corporate lawyer, multimedia writer, advocate, and public speaker with a background spanning top law firms, journalism, and public service. He currently serves as the Assistant General Counsel for Corporate Governance at Ferguson Enterprises, a Fortune-500 company based in his home state of Virginia. Featured in the book, *Profiles in Mental Health Courage* (Chapter 5), by Rep. Patrick Kennedy and Stephen Fried, Justin’s other creative work—including *The Wildest Pearl*, an autobiographical short, and keynote speeches—explores mental health, resilience, and building back better. Justin earned a bachelor’s in government, with honors, from Dartmouth College and a Doctor of Law from Columbia Law School.



2025 Conference Agenda

Wednesday

OCTOBER 15, 2025

12:00 PM Pre-Conference Registration

1:00 PM Tell Me Your Story, I'm All Ears: Bringing Prevention to Life Through Storytelling
Atrium **(Ending at 5:00 PM)**

Steve Miller, CRPS

This workshop addresses the need for more authentic, relatable messaging in substance misuse prevention by equipping professionals with storytelling skills that make prevention real and memorable. A common challenge is to connect emotionally with audiences—this training helps close that gap. Participants will explore their personal “why,” identify impactful stories from experience, and learn how to structure and share those stories with clarity and purpose. Through guided reflection, peer feedback, and storytelling practice, participants will develop tools to humanize prevention efforts, engage communities, and reduce stigma—bringing the message of prevention to life for those who need to hear it.

This session is sponsored by the Opioid Response Network.

1:00 PM Amplifying Positive Social Norms for Prevention
Salons A-C **(Ending at 5:00 PM)**

Nicole Luciani, ICPS, CKM

Are you interested in incorporating positive social norms messages into your existing prevention efforts? Do you have an existing campaign that you want to strengthen? Join us for a hands-on workshop to support prevention practitioners in amplifying the positive community behaviors and values common in their community to reinforce protective factors against substance use. We'll consider why perceptions matter, how a social norms campaign can tie a multi-pronged prevention campaign together, important implementation science principles, and we'll practice drafting data-driven norm statements and campaign ideas.

This session is sponsored by the Mid-America Prevention Technology Transfer Center.



2025 Conference Agenda

Thursday

OCTOBER 16, 2025

7:30 AM Registration and Breakfast

8:30 AM Welcome

*Kansas
Grand
Ballroom*

Chad Childs, Prevention Initiatives Manager, Wichita State University
Janell Stang, Community Program Specialist, Wichita State University

Opening Remarks

**Drew Adkins, Behavioral Health Services Commissioner,
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services**

Opening Keynote - Voices of Prevention: Sharing Stories; Creating Impact

Monica Forrest, BBA
Monica Kurz, LMSW
Dave Sotelo
Kim Freese, MPA, LAC, CPS

10:15 AM Break (15 minutes)

10:30 AM Breakout Session One

*Corporate
Hills*

1.1 - Empowering Youth: Strategies for Substance Use Prevention, Identification, and Risk Reduction among youth

Christina Boyd, LCSW, LCAC
Michelle Levy, LMSW

This training is designed to equip service providers with the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary to prevent substance use, identify early warning signs, and apply effective risk-reduction strategies when working with youth in a variety of settings. Participants will explore the complex relationship between mental health conditions and substance use in adolescence. Through a lens of trauma-informed care and youth empowerment, the training emphasizes practical and compassionate approaches to engaging young people in conversations about substance use. Attendees will learn to apply motivational interviewing techniques and nonjudgmental communication strategies to support youth in making informed choices. The training also provides actionable guidance on implementing harm reduction practices that meet youth where they are—whether in clinical, school-based, or community environments. Recent updates to available free resources to support screening, brief intervention and referral to treatment will also be reviewed.

