Kansas Advocacy Issue

Providing Adequate Mental Health and Behavioral Health Care

Action Needed

The availability of inpatient care for voluntary and involuntary patients is crucial for the well-being of Kansans. Providers need to have beds readily available for mental health patients and those dealing with Substance Use Disorders. The Kansas Hospital Association urges the legislature to continue to invest in mental health services in Kansas. This includes expanding Medicaid coverage, providing adequate funding for current and future mental and behavioral health treatment centers, and reimbursing hospitals for involuntary patient observation and transportation.

Due to the the lack of voluntary and involuntary beds, Kansas hospitals continue to house patients in their emergency departments for several days while awaiting transfer to state hospitals.

As the Kansas builds out mental health capacity in the south central area, the state also should also invest in keeping current programs available by increasing reimbursement rates.

To cover the assessment, care, treatment and aftercare for many uninsured and underinsured Kansans dealing with mental and behavioral health issues, Medicaid expansion remains an urgent need as well.

Kansas has seen increased mental health impacts in both rural and urban parts of the state. It is imperative the state provide adequate financing to increase the number of voluntary and involuntary inpatient beds and fund new facilities, such as crisis stabilization centers.

Bottom Line:

Critical steps must be taken to address individuals in mental health or substance abuse crises.

This includes expanding services and increasing funding for behavioral /mental health care in Kansas.

Tara Mays
Vice President State
Legislative Relations
tmays@kha-net.org
(785) 276-3124 (office)
(785) 969-9270 (cell)

Audrey Dunkel
Vice President
Government Relations
adunkel@kha-net.org
(785) 276-3116 (office)
(785) 221-8789 (cell)

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Kansas Hospital Association   **kha-net.org**