

2024 Policy Priorities

1

Assist and support the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition to develop a workforce pipeline, attract new workforce, and support current behavioral healthcare staff.

- Develop a comprehensive behavioral health workforce education ladder.
- Establish and support efforts to create a workforce/employer incentive program for mental/behavioral health care workers (like the Kansas Aviation Tax Credit program).
- Include retired licensed mental/behavioral health employees in the KPERS exemption of penalty list as rehires.
- Reduce barriers to reciprocity for licensed behavioral health care workers with appropriate credentials who are relocating to Kansas.

2

Increase Medicaid rate for all in-patient and out-patient behavioral health services.

- Adjustments will assist healthcare providers meet rising operating costs and should be based on a comprehensive understanding of the cost drivers with providers.
- Implement regular Medicaid rate adjustments tied to the rate of inflation for all in-patient and out-patient behavioral health services.

3

Protect and create state laws that encourage collaboration with local governments and financially support efforts to provide affordable accessible housing.

- Supporting the Housing First program as it is designed with a consumer-centered approach, taking into account the needs and preferences of the individuals receiving services.
- Determine the appropriate level of funding needed to delivery of supported housing services by the Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) and other mental health, substance abuse, and housing providers.

4

Reinstate 2022 Kansas House Bill No. 2377.

- This allows individuals involved in DUI treatment courts to participate in substance use treatment in lieu of mandatory minimum prison sentence and help reduce the prison population by assisting offenders to successfully complete treatment.
- Continue post incarceration supervision to Court Services and Community Corrections for those who have been convicted of 3rd DUI Misdemeanors and for 3rd & Subsequent DUI Felonies.

5

Increase access for behavioral health care.

- Allowing services for community members whose income range makes them ineligible for Medicaid insurance.
- Identify, implement, and fund a program to reduce the number of uninsured Kansans, particularly those living below 200% of poverty or below for behavioral health.

Supporting Issues of Importance

1 Support a \$15 million appropriation to supplement annual cost for private in-patient psychiatric beds.

Improve the annual financial deficit on private in-patient beds that support Medicaid and uninsured patients, that are filling in for the deficiencies in the state's psychiatric bed availability.

2 Support a \$50 million appropriation to establish a state matching grant program to address local homelessness needs.

3 Fully fund established crisis stabilization centers.

Crisis stabilization centers were initially funded by the State as part of a state-wide plan for continuum of care for people in crisis. We request an additional \$1.5 million for the crisis stabilization center in Wichita as part of the request for statewide funds of \$9.5 million.

4 Support the Wichita State University and University of Kansas Biomedical School.