



# Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference

**DECEMBER 2, 2025**

**7:30 AM - 4:15 PM**

**HYATT REGENCY WICHITA**

**400 W WATERMAN ST**

**WICHITA, KANSAS 67202**

## Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Conference Tracks



**Emerging Trends**



**Prevention**



**Health Systems & Prescribers**



**Public Safety & First Responders**



**Treatment & Recovery**





## BE THE DIFFERENCE. SAVE A LIFE.

Join us for free, impactful, virtual trainings designed to empower everyday people to recognize the signs of a mental health crisis and take action. These trainings are open to anyone in Kansas.



### **QUESTION, PERSUADE, REFER (QPR)**

Learn how to recognize warning signs of suicide, offer hope, and help someone access the care they need. This emergency intervention can make all the difference.



### **CONVERSATIONS ON ACCESS TO LETHAL MEANS (CALM)**

CALM teaches why means matter and equips individuals with tools to intervene effectively with those at risk for suicide both upstream—before a crisis hits—as well as in times of crisis.



### **YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (YMHFA)**

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18.



**TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A SAFER, MORE SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY.**

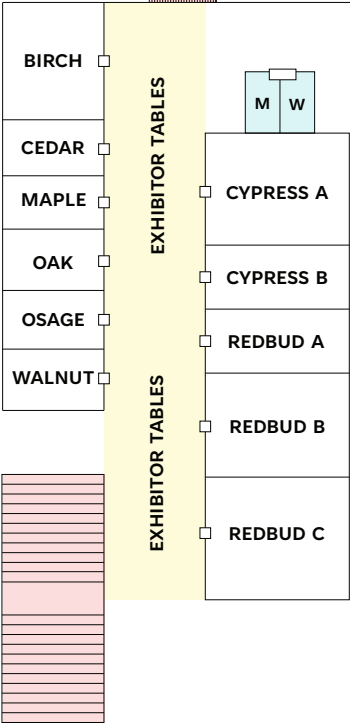


Scan the QR code to learn more and register or email Ariel at [acohn@dccca.org](mailto:acohn@dccca.org).

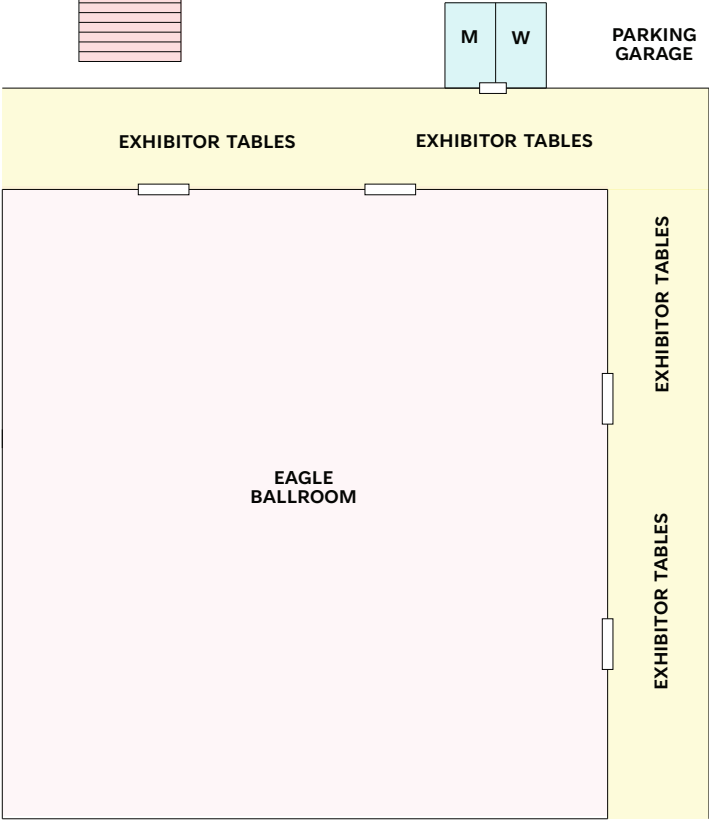
*These trainings are made possible by funding from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services.*

