



February 10, 2020

House Insurance Committee

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2459

Chairman Vickrey and Members of the Committee,

The Behavioral Health Association of Kansas (BHAK) is the state's trade organization dedicated solely to substance use disorder treatment and prevention providers seeking integrated behavioral health care. BHAK believes that true integrated behavioral health means access and funding for mental illness and substance use disorder treatment without regard to where a consumer seeks services. Our network of substance use disorder treatment providers is reflected on the attached map.

BHAK providers of substance use disorder treatment services are keenly aware of the barriers and limitations that exist to provide inpatient or residential services for treatment, particularly for our patients who may have suicidal ideations. Given the growing prevalence of suicide, particularly among young people, House Bill 2459 is one of the critical tools in which there is a broad and strong public policy interest in guiding health insurers to provide coverage.

While 14 days is typically not sufficient for someone who meets medical necessity criteria for inpatient or residential treatment, it's a good start without prior authorization and without requiring the patient to pay out of pocket up front "just in case insurance doesn't pay." House Bill 2459 allows timely and ready access to medically necessary treatment, limits unnecessary delays due to cumbersome administrative requirements, and is a positive step toward addressing one of the public health crises of this era.

We lament the years of lost children and family members who have gone without behavioral health treatment because we have not yet begun to make these changes.

Please contact us if you have any additional questions.

Stuart J. Little, Ph.D., President
Behavioral Health Association of Kansas
<https://www.bhakansas.com>


BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION OF KANSAS MEMBER SERVICE LOCATIONS*



*Physical locations serve consumers in a broader geographic region, particularly residential programs.

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MIRROR, INC.
 130 East Fifth Street
 Newton, KS 67114
 (316) 283-6743
 Barth Hague, CEO
- 
Preferred Family Healthcare
- 
MIRROR
 130 East Fifth Street
 Newton, KS 67114
 (316) 283-6743
 Barth Hague, CEO
- 
VALLEY HOPE ASSOCIATION
 103 S. Wabash Ave.
 Norton, KS 67654
 (800) 554-5101
 Pat George, CEO
- 
DCCCA
 3312 Clinton Parkway
 Lawrence, KS 66047
 (785) 841-4138
 Lori Alvarado, CEO
- 
CENTRAL KANSAS FOUNDATION
 1805 South Ohio
 Salina, KS 67401
 (785) 825-6224
 Les Sperling, CEO

BHAK PUBLIC POLICY NETWORK

- Asbury House:** Saline
Central Kansas Foundation: Dickinson, Geary, McPherson, Saline, Shawnee
City on a Hill: Finney, Scott, Seward,
- Corner House:** Lyon
DCCCA: Crawford, Douglas, Pratt, Sedgwick, Shawnee, Trego
Higher Ground: Sedgwick
New Dawn: Shawnee
Preferred Family Healthcare: Cowley, Johnson, Sedgwick
Sims-Kemper: Shawnee
Valley Hope Association: Norton, Atchison, Johnson, Sedgwick, McPherson
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