



The Clay Counts Coalition
December Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, January 14, 2026

The Clay Center Zoo

Welcome Center Meeting Room
Noon to 1:00 Lunch Provided

Attendees: Lori Martin, Matt Weller, Paul Tessaro, Audrey Waid, Collen O'Connell, Mellisa Petesch, Hayden Hackworth, Melanie Musselman, Sophia Gallup, Allie Fitzgerald, Paul Tessaro, Lisa Last, Megan Lewis, Jonathan Sapaugh, Kathryn Doster-Tipsword, Jeanna Fancella, Emma Lalond, Sofia Gallup, Audrey Waid, Nikki Burwell, Isabel Mayes Emileigh Gonzales, Rami Khamis, Paola Ames, Wade Reh, Julie Doyen
Zoom: Ryan Duey, Vicki Kopsa, Kimberly Sanchez, Karlee Wahlmeier, Ashley Delehanty, Francis Witt

I. What I Can Learn Time

Author Presentation: Jonathan Sapaugh on His Book "Unlabeled"

1. Jonathan is a community organizer at Pawnee, but since 2017 has also been a public speaker
2. Jonathan talked about his early childhood and adult trauma that led to labels being placed on him, and how he overcame these labels
3. Jonathan spoke on the Clay Counts Connection podcast (You can view that [HERE](#))
4. Jonathan donated 10 books to the CCCHS & WHS YLink chapters
 - a. You can purchase his book [HERE](#)

II. How I Can Contribute Time

A. YLink Update: Hayden Hackworth

1. Pancake Party 5th Quarter event needs to be rescheduled (snow)
2. DCCCA/KDADS Health Impact Focus Group
 - a. A DCCCA rep came to CCCHS last week to ask questions and take qualitative data
 - b. Data from around the state will be used to help DCCCA make decisions to help kids moving forward
3. Feb. 12 is Mental Health Youth Advocacy Day at Topeka

B. Presentation on Resources Available through KDAD's PAXIS Tool: Francis Witt

- a. **PAX provides FREE tools & resources (through KDADS) for all adults who work with or care for young people from toddlers all the way up to adults**
- b. **PAX is in year 2 of their training initiative in Kansas**
- c. **This is NOT a separate lesson plan, it is strategies that you learn**
- d. **PAX can be integrated for daily use at school, in the community, or at home (evidence based and trauma informed)**
- e. **Virtual training requires 10 participants, In-person requires 15 participants**
- f. **Clay Counts is willing to help facilitate this; talk to Lori if you are interested**
- g. **Slides from today will be shared out**
- C. Request for Recovery Court Funding: Megan Lewis
 - a. **Riley Co. Recovery Court focuses on adult recovery programs (started in 2022 with a grant that will end in March)**
 - b. **These people meet with a judge every single week, which costs money**
 - c. **75% of our participants in Riley Co. had children**
 - d. **Megan is looking for \$37,000 to fund this project through the end of the year**
 - e. **Clay Counts has a DEC grant for \$10,000 that has not been allocated by Bridges of Hope**
 - f. **The Coalition asked for this request to be tabled and to receive more information before the February meeting**
- D. Request for Bike Rodeo Funding: Lori Martin
 - a. **This was tabled because of a lack of time**
- E. Follow Up on the Cook Center for Human Connection Resources:
 - a. **This was tabled because of a lack of time**
- F. Annual Report: Matt Weller
 - a. **This was tabled because of a lack of time**

III. How I Can Help Time

Serve as a Mentor for Teammates Mentoring Program

Next Meeting

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at the Clay Center Zoo Welcome Center Meeting Room

Our Mission

The Clay Counts Coalition exists to promote social, physical, and mental well-being for the residents of Clay County, emphasizing reduction of youth substance use and to foster a thriving environment in which to live, learn, and play.