**SECOND LEVEL**

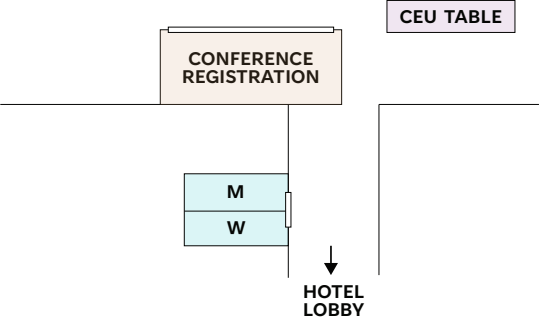
STAIRS  
ELEVATORS



**GROUND FLOOR**



**Hyatt Regency Wichita**  
**400 Waterman St**  
**Wichita, Kansas 67202**



# Welcome to the 2025 Kansas Opioid and Stimulant Annual Conference

## PROGRAM INFORMATION

KDADS, KDHE, DCCCA, and the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee are pleased to welcome you to the Kansas Opioid & Stimulant Conference. This conference is a proactive effort to build a collaborative response to the overdose crisis to prevent the escalation of this issue in Kansas. Speakers in each session will discuss strategies regarding how to address the epidemic through the different lenses of Emerging Trends, Prevention, Health Systems & Prescribers, Public Safety & First Responders, and Treatment & Recovery.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

Attendees will enhance their knowledge of promising increase knowledge of promising and evidence-based strategies related to the impact of the opioid and stimulant crisis in Kansas.

Discover new strategies and best practices related to –

- Emerging trends related to opioids, stimulants, and poly-substance use,
- Effective prevention programs, policies, and practices,
- Resources to help increase knowledge of prescribing practices and clinical interventions to improve health outcomes for patients,
- Information on building successful partnerships and best practices in coordinating with public safety and first responders,
- Evidence-informed treatment and recovery systems of care

## PARKING

The Kansas Opioid & Stimulant Conference does not validate parking at the Hyatt Regency Wichita. Parking is the responsibility of the conference attendee.

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## ACCREDITATION

A certificate of completion will be provided to all activity participants based on completion of the program evaluation and documentation of actual attendance time.

## SESSION PRESENTATIONS

Most session presentations will be available for download following the conference at [www.DCCCA.org](http://www.DCCCA.org).

## 2025 Opioid and Stimulant Conference Planning Committee

*Chad Childs*

*Seth Dewey*

*Callie Dyer*

*Jason Greever*

*Adrienne Hearrell*

*Tessa Moren*

*Laura Moore*

*Taren Neel*

*Kathleen Schuler*

*Shelly Schneider*

*Marialba Quesada*

## CEU INSTRUCTIONS

Certificates of continuing education credit or general attendance will be emailed to all attendees requiring a certificate. For procedures for completing the program evaluation and obtaining your credit, please review the additional handouts provided at the Continuing Education table.

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU



Individual Session  
Evaluation



Overall Conference  
Evaluation

## DISCLAIMER

The views and information presented at this conference are not necessarily approved or endorsed by KDADS, KDHE, DCCCA, or the Kansas Prescription Drug and Opioid Advisory Committee.



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

7:30	Registration Breakfast	EAGLE BALLROOM
8:30	Welcome & Keynote Speakers Lori Alvarado, CEO, DCCCA Secretary Laura Howard, KDADS Secretary Janet Stanek, KDHE	
9:00	Opening Keynote Jimmy McGill	
10:00	Break	
10:15	Breakout Session 1	
	<i>Love Matters: Strategies to Mitigate Risk and Improve Quality of Life for People Who Use Drugs</i>	REDBUD A
	<i>Youth Voices, Real Data: What are Kansas Youth and Young Adults Reporting about Fentanyl Awareness and Perceived Risk?</i>	CEDAR
	<i>Being 'SMART' About Treatment Approaches to Risk Reduction</i>	CYPRESS A
	<i>Every Life Tells a Story: The Anatomy of an Overdose Fatality Review</i>	BIRCH
	<i>Wichita - Sedgwick Opioid Settlement Consortium: Strategic Planning Lessons Learned</i>	CYPRESS B
	<i>From Incarceration to Rehabilitation: A Jail-Based Medication Assisted Treatment Program</i>	MAPLE
	<i>Health Professionals Can Be the LIGHT</i>	OAK
11:00	Break	
11:15	Breakout Session 2	
	<i>Fentanyl, The Impact</i>	BIRCH
	<i>Driving Lasting Change: The Kansas Fights Addiction Centers of Excellence Model</i>	CYPRESS B
	<i>Ethical Uses of Technology and Behavioral Health Treatment: To AI or Not to AI that is the Question</i>	CYPRESS A
	<i>Integrating Public Health and Forensic Laboratory Data to Track Drug Trends in Kansas</i>	CEDAR
	<i>Anything is Everything</i>	OAK
	<i>A Human-Centered Understanding of Substance Misuse and Substance Use Disorder</i>	REDBUD A
	<i>Stronger Together: Community Based Response to Opioid and Stimulant Use in Kansas</i>	MAPLE



