



2025 KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

**A collaborative effort to improve court and
community response to behavioral health issues**

Tuesday, August 26th

8:00-9:15 a.m. Registration

9:15-10:40 a.m. ZOOM SESSION 1

9:15-9:50 a.m. ***Welcome and Opening Remarks***

Governor Laura Kelly, State of Kansas

Chief Justice Marla Luckert, Kansas Supreme Court

President Tisa Mason, Fort Hays State University

9:50-10:40 a.m. ***Ending the Criminalization of Mental Illness***

Hon. Steven Leifman

Judge Leifman will discuss his journey into the mental health system, the legal and medical history that led to America's mental health crisis and the essential elements necessary to create an effective system of care that ultimately will transform the mental health and criminal justice systems and make jail the last option for people with serious mental illnesses, not the first.

10:40-10:55 a.m. Break

10:55-Noon ZOOM SESSION 2

10:55-11:10 a.m. ***Lived Experience Speaker***

Tara Rollins

11:10-Noon ***Keynote Session: The Other Dr. Gilmer***

Dr. Benjamin Gilmer, MD, MS

In this keynote address, Dr. Gilmer, family physician and Associate Professor at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and Mountain Area Health Education Center's (MAHEC) Family Medicine Residency Program, will address the challenges faced by those with mental health issues in the criminal justice system from a clinical lens. He is the author of the thought-provoking book, "The Other Dr. Gilmer", which explores the complexities and injustices surrounding this pressing social issue.

Noon-1:00 p.m. Lunch Break

1:00-2:05 p.m. ZOOM SESSION 3

1:00 - 1:15p.m. *Lived Experience Speaker*
Amy Schmierbach

1:15-2:05 p.m. *Assisted Outpatient Treatment: A Compassionate Approach to Treatment Non-Adherence*
Amy Lukes, LICSW
Director of AOT Implementation, Treatment Advocacy Center

Assisted Outpatient Treatment is the practice of providing community-based mental health treatment under civil court commitment as a means of: motivating an adult with mental illness who struggles with voluntary treatment adherence to engage fully with their treatment plan; and focusing the attention of treatment providers on the need to diligently keep the person engaged in effective treatment. This session will describe the importance of community collaboration in implementation, treatment approaches and the state of AOT in Kansas.

2:05-2:20 p.m. Break

2:20-4:10 p.m. ZOOM SESSION 4

2:20-3:10 p.m. *Stepping Up Kansas*
Audra Goldsmith, Project Manager, Council of State Governments

Stepping Up is a national initiative that reduces the number of people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders in local justice systems. Jail data are tracked to measure progress as communities develop policy and programs to address this cross section of people with behavioral health needs in the justice system. Kansas' Stepping Up Technical Assistance Center assists counties in creating cross-systems collaborative teams that utilize data to identify effective policies and strategies to bring to scale and track their progress in this effort.

3:10-3:40 p.m. *Multi-Branch Communities of Practice (MBCOP)*
Hon. Robert Wonnell, 10th Judicial District Court Judge, Johnson County
Madeline Hoy Perez, State Behavioral Health Coordinator, OJA

3:40-4:10 p.m. *Special Closing Message*

Wednesday, August 27th

8:30-9:00 a.m. *Arrival*

9:00-9:50 a.m. ZOOM SESSION 5

9:00-9:50 a.m. ***The Addiction-Trauma Connection: Spirals of Recovery and Healing***

Dr. Stephanie Covington, PhD, LCSW

With research and clinical experience indicating a high incidence of trauma and co-occurring disorders, community and criminal justice professionals are often faced with the realities of needing to provide effective, integrated, and trauma-based services. This presentation provides the definitions of trauma informed, trauma responsive, and trauma specific: the three levels of response needed for comprehensive treatment services. It also discusses the importance of considering gender and offers recommendations for evidence-based interventions.

9:50-10:05 a.m. Break

10:05-11:10 a.m. **ZOOM SESSION 6**

10:05-10:20 a.m. ***Competency Highlight***

Patti Tobias

10:20-11:10 a.m. ***A Crisis Response Continuum: A Panel Discussion***

Moderated by Tim DeWeese, Director of Johnson County Mental Health and member of the National Task Force to Examine State Courts' Response to Mental Illness

- Andrew Brown
Deputy Secretary for Programs, Office of the Secretary, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
- Esther Kency, MS, LCMFT
Crisis Services Director, Central Kansas Mental Health Center (CKMHC)
- Monica Kurz, LMSW
Chief Administrative Officer, Healthsource Integrated Solutions
- Lisa Southern, LMLP, LCP
Executive Director, Compass Behavioral Health

Early intervention is key to effectively managing behavioral health crises before individuals enter the justice system, emergency departments, or higher levels of care. This panel will explore the complexities of crisis response, emphasizing strategies that promote de-escalation and community-based support. Experts will discuss the vital role of Mobile Crisis Response Teams, Co-Responders, Crisis Centers, and 988 Call Centers as integral components of a robust crisis continuum.

11:10-Noon ***Moving Forward with Districts: Action Planning Session***

Districts will be given direction and resources to develop action plans for their MBCOPs to implement in their communities.

Noon Closing Remarks and Adjourn