Atrium

1.2 - Exploring the Role of Healthy Relationships in Preventing Teen Suicide

Whitney Gerstner
Kaiti Blackburn

This session explores the multifaceted link between teen dating violence and suicide, drawing on comprehensive data from recent surveys conducted in Northwest Kansas, and Jana's Campaign programming, including extensive teen dating violence activity outcomes. Participants will develop a deeper understanding of how relationship violence can contribute to suicidal ideation and behaviors, with a focus on overlapping risk factors and protective strategies. The discussion highlights data-driven insights and emphasizes the importance of integrated prevention efforts within rural communities, avoiding isolated approaches. Examples of collaborative initiatives with community partners will illustrate effective models of intervention and support. Attendees will leave prepared to promote healthy relationships, engage bystanders, and implement targeted prevention strategies to make a meaningful impact in their own communities.

2025 Conference Agenda

Salons A-C **1.3 - Preventing a Lack of Youth Involvement**

Benjamin Meier
Rachael Self
Tristan Wedd
Alexander Gale, Senior
Caris Frey, Freshman
Ella Schrag, Senior
Mia Webster, Junior

cue Sarah McLachlan music Ever begged a child to join the coalition? Struggled to find youth sector reps? Ever bribed your own kids for the same reason? We see your suffering, and we're here to help. Youth culture changes fast, but that doesn't negate their importance. Hear about changing landscapes around youth work, learn strategies to engage youth long-term, and see how beliefs about youth may hold them back. Utilize evidence-based strategies incorporating innovative creativity, reduce student use, investing in relationships, and fill youth seats through belonging. Show your community that the most valuable piece of Prevention is youth themselves.

Salon 1 **1.4 - Staying Relevant: Reimagining Tobacco Prevention Through Community Storytelling**

Danielle Ramirez, AA
Jan B. Chandler, MFT

The Tobacco Free Wichita Coalition (TFW) is the longest-standing coalition of its kind in Kansas, with nearly 60 years of leadership. TFW has played a pivotal role in advancing local and state policies. As public health challenges evolve, so must our strategies. To remain relevant and effective, coalitions must adapt to meet the changing needs demographics, and priorities of the communities they serve. Jan Chandler and Danielle Ramirez will offer a dynamic storytelling experience related to tobacco and vaping. They will also present a replicable model for other coalitions seeking to revitalize their efforts and better align with their communities.

Salon 2 **1.5 - Upstream Kansas: Peer-Learning, Networking, and Centering Youth Voice**

Russell Spurlin

Learn how Upstream Kansas is reshaping youth leadership in prevention through meaningful youth-adult partnerships. This session introduces the statewide initiative and offers practical strategies for engaging youth as leaders in coalition and community efforts. Designed for adult advisors and prevention professionals, the session also features peer-learning and networking experience using an Open Space model. Participants will reflect on their own practices, share successes and challenges, and leave with actionable tools to elevate youth voice, foster collaboration, and build inclusive, youth-driven coalitions.

12:00 PM Kansas Prevention Collaborative Award Luncheon

*Kansas Grand
Ballroom*

1:30 PM Breakout Session Two

Salons A-C **2.1 - Onsite School Based Prevention & Intervention**

Chelsey Copeland-Eberwein, KCPM KCPS HRS

CKF Addiction Treatment is meeting the urgent need for early intervention and recovery support for youth facing substance use and mental health challenges. Many schools lack the capacity to respond effectively, so CKF embeds Kansas Certified Peer Mentors (KCPMs) and Specialists (KCPSs) to deliver trauma-informed, peer-led services. These efforts reduce disciplinary actions, improve engagement, and build resilience. This session will explore the impact of peer support in schools, highlight the Teen Intervene program, and share practical strategies for implementation. Attendees will hear real-world examples from CKF's successful pilot in three schools, which has expanded due to strong demand and positive outcomes.