12:00	Lunch	EAGLE BALLROOM
12:15	Keynote Speaker Tiffany Jenkins	
1:30	Break	
1:45	Breakout Session 3	
	<i>Promoting Life Saving Overdose Prevention and Response Services in Resistant Communities</i>	CYPRESS B
	<i>Recovery Panel</i>	BIRCH
	<i>Recovery Capital: Helping Clients Discover the Treasures of Recovery</i>	CYPRESS A
	<i>United to Transform: Kansas SUD Needs Assessment Findings for Action – Findings Overview</i>	MAPLE
	<i>First Responder Awareness to Opiate and Fentanyl Overdoses</i>	CEDAR
	<i>Community Health Workers Addressing Substance Use Disorder Needs</i>	OAK
	<i>Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in the Pediatric Patient</i>	REDBUD A
2:30	Snack Break	
3:00	Breakout Session 4	
	<i>Promoting Life Saving Overdose Prevention and Response Services in Resistant Communities</i>	CYPRESS B
	<i>Drug Endangered Children: Identification and Best Practices for Families Affected by Substance Use</i>	CEDAR
	<i>Contingency Management: Evidence-Based Treatment for Stimulant Use</i>	REDBUD A
	<i>United to Transform: Kansas SUD Needs Assessment Findings for Action – Orientation for Data Use</i>	MAPLE
	<i>Beware the Shopkeep's Potions: An Overview of 7-OH Kratom</i>	CYPRESS A
	<i>Peer Support for Substance Use Recovery in County Jail: Transforming Lives and Jail Culture</i>	BIRCH
	<i>ASAM Criteria, Treatment Placement &amp; Clinical Documentation</i>	OAK
3:45	Break	
4:00	Closing Remarks and Prize Drawing Lori Alvarado	EAGLE BALLROOM





## Prevention

### Love Matters: Strategies to Mitigate Risk and Improve Quality of Life for People Who Use Drugs

REDBUD A

*Marialba Quesada, Harm Reduction Specialist, First Call KC*

*Lea Fleming, Harm Reduction Specialist, First Call KC*

How'd we get here? Learn where overdose response strategies started, how it's evolved in the United States, and where the movement gets it's most innovative strategies.

### Youth Voices, Real Data: What are Kansas Youth and Young Adults Reporting about Fentanyl Awareness and Perceived Risk?

CEDAR

*Melissa Pelkey, Statistical Analyst, Center of Community Supports at Greenbush*

*Farzana Sultana, Statistical Analyst, Center of Community Supports at Greenbush*

*Lisa Chaney, Statistical Analyst, Center of Community Supports at Greenbush*

Explore what Kansas youth (11–17) and young adults (18–25) report about fentanyl awareness and risk using 2022–2025 KCTC and KYAS data. Engage in brief discussions and learn how these insights inform statewide prevention and policy efforts, equipping you to respond effectively to evolving youth perceptions.



## Treatment and Recovery

### Being 'SMART' About Treatment Approaches to Risk Reduction

CYPRESS A

*Pete Nielsen, CEO, National Behavioral Health Association of Providers (NBHAP)*

This session will help participants understand the SMART recovery approach to behavioral change, which includes: building and maintaining the motivation to change; coping with urges to use; managing thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in an effective way without addictive behaviors; and living a balanced, positive, and healthy life.



