



**Kane County System of Care Presents 3rd Annual Youth Voices Forum on Mental Health  
Wednesday, February 23**

**February 18, 2022** – The Kane County System of Care (KCSOC) and the Kane County Regional Office of Education present the 3rd annual Youth Voices Forum on Mental Health on Wednesday, February 23 at 8 a.m. This virtual Forum creates a space for youth to have their voices heard as they share their stories of mental health challenges and the ways they are working to decrease mental health stigma. A panel of student speakers from across Kane County will share their personal experiences and empower students to raise their voices for youth mental health in their schools and communities.

“Young people value mental health and would like to make contributions to the way mental health services and supports are provided in the community,” said Kate McCormack, Kane County Health Department Community Health Initiatives Coordinator. “The pandemic has significantly increased mental health challenges for youth. ”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report emergency department visits for mental health emergencies rose by 31% for children ages 12-17 years between March and October 2020.

School administrators, community leaders, mental health professionals, parents, media and community members involved in mental health issues are encouraged to attend. Register at <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0tcOCtqDkoE9CQKMNyifxRa6QHpDO-9wRR>

KCSOC is a coordinated network of community providers and parents led by the Kane County Health Department. The network includes representatives from multiple sectors, including: juvenile justice, early childhood, substance abuse services, community mental health, federally qualified health centers, parent and community supports, domestic violence and sexual assault services, K-12 education, mobile crisis response, and parents who have children engaged in the mental health system.

For more information about KCSOC, visit [KaneHealth.com/Pages/Childrens-Mental-Health.aspx](https://www.kanehealth.com/Pages/Childrens-Mental-Health.aspx) or contact Kate McCormack at [mccormackkatherine@co.kane.il.us](mailto:mccormackkatherine@co.kane.il.us).

###