**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.
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| **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.
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