## Emerging Trends

### Every Life Tells a Story: The Anatomy of an Overdose Fatality Review

BIRCH

*Thomas Simmons, Health Educator, Reno County Health Department*

This presentation explores the overdose fatality review (OFR) process, including coordination, data collection, and de-identification. It highlights typical recommendations, timelines, and resulting community progress. Attendees will learn who should participate in OFRs and governing councils, their roles, and how findings are used to drive meaningful local change.

### Wichita - Sedgwick Opioid Settlement Consortium: Strategic Planning Lessons Learned

CYPRESS B

*Burke Fishburn, The Steadman Group*

Learn how the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County created an opioid settlement strategic plan through a collaborative, community-driven process. This session highlights how diverse partners came together to guide sustainable, evidence-based investments in prevention, treatment, and recovery. The panel will reflect on successes, failures, and what's next.



## Public Safety and First Responders

### From Incarceration to Rehabilitation: A Jail-Based Medication Assisted Treatment Program

MAPLE

*Candace Davidson, Health Promotion Supervisor, Reno County Health Department*

*Adrienne Hearrell, Managing Member/Consultant, Advanced Public Health Solutions, LLC*

This presentation provides an overview of a rural jail-based medication assisted treatment program. Presenters will discuss the burden of opioid use disorder in correctional facilities and the evidence supporting jail-based treatment. This presentation will also highlight key aspects of program planning, partnership development, implementation, and evaluation processes.



## Health Systems and Prescribers

### Health Professionals Can Be the LIGHT

OAK

*Elizabeth Ablah, Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita*

*Cara Hansuld, Prevention Program Manager, DCCCA*

*Tessa Moren, Kansas Board of Pharmacy*

*Karen Braman, Senior Vice President, Clinical and Strategic Initiatives, Kansas Hospital Association*

To improve access to substance use disorder (SUD) care, DCCCA, Kansas Board of Pharmacy, Kansas Hospital Association, and the University of Kansas School of Medicine partnered on Be the LIGHT. We will describe health professionals' barriers to caring for individuals with SUD and interventions to address these barriers.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS 2

11:15-12:00



## Prevention

### Fentanyl, The Impact

BIRCH

*Amber Saale, Community Educator & Founder, TK Fights Fentanyl*

This impactful and highly educational presentation shares how fentanyl has affected the presenter's life and many others. It includes Kansas-specific data, overdose prevention tips, early warning signs in teens, a brief awareness video, and memorial banners honoring lives lost. A must-see session for families, providers, and communities.



## Treatment and Recovery

CYPRESS B

### Driving Lasting Change: The Kansas Fights Addiction Centers of Excellence Model

*Shawna Wright, Director, KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth; Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences, The University of Kansas Medical Center*

*Seth Dewey, Regional Area Director, Mirror, Inc.*

*Christina Boyd, Associate Professor of the Practice; Liaison to Rural Communities; Affiliate to the Center for Advancement of Health Equity, School of Social Welfare, University of Kansas*

*Michaela Loxterman, Vice President of Medical Integration, CFK Addiction Treatment*

In 2025, The University of Kansas Medical Center's Project ECHO supported primary care providers across Kansas through didactic and case-based learning and mentorship to improve SUD care. The initiative aimed to boost provider knowledge, coordination, and create sustainable treatment hubs to enhance recovery and reduce disparities in accessing SUD treatment.



## Emerging Trends

### Ethical Uses of Technology and Behavioral Health Treatment: To AI or Not to AI that is the Question

**CYPRESS A**

*Pete Nielsen, CEO, National Behavioral Health Association of Providers (NBHAP)*

This workshop delves into the rapidly evolving landscape of artificial intelligence technology-based behavioral health treatment. It will go over emerging trends in AI technology and behavioral health while elaborating on the way AI has reshaped the landscape of ethics.

### Integrating Public Health and Forensic Laboratory Data to Track Drug Trends in Kansas

**CEDAR**

*Patrick Porubsky, Laboratory Operations Manager and Forensic Chemist, Kansas Bureau of Investigation*

*Scott Johnston, Epidemiologist, Kansas Department of Health and Environment*

Trends in fatal and non-fatal overdose, seized drugs, toxicology, and the rapid detection of unusual increases in suspected overdoses will be presented by both the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Laboratory and the Substance Use Disorder and Overdose Prevention group from Kansas Department of Health and Environment.



