



KANSAS ALLIANCE
FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN

Help. Hope. Support.

KANSAS ALLIANCE FOR DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN CONFERENCE

Tuesday, April 8, 2025 | 8AM - 5PM



WELCOME

The conference will focus on educating professionals (including child welfare, legal, medical and social service) who may have an opportunity to identify and/or respond to children living in environments where illegal drugs are manufactured, sold, distributed or used. Children living in drug environments are at risk for devastating effects including severe neglect, physical, emotional and sexual abuse and developmental delays.

Nursing Mother's Room

We are pleased to offer a private and comfortable Nursing Mother's Room for attendees who need a quiet space. To access the room, please check in at the registration desk for details. We're committed to making the KADEC conference a welcoming environment for all!

Decompression Zones

Need a moment to relax? Attendees are welcome to use the lobby's soft seating area or step outside to the patio for a quiet break anytime. These spaces are available throughout the conference to help you recharge and refocus.

Therapy Animals

Take a paws for a break! During conference breaks, Manhattan Kennel Club will have comfort animals in the lobby to help you relax and recharge. Stop by for some furry stress relief!

Continuing Education

Nursing

The Wichita State University College of Health Professions is approved as a provider of continuing nursing education by the Kansas State Board of Nursing. This course offering is approved for 8.3 contact hours applicable for RN, LPN, or LMHT relicensure. Kansas State Board of Nursing provider number: LT 0090-0327.

Social Work

This program is approved by the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board for continuing education for social workers. The general session conference program is approved for 7.1 contact hours applicable toward re-licensure. (BSRB approval #05-001)

CofA/Self-Submit Seat Hours: 6.9

Certificates

Certificates will be emailed within 45 days upon completion of the conference evaluation, provided that registration has been paid.

Thank You Sponsors and Exhibitors!

Bronze



Exhibitors



SCHEDULE

8:00 AM Registration

8:30 AM Welcome

Jennifer Gassmann, Chair, Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children & Tony Mattivi, Director, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

8:40 AM Through a Child's Eyes

Jerry Moe, MA, National Director of Children's Programs, Emeritus, Betty Ford Center; Senior Clinical Advisor, NACoA

Children have a unique perspective in viewing the world. While it's long been held that substance use disorder is a family disease, there are relatively few opportunities for children to be an integral part of the healing process. Learn about the impact of addiction on children and how they perceive it in their families. More importantly, learn specific strategies, and effective tools and techniques which can make a real difference in their lives.

10:10 AM Break, Therapy Animals & Visit Exhibits

10:30 AM Current Drug Trends in Kansas

Jason Diaz, Special Agent, Kansas Bureau of Investigation & Shawn Campiti, Senior Special Agent, Kansas Bureau of Investigation

Substance use trends are constantly evolving, and Kansas is no exception. This session will provide an in-depth look at the latest drug trends affecting communities across the state, including the rise of fentanyl, methamphetamine, and emerging substances. Additionally, participants will learn the realities of drug use in Kansas and strategies for effective responses.

12:00 PM Lunch, Networking, Therapy Animals & Visit Exhibits

1:00 PM Case Studies & Best Practices: Insights from Law Enforcement & Legal Experts

Sandy Lessor, Senior Assistant District Attorney in Office of District Attorney Marc Bennett, 18th Judicial District & James Henning, National Alliance for Drug Endangered Children (retired law enforcement)

When children are exposed to dangerous drug environments, effective responses from multiple disciplines are critical to breaking the cycle of harm. This presentation, led by a prosecuting attorney and a former law enforcement officer, provides real-world case studies and best practices for handling Drug Endangered Children (DEC) cases effectively.

2:10 PM Voices of Experience: Personal Stories of Substance Use Disorder and Its Impact Across Generations

Substance use affects individuals and families in profound and lasting ways. In this powerful session, panelists will share their personal experiences with substance use—both as children growing up in affected households and as adults navigating addiction, recovery, and its impact on the children in their lives. Through these firsthand stories, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the emotional, psychological, and generational effects of substance use. This session will also highlight resilience, healing, and the importance of support systems in breaking cycles of addiction and fostering hope for the future.

3:00 PM Break, Therapy Animals & Visit Exhibits

3:15 PM Legislative Advocacy for Drug Endangered Children: Strengthening Laws to Protect Vulnerable Children

Pat Proctor, Kansas House of Representatives, District 41

Children living in drug environments face severe risks, but strong policies and advocacy efforts can drive meaningful change. This presentation explores the role of legislation in protecting Drug Endangered Children (DEC) and how professionals can advocate for stronger laws, policies, and resources.

3:45 PM Multi-Disciplinary Approaches Driving Community Change

Kansas Alliance for Drug Endangered Children—Shawnee County Representatives: Norma Hinton and Ashley Lang, Kansas Department for Children and Families; Morgan Hall, Shawnee County District Attorney's Office; Sgt. Glenn Hawks, Shawnee County Sheriff's Office; Jenny Allen and Karey Heiserman, Stormont Vail Hospital

Representatives from the longest running drug endangered children alliance in the state based in Shawnee County will share their experiences collaborating to help children impacted by drug environments.

4:20 PM Success Stories: Drug Endangered Children Sub-Recipients in Kansas Communities

All Hands on DECK Grantees

Protecting Drug Endangered Children (DEC) requires continuous effort, collaboration, and advocacy. While we've made significant progress, there is still more work to be done. As the conference concludes, participants will be challenged to strengthen our efforts, close gaps, and push for lasting change. Protecting Drug Endangered Children (DEC) requires continuous effort, collaboration, and advocacy. While we've made significant progress, there is still more work to be done. As the conference concludes, participants will be challenged to strengthen our efforts, close gaps, and push for lasting change.

4:45 PM Call to Action: Strengthening Our Efforts for Drug Endangered Children

Jennifer Gassmann

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KADEC Board Members

Kristi Allen - Sedgwick County District Attorney
Cristi Cain - Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Vicki Cavit - Volunteer
Jennifer Gassmann - Kansas Children's Service League
Caroline Hastings - Kansas Department for Children and Families
Nicholas Krug - Kansas Bureau of Investigation
Sandra Lessor - Sedgwick County District Attorney
Susan Montague - Saint Francis Ministries
Dee Nighswonger - Kansas Department for Children and Families
Daniel Oliver - Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
Sarah Robinson - Urban League of Kansas, Inc.
Shelly Schneider - Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Thomas Stanton - Reno County District Attorney

Planning Team

Cristi Cain - Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Shelly Schneider - Kansas Department of Health and Environment
Jennifer Gassmann - Kansas Children's Service League
Sarah Robinson - Urban League of Kansas, Inc.
Sandra Lessor - Sedgwick County District Attorney
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**SCAN TO COMPLETE THE
CONFERENCE EVALUATION**