

Mental Health Coalition Language on Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention

Substance Abuse Treatment

The State of Kansas funds substance use disorder treatment through the State match of Federal Block Grant funding and the State match of Medicaid funds. State funding of substance use disorder treatment through both these resources has been reduced since 2009. All available funds should now be used to ensure consumers receive necessary treatment including the problem gambling funds.

In 2007, Kansas passed the Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (KELA) and allowed for state controlled casinos in Kansas. This Act also established the Problem Gambling and Addiction Fund. The legislative intent of this Act was to support additional funding for addiction treatment and prevention programming. The Act specifically set aside 2 percent of the state gaming revenues for an “addictions fund” for use in a broader range of addictions, address long-standing funding deficiencies and co-occurring diagnoses, and broad-based treatment and prevention services.

While approximately \$740,000 has consistently been appropriated for the problem gambling initiative, the Governor and the Legislature have continued to use these funds to match Medicaid funds and have provided no expansion in services. Instead of adding additional funding to increase needed treatment capacity, the funds have been used to replace state general funds.

Federal Block Grant funding and prevention funds need to continue to flow to treatment and prevention providers in the most effective manner to ensure the current provider network can maintain the means to treat consumers.

KMHC believes:

1. The State must recognize the significance of substance abuse issues on the child welfare system and the public safety systems and invest resources to reduce the increasing demands placed on those systems.
2. Reductions in alcohol and drug prevention and treatment funding must be restored.
3. The problem gambling and addictions fund should be used as required by Kansas Statute.
4. The liquor tax fund should be increased to fund substance abuse and mental health treatment.
5. The state’s ten regional prevention centers are underfunded and they have not received a funding increase in over nine years even as expenses increase. This situation must be corrected. Funding for statewide prevention partners has also declined.
6. Substance use disorder treatment is a growing and critical part of the public safety system through the Justice Reinvestment Act, Senate Bill 123 treatment instead of incarceration, and DUI treatment. Those systems and appropriate funding should continue.

Suggested Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Prevention Position Statement for the Mental Health Coalition

The State of Kansas is slowly emerging from the most significant economic crisis in recent history. The number of Kansans in need of substance use disorder treatment and prevention services continues to grow. Funding should focus on preserving the network of substance use disorder and treatment and prevention providers who are confronted with increased citizens' demands for services during this time of need. Substance use disorders are a chronic brain disorder, not a lifestyle choice or a moral or ethical failure. The impact of substance use disorders includes individuals and families as well taxpayers through the healthcare and correctional system. Substance abuse issues are now known to be a substantial contributing factor in out of home placements for children where parents have unaddressed substance abuse problems. Dollars invested in treatment avoid more expensive costs later. Investments in treatment and prevention can address State costs in other areas such as child welfare and public safety.

Critical areas of activity in the substance abuse treatment and prevention fields include:

- Stable funding from all funding sources including Federal Block Grants for treatment and prevention; Medicaid; juvenile prevention grants; public safety programs such as Senate Bill 123, DUI programs, and the justice reinvestment act, as well as problem gambling.
- Oversight and close monitoring of the KanCare system to ensure the promises of minimal disruption of services to consumers, adequate funding and no rate reductions, and no reductions in eligibility, or limitations on services.
- Medicaid expansion is a critical component to provide additional substance abuse treatment and to expand behavioral health resources and expansion of services particularly in rural areas.
- Work to ensure parity for behavioral health services is sustained by all insurance companies doing business in Kansas.
- Preserve and strengthen the professional addictions counselor workforce in Kansas as demand for services grows.

Substance Abuse Treatment *Current Language*

State funding of substance abuse treatment was reduced between 2009 and 2012. All available funds should now be used to ensure consumers receive necessary treatment. The Kansas Expanded Lottery Act (KELA) was passed in 2007 and allowed for state controlled casinos in Kansas. This Act also established the Problem Gambling and Addiction Fund. Because state-owned and operated casinos are now operating in Kansas, the funding is available to follow legislative intent and use the funds support addiction treatment and prevention programs. 2 percent of state gaming revenues are supposed to go to the "addictions fund" for use in a broader range of addictions, address long-standing funding deficiencies and co-occurring diagnoses, and broad-based treatment and prevention services.

While approximately \$740,000 has consistently been appropriated for the problem gambling initiative, the 2011 Legislature swept \$900,000 to prop up the State General Fund for fiscal year 2012 and \$1,450,000 was shifted to cover lost funding for the Medicaid substance abuse program. Instead of adding needed treatment capacity, the funds have been used to replace state general funds.

KMHC believes:

1. Reductions in alcohol and drug prevention and treatment funding must be restored.
2. The problem gambling and addictions fund should be used as required by Kansas Statute.
3. The liquor tax fund should be increased to fund substance abuse and mental health treatment.
4. The state's thirteen regional prevention centers are underfunded because they have not received a funding increase in over nine years. This situation must be corrected.