2025 Conference Agenda

Salon 1

2.2 - An Understanding of Unhealthy Relationships with Digital Technology and Strategies to Promote Digital Health and Well-Being

Ngoc Vuong, MA, HB

Ruby Ochoa

In this interactive presentation and discussion led by Wichita school board member Ngoc Vuong and undergraduate researcher Ruby Ochoa, this session will be focusing on the adverse harms of problematic technology usage (PTU) on health, well-being, and academic/educational outcomes among youth; the current policy and research landscape of efforts to promote more healthy digital behaviors and address the underlying factors to PTU; and actionable steps for youth leaders, prevention practitioners, schools, families, and communities to implement. This presentation and discussion will include an overview of Ngoc's dissertation research on the personal electronic device (PED) policies of all 286 school districts in Kansas and the academic and behavioral effects of such policies.

Corporate Hills

2.3 - Preventing Crisis: Practical Upstream Strategies for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention

Lydia Fuqua, MA

Ariel Cohn

This session will explore the power of upstream prevention in mental health and suicide prevention, focusing on proactive strategies that address root causes. Participants will gain a clear understanding of upstream prevention and its distinction from early intervention and crisis response. Through key frameworks like social determinants of health and the public health model, attendees will learn tangible, actionable strategies for implementing prevention efforts in their communities. Join us to explore how to build stronger, more resilient communities through prevention efforts that address shared risk and protective factors.

Salon 2

2.4 - How Harm Reduction Fights an Epidemic

Rachael Gladden

Wichita State University's Health, Outreach, Prevention and Education (HOPE) Services works to increase connection and decrease mental health stigma for the campus community by addressing issues such as suicide, sexual violence, and substance misuse. Over the past several years, we have partnered with campus departments and local organizations to provide the WSU community with tools to mitigate risk involving substance use. To accomplish this, we have used harm reduction principles to create resources and promotional materials to advertise safer substance use (i.e. carrying naloxone). With this presentation, we would like to share data demonstrating how educating through the lens of harm reduction has contributed to the decrease in overdose deaths at WSU and increased knowledge about the opioid epidemic. Additionally, we would like to discuss some of the specific strategies employed by HOPE Services that were effective in furthering initiatives related to substance misuse prevention.

Atrium

2.5 - Breaking Cycles: Ending Multigenerational Trauma

Desirae Corey, LMSW

Participants in this session will learn about multigenerational trauma, and how it impacts themselves and others. For those who experience trauma, those situations can impact them for the rest of their lives, and it is important to be able to reduce impact and change the future. Together we will learn how to use the power of choice to break cycles and have a life worth living. During this session, there is a visual activity that will demonstrate the need for self-reflection and growth mindset. At conclusion of the session, participants should have gained knowledge and insight about the purpose of growth to empower critical change to reduce ongoing cycles of trauma.

2:30 PM Self-Care Break (30 minutes)

Recharge during this time by visiting the Zen Zone and exhibitor booths, or find other available activities in the conference app.

2025 Conference Agenda

3:00 PM Breakout Session Three

Salons A-C

3.1 - Unified Prevention: Population-level Workforce Development and Universal Prevention Across the Youth System of Care

Frances Witt, OCPSA

This workshop addresses the critical need for trauma-informed, evidence-based training for youth-facing professionals across education, justice, behavioral health, and family systems. Target populations include educators, counselors, juvenile justice staff, out-of-school-time providers, and caregivers. Through a scalable model offering multiple training modalities and voluntary participation, states like Ohio, Texas, and Arizona have equipped thousands with practical prevention strategies. This initiative fosters a shared language and approach aligned with SAMHSA's system of care. Evaluation outcomes show statistically significant reductions in youth depression, off-task, and violent behavior—demonstrating powerful workforce impact and offering a transformative vision for population-level mental health support.

Salon 2

3.2 - Your Voice, Their Future: Use KCTC to Mobilize Communities

Jeremy Johnson, MA

Carey Bush, MA

Prevention starts with listening. This session empowers educators, parents, students, prevention workers, and community members to become advocates for youth by using the Kansas Communities That Care (KCTC) student survey, a powerful tool for understanding youth attitudes and behaviors. Attendees will gain practical strategies to encourage schools to use the survey and collaborate on meaningful prevention efforts. Learn how your voice can help amplify student needs, drive evidence-based action, and build a healthier future for Kansas youth—one conversation, one partnership, and one data point at a time.

