

KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

... Speaking with one voice to meet the critical needs of people with mental illness

Support Clubhouse Program Expansion – Increase Cap on Lottery Funds

The Position: Support continued expansion and development of Clubhouse model services for people with severe and persistent mental illness through dedicated funding by increasing the funding cap in the Lottery Vending Machines statute. Current Clubhouse programs include Reclamation Clubhouse (Olathe serving Johnson County), Milestone Clubhouse (Hutchinson serving Reno County), Lotus House Clubhouse (Topeka serving Shawnee County), Breakthrough Clubhouse (Wichita serving Sedgwick County), and our newest Clubhouse – Railway Clubhouse (Newton serving Harvey County).

The Problem: People with mental illness experience homelessness at a higher rate and for more extended periods and have less contact with family and friends. According to SAMHSA, 30% of those experiencing homelessness have a mental health challenge, and about 50% have co-occurring substance use problems. (1) People who have severe mental illnesses are overrepresented among the chronically homeless and are often released from hospitals and jails without proper community support in place. A chronically unhoused person costs the taxpayer an average of \$35,578 annually. (2) Providing supportive services reduces the number of unhoused individuals, significantly decreasing the cost to our communities.¹ [Homelessness Programs and Resources | SAMHSA](#) ² [Home - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

The accredited Clubhouse Model program is evidence-based, affordable, and effective. The Clubhouse model is a unique community-based program that provides strength-based interventions to help people with SPMI socially reintegrate, dramatically improve their quality of life, and substantially reduce Medicaid costs. It relies on applying Social Practice, a specialized form of therapy that uses the setting of an intentional community to assist people in their mental health recovery.

In the Clubhouse, there is a strong adherence to inclusion where all participants (members/clients, staff, board members, volunteers, and employers) join forces to work toward the central goal of supporting recovery in collaboration with clinical mental health professionals. This positive energy allows people with a mental illness to contribute to their local community and live a life filled with meaning and dignity, which includes meaningful work, friendships, and stronger family connections.

Why This Matters: In Kansas, we are experiencing a mental health crisis where the symptoms of mental illness overcome people due to lack of services and isolation. Fighting for the well-being of people living with severe mental illness is the passion of the Kansas Clubhouse programs. Studies have shown that Clubhouse members engaged in supported employment programs have nearly 50 % competitive employment rates, earn higher wages and work more hours than participants in other vocational programs. In other studies, the quality of life for Clubhouse members improved in housing, education, friendships, and employment.

The Bottom Line: Clubhouse programs are an essential part of the continuum of care for people with mental illness and must be expanded to aid recovery for more Kansans. As Kansas lottery vending receipts grow, we want your support to ensure that 100% of Clubhouse funding is dedicated to strengthening and expanding evidence-based Clubhouse programs to support recovery for more Kansans in more communities.

The rest of the story about Clubhouse Programs

Please support an increase in the statutory \$8M cap on Lottery Vending Machine distributions. The funds are distributed 75% to Mental Health Crisis Centers and 25% for support of Clubhouses. Increased funding for Clubhouse programs in Kansas will open more Clubhouses across the state. There are 105 counties in Kansas.

Over 300 Clubhouses provide services worldwide, with 186 Clubhouses operating in the United States.

Breakthrough Clubhouse locally and throughout the country have successful data demonstrating that less than 6% of Clubhouse members need hospitalization, and over 30% find employment. With adequate funding, hospitalizations and incarceration is reduced, and meaningful employment increased.

In 2019, Breakthrough (Episcopal Social Services) contracted with KDADS to provide Clubhouse services in Wichita, KS, and assist with developing three new accredited Clubhouse programs. These programs are Milestone Clubhouse in Hutchinson, KS, Lotus Clubhouse in Topeka, KS, and Reclamation Clubhouse in Shawnee, KS. These Clubhouse programs provide rehabilitation services to help people with mental illness rejoin their local community through education, employment, and volunteer work.

We have established two new Clubs, one of which was recently awarded a 3-year Accreditation standing through Clubhouse International <https://clubhouse-intl.org/>, the highest level of Accreditation possible. Breakthrough Club in Wichita also received another 3-year Accreditation. Lotus House in Topeka and Reclamation Club in Olathe are scheduled for accreditation in 2024, and we are on track to develop a new clubhouse in Salina in the summer of 2024.

Strong Outcomes for Clubhouse Members:

1. The joint report from the Treatment Advocacy Center and the National Sheriff's Association (April 8, 2014) states, "Prisons and jails have become America's 'new asylums'. The number of individuals with serious mental illness in prisons and jails now exceeds the number in state psychiatric hospitals; people with mental illnesses are at greater risk of incarceration and of multiple arrests. Clubhouse programs impact reduction of incarcerations of members active in the Clubhouse community."
2. One of the hallmarks of Clubhouse programs is engaging members in positive, healthy activity, which reduces the incidence of hospitalization and reduces the financial impact on the Medicaid system. Participation in Clubhouse communities has a substantial beneficial influence on healthcare costs. Ref: Hwang, S., Woody, J. Eaton, W.W. (2016) Analysis of the Association of Clubhouse Membership with Overall Costs of Care for Mental Health Treatment Community Mental Health Journal
3. Studies show that most people with mental illness want to work. They do not want to be left alone in the community without friends or rehabilitation support. They know the consequence of having no community support and do not want to end up hospitalized or imprisoned. Research articles on Clubhouse programs can be found at: <https://clubhouse-intl.org/resources/articles-library/>.
4. As of June 2023, **the 5 Clubhouses served over 700 members. 30% of Kansas Clubhouse members are employed, and 90% of active members do not need long-term hospitalization.** Eighty-two young adult members were assisted in their mental health recovery journey, pursuing education and career opportunities and experiencing less isolation through relationships formed with other Clubhouse members.