**Outline of Emergent Learning Table Conversations**

**Advocacy Evaluation Learning Initiative, 2015**

**Framing Question:** How can advocacy evaluation advance KS Mental Health Coalitions (KSMHC) goals of increasing engagement in local and state advocacy?

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| **Insights**   * Other strategies for advocacy have not been fully implemented often due to a lack of time and resources. * There have been few opportunities to connect with local legislators. * Advocacy day has many participants, logistically challenging, and can only go “so far” in equipping participants. * Short-term grassroots advocacy trainings can only go “so far” in equipping participants to advocate. There remains lack of confidence, relationship, and understanding of what they can do. | **Hypotheses**   * If a focus on local advocacy could be placed on a few communities greater progress could be made with higher levels of engagement. * If we engage those who attend advocacy day through other advocacy strategies, we will maintain our momentum. * Identification of advocacy efforts in which KSMHC members and board want to be involved will help distribute opportunities. * If resources are available, hiring a full or part-time coordinator would help connect and create lasting engagement opportunities for grassroots advocacy network. |
| **Ground Truth**   * KSMHC sometimes struggles to get the data needed to inform evaluation. * There is little resources/infrastructure to regularly support or respond to local and state advocacy efforts. * Advocacy Day has successes, but challenges in connecting advocates with legislators. * There have been a few examples showing the importance of local advocacy efforts. * There is high reliance on a handful of individuals to support advocacy efforts. * There has been an emphasis on Grassroots Advocacy Network through training with mixed results and lack of follow-up. | **Opportunities**   * Strategic Planning with Advocacy committee in August followed by discussion with entire MH Coalition in fall regarding organizational and strategies listed above. * KHF Fellows completed with potential new opportunities emerging in 2016. * Advocacy committee planning groups creating 1-year plans for (1) Grassroots Network, (2) Engaging entire MH Coalition in advocacy, and (3) Targeted/Simplified Advocacy Day. These are to be shared with entire committee and board. |