Atrium

3.3 - Stronger Together: How Community and Brotherhood Help Prevent Mental Health Crises

JK Vann

This presentation offers a subjective definition of community and explores how strong community bonds and genuine brotherhood can help prevent mental health struggles from reaching a crisis point. Men, marginalized people, and the unhoused population are communities of interest in Reno County, KS. We found, by chance, that returning to the basics of conversation and connection increases the likelihood of a person-in-crisis utilizing a life-source when actively trying to avert a crisis. This was not the result of a documented activity, but a revelation after numerous civic conversations that are designed to increase engagement with underrepresented people groups.

Salon 1

3.4 - Problem Gambling Recovery in Motion: Prevention for Process Addictions

Ronna Corliss, BS, KCGCI, PSII

Katherine Gibbons, M.Ed.

The panel of presenters will share personal insights around pivotal moments in their lives that might have guided them in a different direction if there could have been preventive measures readily available. They will share lessons learned in overcoming obstacles around their own Problem Gambling Disorder, while moving on to personal successes to recovery. As well as, just revealed Kansas data around problem gambling and gaming impacting all Kansans will be shared.

Corporate Hills

3.5 - Leading the Way: Reducing Stigma and Enhancing Collaboration Across Systems

Seth Dewey

In this session we will explore the critical role of leadership in reducing stigma and fostering cross-systems collaboration in the field of treatment and recovery. Participants will gain insights into effective leadership strategies, understand the impact of stigma on recovery efforts, and learn practical approaches to enhance collaboration among various systems involved in community, treatment, and recovery.

4:00 PM Networking & Exhibitor Booths (30 minutes)

2025 Conference Agenda

Friday

OCTOBER 17, 2025

7:30 AM Breakfast

Kansas Grand
Ballroom

8:30 AM Breakout Session Four

Atrium

4.1 - Prevention: The Key to Youth Mental Health

Hillary Zwetzig, MS

Today's youth face growing challenges in an increasingly complex world. Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas (MHASCK) offers evidence-based, values-driven prevention programs that help youth build coping skills, resilience, and self-awareness. This interactive session will highlight programs like PATHS, PATHWAYS, Girl Empowerment, and Boys to Men, and share practical tools and resources for supporting youth mental health. Attendees will explore the role of mental health professionals in prevention and rediscover active listening as a powerful strategy for connection and growth.

Salon 2

4.2 - Secure and Protect Initiative: Building partnerships within the community to encourage responsible firearm storage, reduce stigma, and protect lives.

Mallory Gevertz, B.S. | Jared Avilez, B.S. | Patrick Bainbridge

The Secure and Protect Initiative works to promote responsible firearm ownership and increase mental health awareness in the gun-owning community. We partner with gun retailers, co-responders, law enforcement and trusted community partners to provide education, training, resources and safe storage options that reduce firearm-related crises and protect lives in Johnson County.

Our Projects:

- Distributing gun safes to co-responders, law enforcement, clinicians and firearm retailers.
- Piloting voluntary firearm storage through local gun shops as part of The Armory Project.
- Offering training and education on suicide prevention and firearm culture to community professionals and organizations.
- Providing mental health resources and materials to the gun-owning community.

Salon 1

4.3 - Coalition Essentials: Protecting Participants, Building Trust

Lisa Pelkey, Ph.D.

Strong coalitions are built on ethical practices and trust with the communities they serve. This session will give coalitions practical skills to improve how their coalition carries out evaluation activities and surveys. Attendees will learn the role of Institutional Review Boards (IRBs) in keeping participants safe and ensuring fair practices. They will also explore simple ways to make the consent process easier to understand and more transparent. Finally, the session will cover strategies for building trust and open community communication. By the end, coalitions will walk away with clear steps to strengthen integrity and trust in their coalition's work.

