

KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

An Organization Dedicated to Improving the Lives of Kansans with Mental Illnesses

Testimony presented to the House Social Services Budget Committee
Re: Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Budget

Amy A. Campbell – February 18, 2020

Thank you for the opportunity to address your committee today on behalf of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition (KMHC). The Kansas Mental Health Coalition is dedicated to improving the lives of Kansans living with Mental Illnesses and Severe Emotional Disorders. We are consumer and family advocates, provider associations, direct services providers, non-profit and for-profit entities and others who share a common mission. At monthly roundtable meetings, participants develop and track a consensus agenda that provides the basis for legislative advocacy efforts each year. This format enables many groups, that would otherwise be unable to participate in the policy making process, to have a voice in public policy matters that directly affect the lives of their constituencies. The opportunity for dialogue and the development of consensus makes all of us stronger and more effective in achieving our mission.

Kansas needs Funding for Community Based Treatment Options for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Close Gaps in the Continuum of Care

The Coalition commends the Legislature for recognizing the current behavioral health crisis. The Legislature passed important recommendations to do the following:

- Convene the Mental Health Task Force to develop strategic planning for closing the gaps in our continuum of care and recommend a solution to the state hospitals bed crisis,
- Convene a formal study to determine the number of psychiatric inpatient beds needed to serve Kansans
- Began incremental restoration of funding for community treatment,
- Recreate Medicaid health homes (OneCare Kansas),
- Recapture a portion of the Problem and Gambling and Addictions Fund and direct the funds to addictions treatment – as the original statute intended,
- Fund expansion of Crisis Stabilization Centers through dedicated Lottery Vending Machines revenue,
- Fund and expand clubhouse programs through dedicated Lottery Vending Machines revenue,
- Fund Medicaid housing benefit, and
- Create juvenile crisis centers and the K-12 Mental Health Pilot.

Too many Kansans with mental illness or substance use disorders are turned away from treatment, or the state hospital, or jailed, or trapped in a cycle of arrests and homelessness. Too many families are unable to find services to help their children or relatives. This is far from the goal of delivering the right care at the right time in the right place.

We ask the Kansas Legislature to continue this work this session in order to close some of the gaps in the continuum of care and provide alternatives and support to state hospital treatment in order to move us toward strategic planning and away from managing one crisis after another.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support the proposal of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services to end the moratorium on voluntary admissions at Osawatomie State Hospital including \$5 million for regional hospital bed contracts and remodeling and staffing additional space at Osawatomie State Hospital. These recommendations are less than the Mental Health Task Force recommendations but do follow the important strategy of a parallel approach to add state hospital beds regionally and to invest in the current state hospitals. Please note the

KDADS supplemental requests to support wage increases and training as well as new technology investments.

- Restore mental health reform contract funds to the community mental health system in order to repair and expand the community based continuum through staffing and program expansion,
- Provide funds for KDADS to continue to develop additional diversion and crisis services regionally – to the extent that lottery vending machine dollars have not met expectations,
- Request the agency develop the rules and regulations and recommend funding for the creation of regional Crisis Intervention Centers (as per the 2017 Crisis Intervention Act),
- Capture additional dollars in the Problem Gambling and Addictions Fund and direct the funds to addictions treatment as intended by the original Kansas Expanded Lottery Act,
- Increase reimbursement rates for mental health and addictions treatment,
- Expand the number and opportunities for peer support and peer mentoring programs and specialists in hospital and community settings,
- Add funding for suicide prevention efforts, staffing and National Suicide Prevention Lifeline operations at Headquarters, Inc., and ComCare,
- Fund additional staff positions at KDADS for vital functions, including a suicide prevention staff position at KDADS and evaluate the need for additional positions to oversee other key programs,
- Create new partnerships and resources at the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS), for the Housing First / supportive housing options for those at risk or discharged from inpatient mental health facilities and implement recommendations from the Mental Health Task Force Report to maximize federal funding and alternative housing opportunities (see \$500,000 budget request),
- Support additional professional training and accreditation for staff across programs,
- Develop academic partnerships, including residencies and internships for clinical staff, and
- Reject policies that result in the further erosion of behavioral health resources.

These recommendations reflect the consensus priorities of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition and the recommendations of the Mental Health Task Force Report.

There were important enhancement requests from the agency that would implement some of the Task Force recommendations:

- Youth Mobile Response Services - - 3,000,000 SGF (This is a limited version of the Task Force recommendation.)
- Outpatient Mental Health Services in Nursing Facilities & Nursing Facilities for Mental Health - - 2,800,000 SGF / 4,000,000 AF
- Infrastructure Needs and Maintenance of New Electronic Medical Records System for the Four State Hospitals - - 4,771,500 SGF
- Disability and Behavioral Health Employment Support Pilot Project - - 4,800,000 SGF / 12,000,000 AF
- Behavioral Health Services in Local Jails - - 3,000,000 SGF
- Community Integration Housing First Program - - 500,000 SGF
- Substance Use Disorder Services for Uninsured - - 500,000 SGF
- Statewide Suicide Prevention Program - - 1,500,000 SGF
- Crisis Stabilization Services Expansion - - - 1,500,000 SGF
- Clubhouse Model Program Expansion - - - 400,000 SGF
- Crisis Intervention Center Pilot at Rainbow Services, Inc. - - 150,000 SGF

The Kansas Mental Health Coalition appreciates the leadership and programs team at the Kansas Department on Aging and Disability Services and their ongoing communication and collaboration with our Coalition members.

Thank you for your consideration.

For More Information, Contact:

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