



OneCare Kansas

a program of KanCare, Kansas Medicaid

OneCare Kansas Implementation Newsletter

August 2019

Volume 1

Issue 8

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Helping people live healthier lives by integrating and coordinating services and supports to treat the “whole-person” across the lifespan.

Planning Council Update

In July, members of the OneCare Kansas Planning Council gathered in Topeka to review and discuss the first published draft of the OCK Program Manual and the upcoming Member Enrollment Process. The group also heard updates from the Kansas Medicaid Director on the methodology that will be used to develop program payment rates and the current status of the target population identification process being conducted by the University of Kansas Medical Center. Planning Council members continue to communicate with their respective networks and provide valuable input to the State planning team in a variety of areas. Much of this information will be included as part of the OCK Provider Forum on August 15 in Newton – we hope to see you there!

For more information or to see full Planning Council meeting summaries and slide presentations, visit <https://www.kancare.ks.gov/providers/onecare-ks-providers/onecare-kansas-planning-council>.

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Helping people live healthier lives by integrating and coordinating services and supports to treat the “whole-person” across the lifespan.

Older Adults and Binge Drinking

As part of the OneCare Kansas commitment to health and wellness, we would like to take a moment to highlight a recent article focused on the health of older adults. Though many times we think of younger people when we hear the words “binge drinking” there is now good evidence that nationally, many older adults engage in binge drinking as well.

According to a recent NBC News article, one in 10 older adults binge drink. The risks associated with excessive alcohol consumption across the general population are well established and widely known. In a population such as older adults however, where chronic conditions and the use of prescription medications are common this can be especially dangerous. Beyond the negative effects of alcohol itself, many prescription medications interact with alcohol to cause further health problems.

Additionally, awareness of binge drinking in the older adult population is limited. Physicians and other providers must strive to educate older adults about the effects of alcohol and the risks it poses. According to the article, the health impacts on older adults are compounded due to the fact that “as they get older, their body becomes more sensitive to alcohol”. Increased sensitivity to alcohol may lead to falls or other injury.

To learn more and read the entire NBC News article please visit: <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/aging/one-10-older-adults-binge-drinks-increasing-health-risks-n1036091>

If you have knowledge of timely health news that you would like the OneCare Kansas Newsletter to highlight in upcoming editions please contact Samantha Ferencik at:

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We are happy to help spread awareness.



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Payment Subgroup Update

KU is continuing to work diligently to refine the target population for OneCare Kansas and intends to have a defined population by the end of August. As a result, the payment subgroup has initiated discussions between KU and the State's actuaries to provide initial diagnoses and conditions that may end up in the target population. This will allow the actuaries to take the very beginning steps in filtering the data they will use to develop rates for the OneCare program.

As many of you know, there were limited funds provided for the OneCare Kansas program by the legislature. The ultimate target population will depend on the detailed conversations that take place between KU, the State team and our actuaries. These conversations and the decisions that come from them will keep in mind the intent to have the best impact on our members but to also stay within the bounds of the funds allowed for the program.

Once the target population is defined, the actuaries anticipate completion of the rates in two to three months.

OneCare Kansas Target Population

The OneCare Kansas team continues to work towards development of the target population. With help from researchers at KU, the State team has begun examining various diagnoses and the projected cost savings associated with including them in our OneCare Kansas program. This is tedious and time consuming work. The State team is anxious to announce a target population but we want to assure all of our stakeholders that we are carefully considering a host of factors and will be fully and thoughtfully assessing our options before arriving at the final target population.

Currently, we are holding weekly calls with KU to discuss the data. KU is utilizing the most rigorous data methodologies available in their analysis of the data. Members of the State team have direct personal experience with Health Homes and many have conducted research into other states' Health Home programs. This combination of statistical expertise on the part of KU, and extensive knowledge and research on the part of the State, make these weekly discussions exciting and profitable.

We sincerely believe that we are near to arriving at our target population. As always, thank you for your patience and support as we work through this most important of tasks. We will keep you updated on developments both here and through the Planning Council.



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If you have questions, or would like more information about OneCare Kansas, please contact us.

Our page on the KanCare website also contains information about our work to develop the project and documents are being updated regularly.

If you would like to receive this newsletter please send us an email.

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Back to School: Animals in Schools and Daycares

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention reminds us that though children learn from and enjoy animals, we must be vigilant to ensure that they interact with these animals safely.

Show-and-tell, classroom pets, petting zoos and school visits to local farms are amazing opportunities for children to learn about and from animals. However young children, especially those under 5 years of age, are especially vulnerable to the germs carried by many animals. The CDC reports that the germs can spread to cages, bedding, and wherever animals roam, meaning that children do not have to touch an animal to get sick.

Sound hand-washing and careful adult supervision are essential. Never allow children to put their hands or objects such as pacifiers in their mouths while around animals. Additionally, check with parents before allowing children to come into contact with animals. Many children suffer from allergies or asthma triggered by pet dander.

Finally, ensure that the animals themselves are healthy and well. If an animal looks sick children should not be allowed to interact with the animal and a veterinarian should be contacted. Remember too that animals can suffer from anxiety and stress. A stressed animal may be unpredictable and therefore more likely to bite or otherwise injure a child. If a bite does occur wash the wound with warm soapy water immediately and seek medical attention.

Animals provide excellent learning opportunities for children provided that these precautions are taken. To learn more about animal and pet safety visit: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthypets/specific-groups/schools.html> on the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) website.