

Testimony Presented To House Federal and State Affairs Committee
By Andy Houlberg, CEO of Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services
February 13, 2024

Good morning, members of **the House Federal and State Affairs Committee**. My name is Andy Houlberg, and I am honored to be here today as the CEO of Breakthrough Episcopal Social Services. Our organization operates three **Clubhouses** and facilitates the Kansas Clubhouse Coalition and KDADS grant, aiming to provide evidence-based community support for individuals impacted by mental illness in Kansas. All five CLUBHOUSES are represented here today, and you will hear testimonies from some of their members. There will be time at the end for questions.

The **Clubhouse** model has a history of over 50 years, backed by extensive research that affirms its positive outcomes. Notably, it has proven effective in reducing unemployment and hospitalization while enhancing overall health outcomes for active **Clubhouse** members. There are over 300 **Clubhouses** across 30 countries, with a majority in the United States. The American Psychiatric Association, the World Health Organization, and Dr. Thomas Insel, a former National Institute for Mental Health director, all endorse this strength-based social practice model.

The model is guided by 37 standards that act as the Bill of Rights for Members and the Code of **Ethics** for Staff. These standards are instrumental in evaluating and accrediting **Clubhouses**, ensuring evidence-based practices are consistently upheld.

This model is not a standalone solution but works alongside other interventions for mental illness. Collaboration with Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs), the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), Certified Recovery Organizations (CROs), SUD treatment, and medical professionals enhances the impact and effectiveness of these interventions.

I want to express our gratitude for the support from the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) grant, which aimed to expand the **Clubhouse** model and accreditation. With the support of KDADS and our community partners, the Kansas Mental Health Coalition and Mary **Ellen**, we have made significant strides in fulfilling the grant's intended purpose. Five **Clubhouses** serve over 700 individuals throughout the state, with a 40% employment rate and 90% active members not needing long-term hospitalization.

We are asking for your support for increasing the cap on Lottery Vending machine revenue from the statutory \$8M to \$12M . HB2667 proposes that the cap on lottery vending machine revenue be increased to \$12M and directs 25% of the funding to be distributed to the Clubhouse Model Program Fund managed by KDADS.

Sub HB2194 was introduced in 2019 with 75% of the funding dedicated to the Community Crisis Stabilization Fund and 25% dedicated to the **Clubhouse Model Program Fund**. The funding was capped at \$8M annually. It took until FY2023 to exceed the \$8M cap. Last year by proviso, the legislature increased the cap to \$9M with an agreement to investigate a statutory

change this year. It took the Lottery office 3 or 4 years to order and place the machines, but now, in FY2024, revenue exceeds \$12M.

If granted additional funding, our objectives are clear:

1. **Expansion into Salina and Western Kansas:** We aim to bring the benefits of the **Clubhouse** model to the Salina community.
2. **Increased Capacity at Each Clubhouse:** By enhancing the capacity of our existing **Clubhouses**, we can accommodate more individuals and provide a broader range of services, such as **housing, transportation, and further enhancement of our employment programs.**
3. **Funding a Coalition Coordinator:** To ensure the seamless collaboration and coordination of efforts, we propose allocating funds for a Coalition Coordinator.

Our long-term goal is for **Clubhouses** to have diversified funding sources and actively engage with local communities. We proudly report that we have secured grants from various sources, including United Way, local community foundations, churches, and private donors, and we have established a **Clubhouse Giving Day** in June.

In conclusion, the **Clubhouse** model has proven to be a transformative force in the lives of those affected by mental illness. With your continued support, we can extend these benefits to more communities in Kansas, fostering resilience and recovery. Thank you for your time, and I am happy to address any questions you may have.