Salons A-C

4.4 - Strength in Recovery: Suicide Postvention Strategies for Community Impact

Lydia Fuqua, MA | Ariel Cohn

This session will define suicide postvention and explore its critical role in suicide prevention by addressing the immediate aftermath of a suicide in a community. Participants will gain an understanding of postvention best practices and how they support healing, prevent further loss, and reduce stigma. Through practical, actionable strategies, attendees will learn how to implement effective postvention efforts that promote resilience, provide support for affected individuals, and ultimately contribute to broader suicide prevention goals. Join us for a session focused on turning loss into strength through compassionate community responses.

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Corporate
Hills

4.5 - Every Mind Matters, Creating Workplaces and Communities Where Every Person Thrives

Nora Plambeck, CCSP, BMHC, SPC, APPC, ELI-MP

This session addresses the gap in mental health literacy that leads to stigma, ineffective support, and policies that overlook individual needs. Aimed at professionals and leaders across sectors, the session introduces a self-literacy framework and explores the difference between generic and inclusive empowerment. Through storytelling and practical tools, participants learn strategies to support mental wellness, reduce bias, and foster environments where diverse minds thrive. Evaluation feedback shows participants leave feeling more confident in advocating for themselves and in contributing to inclusive, people-centered systems that promote emotional well-being and sustainable cultural change.

9:30 AM Break (15 minutes)

9:45 AM Breakout Session Five

Corporate
Hills

5.1 - Executive Function + Literacy: A Prevention Blueprint for Stronger Youth Outcomes

Kimberly Wilson, PhD, CCC-SLP

This session addresses the need for school-based prevention strategies that strengthen executive function (EF) and literacy to improve youth outcomes and reduce risk behaviors. The target audience includes educators, school leaders, prevention specialists, and community partners. Participants will learn about evidence-based strategies, including targeted literacy tools and EF-building activities, designed to improve self-regulation, attention, and resilience. These strategies have been implemented in school and community settings through mentoring, small-group interventions, and classroom supports. Evaluation outcomes show improved academic engagement, decreased behavioral incidents, and strengthened protective factors. Attendees will leave with practical tools to integrate prevention-focused EF and literacy supports.

Atrium

5.2 - A Community-Based Mental Health Campaign

Elizabeth Ablah, PhD, MPH, CPA

Amanda Aguila, PhD, MPH

A culturally relevant community-based mental health campaign was developed using evidence-based mental health strategies. Of the 430 community members who completed a campaign evaluation survey, 94% reported the campaign gave them ideas on how to improve their mental health (e.g. be more physically active (61%), connect with a friend/family member (40%), try at least one new strategy to help cope with stress (38%), be more involved in their community (35%), talk with a healthcare provider about their mental health (23%))

Salon 2

5.3 - Intergenerational & Historical Trauma; Working with Native American Indians and Understanding the Trauma to Start the Wellness of Healing

Kristina Padilla, MA, LAADC, ICAADC, CGS

This session delves into the need for Clinicians and Peers understanding of Intergenerational and Historical trauma within Turtle Island (USA). Where does the healing start and when did the trauma begin? Informative information to help Clinicians & Peers to navigate working with Native American Indians. This session dives into the elements of trauma that affects the Native American Community: colonization, forced displacement, Trail of Tears, treaties being broken, and multiple layers of wounded communities due to the Indian Removal Act in the 1800s. We will examine ways to promote wellness and healing for Native Communities "The Native Way" and become more informed how History and Generational Trauma played a HUGE role in how the Native American Indians have been affected and our future generations.

2025 Conference Agenda

Salons A-C

5.4 - Fake It 'Til You Make It: Prevention Marketing for the Rest of Us

Benjamin Meier

Is your logo a puzzle piece? (no shade) Is your brochure a copy of a copy of a copy? Ever said, "I'm a ... not a graphic designer!?" You're not alone. Most of us in prevention and social services never planned on becoming marketing experts—but here we are, doing our best to create materials that don't just look like a staff meeting agenda. This session will give you tips, tools, and tricks to help.

