

## **MCH Block Grant-KDHE**

Objective: Increase access to programs and providers serving adolescents that assess for and intervene with those at risk for suicide.

**Mental Health First Aid:** The MCH program has been involved in ongoing discussions related to increasing access to mental health first aid training, for school personnel/teachers/nurses, MCH local agency staff including home visitors, and any other community level partner providing services for adolescents. Plans involve promoting mental health first aid training (and leveraging those already trained across the state in multiple sectors/settings), more involvement with school mental health initiatives at the state and local levels, distribution of resources via counselor and MCH local agency list serves, and updating websites and social media sites with relevant resources and information, including professional development/training opportunities.

**Yellow Ribbon Program:** The MCH Child and Adolescent Health consultant is exploring information about the Yellow Ribbon program/campaign. Yellow Ribbon is a suicide prevention program that empowers people (of all ages) to raise awareness about and to prevent youth/teen suicide. Kansas Family Partnerships (KFP) coordinates statewide drug awareness campaigns, provides youth drug prevention programs, provide substance abuse prevention materials and resources, education for prevention professionals and advocacy for sound drug policy. The MCH program intends to work with all local Kansas Yellow Ribbon Chapters in some way.

**Youth Mental Health Awareness:** The Title V MCH Director was invited by the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to participate in the *Proclamation of Child Mental Health Awareness Day*, with an official signing by Governor Brownback on April 27, 2017. The signing was also attended by the Department for Children and Families (DCF), State Department of Education (KSDE), community mental health centers, consumers, and more. We look forward to continued work with KDADS, DCF, KSDE, and partners to increase awareness and do more together to address the mental health needs of infants, children, adolescents, women, and their families.

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**Yellow Ribbon Program** (<https://yellowribbon.org/>): A meeting was held with Kansas Family Partnerships (KFP) to learn more about the Yellow Ribbon Program and other programs that promote healthy youth and communities regarding substance abuse prevention through education, networking and advocacy. It was learned that Kansas Family Partnership serves all of Kansas and that there are 150 Students against Destructive Decisions (SADD) chapters in Kansas as well as various Yellow Ribbon trainers they work with. This led to the meeting with the Yellow Ribbon Program Coordinator of Unified District 259 in Wichita.