## Public Safety and First Responders

### Anything is Everything

**OAK**

*Keatherann Sharpe, Health Outreach Worker, Wyandotte County Government*

*Karah Barnes, Substance Misuse Coordinator, Unified Government of Wyandotte County*

*Nicole Whitten, Community Resource Navigator, Cross-Lines*

*Jessica Kraus, Community Paramedic, Kansas City Kansas Fire Department*

Discover how the WyCo Health Department Peer Program has partnered with KCKPD, the KCK Fire Department, Wyandotte Behavioral Health and Cross-lines Outreach to directly serve those experiencing homelessness and substance use disorders. Working closely with other organizations enables us to provide person-centered care to the most vulnerable in our community.



## Health Systems and Prescribers

### A Human-Centered Understanding of Substance Misuse and Substance Use Disorder

**REDBUD A**

*Keri Winegar, RN SUD Program Manager OD2A-S, Missouri Hospital Association*

*Hannah Prince, LCSW, Missouri Hospital Association*

In 2022, an estimated 70.3 million people aged 12 or older used an illicit drug in the year prior of those- 48.7 million met criteria for a substance use disorder.

Join us as we delve into the diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders and the key role of a human-centered approach when working with this population. Participants will leave with a working knowledge of the disease model and why SBIRT is the gold standard of care.



## Treatment and Recovery

### Stronger Together: Community Based Response to Opioid and Stimulant Use in Kansas

**MAPLE**

*Sherrie Watkins, Regional Intensive Technical Assistance Manager, Opioid Response Network*

Across Kansas, communities are feeling the impact of opioid and stimulant misuse, from rural counties to urban neighborhoods. This session explores how behavioral health professionals and community members can respond using evidence-based practices tailored to local needs, and how the Opioid Response Network offers free, customized technical assistance to help.

## BREAKOUT SESSIONS 3

**1:45-2:30**



## Prevention

### Promoting Life Saving Overdose Prevention and Response Services In Resistant Communities

**CYPRESS B**

*Paul Hunt, State Opioid Response Manager, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services*

The first hour will be an overview of overdose prevention and response strategies with an emphasis on stigma and how it shapes attitudes around policy. The second hour will be a small group workshop discussion where audience members talk about specific needs in their communities and we will workshop strategies to improve communication and reduce stigma.



## Treatment and Recovery

### Lived Experience Recovery Panel

**BIRCH**

*Chasity Shaffer, START Case Manager, DCCCA*

*Tracey Striplin, Case Manager and Peer Support Specialist, DCCCA*

Participants will gain knowledge and education from other panel speakers. This experience panel is informational for others to help understand the recovery piece of addiction.

### Recovery Capital: Helping Clients Discover the Treasures of Recovery

**CYPRESS A**

*Pete Nielsen, CEO, National Behavioral Health Association of Providers (NBHAP)*

This workshop delves into each stage of recovery and helps understand the journey one embarks on when seeking treatment and recovery. It takes them through the perspectives of those on this journey and gives a global perspective on the significance of providing resources that support recovery across all stages.



## Emerging Trends

MAPLE

### United to Transform: Kansas SUD Needs Assessment Findings for Action Session 1

*Silke Von Esenwein, Associate Researcher Senior, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research*

*Janine Hron, Associate Director, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research*

**Findings Overview:** In this session we will present key findings of the recently completed 15-month Kansas Fights Addiction Needs Assessment. Presenters will share a comprehensive picture of the current state of the substance use disorder ecosystem across the state, highlighting the overall landscape and defining both challenges and opportunities for development. Presenters will also provide an overview of unique interactive tools developed during the assessment process, designed to support planning and progress measures.