Salon 1

5.5 - Keys to Sustainability

Heather Winklepleck, BS

Deanne Armstrong

This presentation introduces the foundational principles and practices of sustainability, emphasizing its relevance across sectors and communities. Participants will explore the meaning and importance of sustainability, identify key factors and learn practical applications to embed sustainable thinking into their prevention efforts. Special focus will be given to three essential pillars for long-term success: building strong community support, enhancing organizational capacity, and ensuring effective outcomes. Whether you're new to sustainability or looking to strengthen your impact, this session provides the knowledge and tools to move from theory to action.

10:45 AM Snack Break, Sponsored by Arista Recovery

11:15 AM Breakout Session Six

Salons A-C

6.1 - A Ten-Year Evaluation of Substance Use Prevention Coalition Efforts in Kansas.

Jerry Schultz, Ph.D.

Elisa Nehrbass, M.Ed.

Kansas has developed a prevention infrastructure to implement the Strategic Prevention Framework (SPF) to prevent youth substance use in local communities. Coalitions focus local resources toward changes in the community that will impact substance use outcomes. This presentation will share findings of an evaluation of the ten-year effort of the Kansas Prevention Collaborative to provide training/technical assistance, online resources, and networking opportunities to support the implementation of SPF with local community substance use prevention coalitions. The evaluation tracked more than 20 communities from 2015 to 2025 with an emphasis on monitoring implementation, progress, fidelity, and changes in outcomes.

Atrium

6.2 - Empowered Together: Peer-Led Services in Crisis Care – Strengthening Communities Through Collaboration and Compassion

Seth McGinnes, CPM, CPS

Nathan Guile

This session explores the impact of peer-led services within an adult crisis house setting, highlighting how individuals with lived experience play a vital role in stabilizing and supporting those in crisis. Attendees will learn how peer support fosters trust, reduces stigma, and strengthens community connections. The presentation will also cover strategies for building collaborative partnerships that enhance program capacity and efficiency, ensuring a more responsive and sustainable approach to behavioral health care. Join us to discover how peer-driven models are not only transforming crisis services—but also empowering communities through compassion, connection, and culturally informed care.

Corporate Hills

6.3 - How to Develop Positive Coping Skills to Improve Mental Well Being and Reduce Suicide

Jason Platter

With the increasing mental health crisis, it has become vital that we have ways to maintain our mental wellbeing. You will learn how to distinguish the difference between positive and negative coping skills and how to optimize your skills. You will also learn a set of skills to keep in your toolbox that can be used anywhere in any situation to help get you out of a mental crisis.

2025 Conference Agenda

Salon 2

6.4 - Sedgwick County's Data-Driven Approach to Naloxone Access

Brandon Swart

Kaylee Hervey, MPH

Joshua Gaines

In response to increases in opioid-related overdoses—particularly those involving fentanyl—the Sedgwick County Health Department launched a three-pronged approach: 1) utilizing local data to highlight overdose trends; 2) partnering with community organizations to distribute naloxone kits and provide training; and 3) leveraging forensic and police data to inform focused naloxone distribution efforts by ZIP Code. Preliminary outcomes suggest that expanded naloxone access and improved community education may impact overdose deaths across Sedgwick County.

Salon 1

6.5 - The Impact of Substance Use on Youth Suicide

Jennifer Slagle

This session will explore the relationship between substance use and youth suicide. Designed for professionals who work with youth struggling with mental health, substance use, or suicidal ideation, the presentation will review suicidal risk factors, warning signs, and protective factors. We will also highlight data, prevention points, and case vignettes from the Kansas State Child Death Review Board.

12:00 PM Lunch

Kansas
Grand
Ballroom

12:45 PM Closing Keynote - Still Here: Resilience and Building Back Better

Kansas
Grand
Ballroom

Justin Maffett, J.D.

Closing Remarks (Ending at 2:00 PM)

Stephanie Rhinehart, Prevention Program Manager, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

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