## Health Systems and Prescribers

### Community Health Workers Addressing Substance Use Disorder Needs

OAK

*Elizabeth Ablah, Professor, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita*

*Amanda Aguila, Post Doctoral Fellow, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita*

*Angela Scott, Community Health Worker Field Supervisor, University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita*

*Kaylee Hervey, Epidemiology Program Manager, Sedgwick County Health Department*

*Joshua Gaines, Overdose Prevention Program Manager - Sedgwick County Health Dept*

Community health workers often lack specific training to work with patients with substance use disorders (SUD). This presentation will describe an initiative to educate community health workers to be better prepared to work with patients with SUDs.

### Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in the Pediatric Patient

REDBUD A

*Michelle DePhillips, Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician, Children's Mercy Kansas City*

Opioid misuse and abuse including opioid use disorder (OUD) are being more frequently encountered in the pediatric population. However, many pediatric providers have not received training in the identification or treatment of opioid use disorder and withdrawal and do not feel equipped to do so. We identified this as an area for improvement in both our own institution as well as regionally and formed a committee comprised of subspecialists, social work, and pharmacy to develop a clinical pathway for the treatment of opioid use disorder and withdrawal with buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) in the pediatric patient. We would like to use this pathway to educate other providers who may care for these patients so that we can provide them with the most evidence based care.



## Public Safety and First Responders

CEDAR

### First Responder Awareness to Opiate and Fentanyl Overdoses

*Josh Magaha, Hazmat Technician Kansas City KS Fire Department*

Fire/EMS response in Kansas City, Kansas emphasizes responder safety, rapid overdose care, and community outreach. Efforts focus on youth education, demystifying fentanyl myths with clear facts, and addressing rising overdose trends reinforcing the lifesaving message: one pill can kill.



## Prevention

### Promoting Life Saving Overdose Prevention and Response Services in Resistant Communities

CYPRESS B

*Paul Hunt, State Opioid Response Manager, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services*

The first hour will be an overview of overdose prevention and response strategies with an emphasis on stigma and how it shapes attitudes around policy. The second hour will be a small group workshop discussion where audience members talk about specific needs in their communities and we will workshop strategies to improve communication and reduce stigma.

### Drug Endangered Children: Identification and Best Practices for Families Affected by Substance Use

CEDAR

*Jennifer Gassmann, PCAP Supervisor, Kansas Children's Service League*

This course explores the impact of substance use disorder on children and families. Participants will gain an understanding of the risk factors that contribute to environments where substance use endangers children's health and safety. The training will also highlight best practices for engaging with families of drug-endangered children and emphasize the importance of community collaboration in creating safe, supportive environments for these children.



## Treatment and Recovery

### Contingency Management: Evidence-Based Treatment for Stimulant Use

REDBUD A

*JK Costello, Director of Behavioral Health Consulting, Steadman Group*

Contingency management is the most evidence-based treatment for stimulant use disorder, yet there are few or no programs using this treatment modality. Dr. Costello will explore the reasons for this absence as well as policy and funding pathways to increase its use.



## Emerging Trends

### United to Transform: Kansas SUD Needs Assessment Findings for Action Session 2

*Silke Von Esenwein, Associate Researcher Senior, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research*

*Janine Hron, Associate Director, Co-Principal Investigator, University of Kansas Center for Public Partnerships and Research*

**Orientation for Data Use:** This interactive session will provide an orientation to the use applications of the unique interactive tools developed during the Kansas Fights Addiction Needs Assessment process. Presenters will provide an overview of the application of the tools for purposes of strategic planning, fundraising, and development of meaningful progress measures.

### Beware the Shopkeep's Potions: An Overview of 7-OH Kratom

CYPRESS A

*Luke Rosebraugh, Addiction Medicine Fellow Physician, University of Kansas School of Medicine - Wichita*

The purpose of my presentation is to discuss the rising incidence of 7-OH Kratom use, primarily focusing on its acute effects, withdrawal syndrome and how to treat its use disorder.



## Public Safety and First Responders

### Peer Support for Substance Use Recovery in County Jail: Transforming Lives and Jail Culture

**BIRCH**

*Nick Casarona, Director of Treatment Services, Mirror, Inc.*

*Katrina Parker, Captain: Division Manager of Special Services, Shawnee County Department of Corrections*

*Adam Cobuluis, Shawnee County Jail Peer Navigator, Mirror, Inc.*

This presentation explores the implementation and impact of peer support programs for individuals struggling with substance abuse within county jail settings. It highlights how peer-led recovery efforts—where individuals with lived experience provide support, mentorship, and guidance—offer a powerful, cost-effective approach to addressing addiction behind bars. The presentation outlines the positive outcomes, including reduced recidivism, improved inmate morale, and a shift toward a more rehabilitative jail culture. Through real-life examples, data, and testimonials, it demonstrates how peer support not only benefits individual recovery journeys but also fosters a safer, more supportive environment for both incarcerated individuals and staff.



## Health Systems and Prescribers

### ASAM Criteria, Treatment Placement & Clinical Documentation

**OAK**

*Emily Swanzy, Director of Clinical Services, Carelon Behavioral Health - Kansas*

This presentation will provide an overview of ASAM 3rd edition criteria, including what it is and how it is used in the determination of appropriate Substance Use Disorder treatment placement for both adolescents and adults. It will explore each of the 6 dimensions and how to interpret the severity of each dimension to make appropriate treatment referrals, admissions, transfers and discharge decisions. It will also provide from a payer or managed care prospective clinical documentation for authorization of services.

## WELCOME AND KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**LORI ALVARADO**  
DCCCA CEO



**SECRETARY  
LAURA HOWARD**  
KDADS



**SECRETARY  
JANET STANEK**  
KDHE



**OPENING KEYNOTE**  
**JIMMY MCGILL**

Author and speaker, Jimmy McGill is a dynamic force in the realm of recovery and advocacy, he sits as the Executive Director of Next Step Recovery Housing, and Senior Treatment Policy Advisory for Palm Beach Recovery Centers. Jimmy is formerly the Director of Peer and Recovery Services for the state of Arkansas (2018-2023).

A founding member of the SAMHSA Region 6 Peer Support Advisory Committee and founding Chairman of the National Association of Reentry Professionals, Jimmy leads pioneering efforts in peer support and reentry advocacy. Emerging triumphantly from a lifetime of incarceration and a twenty-three-year battle with addiction, Jimmy has transformed into an esteemed author and speaker, fueled by an unwavering purpose.

Despite a challenging past, Jimmy has graced stages alongside presidents, influenced drug and reentry policies, collaborated with Arkansas's supreme court on program development, and addressed audiences nationwide. Honored with the "Jimmy McGill Peer Leadership" Award in 2019, the 2021 Trail Blazer award from the Department of Human Services, and the 2023 Arkansas Peer Legacy Award, his transformative journey is a beacon reshaping reentry and recovery efforts across the nation. Featured in numerous articles, Jimmy's narrative is actively reshaping perceptions and driving change on a national scale.

Tiffany Jenkins is a recovering addict, comedian, and social media star behind Juggling the Jenkins. With over 9 million followers across her social media platforms and over a billion total video views, she uses her platform to help and inspire others who are struggling with addiction and mental health issues, and those who just need a good laugh.

A highly sought-after speaker, Jenkins speaks about addiction, recovery, and her struggles with depression and anxiety. From jails to high schools to recovery events, she shares her own personal experiences with unflinching honesty and humor.

In her memoir, *High Achiever: The Incredible True Story of One Addict's Double Life*, Jenkins provides an up-close portrait of the mind of an addict and the devastating effects of narcotics. The book takes readers inside the distress of addiction by detailing her life as an active opioid addict, her time spent in jail, and her eventual recovery and subsequent journey into motherhood.

In June 2025 Jenkins published her second memoir, *A Clean Mess: A Memoir of Sobriety After a Lifetime of Being Numb*. Told with dark humor and brutal honesty, Jenkins writes about how she learned to live without numbing herself with drugs, and how she discovered inner reserves she didn't know she had.

In addition to running her blog and speaking about her experience with addiction, Jenkins co-hosts *Take It or Leave It*, a parenting podcast that tackles marriage, motherhood, and everything in between.



**KEYNOTE**  
**TIFFANY JENKINS**

# CONFERENCE SPEAKERS



**Dr. Elizabeth Ablah**

Professor

University of Kansas School of Medicine Wichita



**Karen Braman**

Senior Vice President  
Clinical and Strategic Initiatives  
Kansas Hospital Association



**Dr. Amanda Aguila**

Post Doctoral Fellow

University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita



**Nick Casarona**

Director of Treatment Services, Mirror, Inc.



**Lisa Chaney**

Statistical Analyst  
Center of Community Supports at Greenbush



**Karah Barnes**

Substance Misuse Coordinator  
Unified Government of Wyandotte County



**Adam Coluluis**

Shawnee County Jail Peer Navigator  
Mirror, Inc.



**Christina Boyd**

Associate Professor of the Practice  
Liaison to Rural Communities  
Affiliate to the Center for Advancement of Health Equity  
School of Social Welfare University of Kansas



**JK Costello**

Director of Behavioral Health Consulting  
Steadman Group





**Candace Davidson**  
Health Promotion Supervisor  
Reno County Health Department



**Jennifer Gassmann**  
PCAP Supervisor, Kansas Children's Service League



**Dr. Michelle DePhillips**  
Pediatric Emergency Medicine Physician  
Children's Mercy Kansas City



**Cara Hansuld**  
Prevention Program Manager  
DCCCA



**Seth Dewey**  
Regional Area Director  
Mirror, Inc.



**Adrienne Hearrell**  
Advanced Public Health Solutions, LLC



**Burke Fishburn**  
The Steadman Group



**Janine Hron**  
Associate Director  
Co-Principal Investigator  
University of Kansas Center for Public  
Partnerships and Research



**Lea Fleming**  
Harm Reduction Specialist  
First Call KC





**Kaylee Hervey**  
Epidemiology Program Manager  
Sedgwick County Health Department



**Josh Magaha**  
Hazmat Technician Kansas City Fire Department  
Kansas City Fire Department



**Paul Hunt**  
State Opioid Response Manager  
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services



**Tessa Moren**  
Kansas Board of Pharmacy



**Scott Johnston**  
Epidemiologist  
Kansas Department of Health and Environment



**Pete Nielsen**  
CEO  
National Behavioral Health Association  
of Providers (NVHAP)



**Jessica Kraus**  
Community Paramedic  
Kansas City Kansas City Fire Department



**Katrina Parker**  
Captain: Division Manager of Special Services  
Shawnee County Department of Corrections



**Michaela Loxterman**  
Vice President of Medical Integration  
CFK Addiction Treatment



**Melissa Pelkey**  
Statistical Analyst  
Center of Community Supports at Greenbush





**Patrick Porubsky**

Laboratory Operations Manager and Forensic Chemist  
Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI)



**Shelly Schneider**

Vice-Chair  
Kansas Alliance of Drug-Endangered Children



**Hannah Prince**

LCSW  
Missouri Hospital Association



**Angela Scott**

Community Health Worker Field Supervisor  
University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita



**Marialba Quesada**

Harm Reduction Specialist  
First Call KC



**Chasity Shaffer**

START Case Manager  
DCCCA



**Dr. Luke Rosebraugh**

Addiction Medicine Fellow Physician  
University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita



**Keatherann Sharpe**

Health Outreach Worker  
Wyandotte County Government



**Amber Saale**

Community Educator & Founder  
TK Fights Fentanyl



**Thomas Simmons**

Health Educator  
Reno County Health Department





**Tracey Striplin**

Case Manager and Peer Support Specialist  
DCCCA



**Sherrie Watkins**

Regional Intensive Technical Assistance Manager  
Opioid Response Network



**Farzana Sultana**

Statistical Analyst  
Center of Community Supports at Greenbush



**Nicole Whitten**

Community Resource Navigator  
Cross-Lines



**Emily Swanzy**

Director of Clinical Services  
Carelon Behavioral Health - Kansas



**Keri Winegar**

RN SUD Program Manager OD2A-S  
Missouri Hospital Association



**Silke Von Esenwein**

Associate Researcher Senior  
Co-Principal Investigator  
University of Kansas Center for Public  
Partnerships and Research



**Shawna Wright**

Director, KU Center for Telemedicine & Telehealth  
Clinical Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry  
and Behavioral Sciences  
The University of Kansas Medical Center



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Learn How We Can Support You! Visit our Table at the Conference!

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**NOVEMBER 3, 2026**

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