

# 2023 Policy Priorities

1

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

- Reduce barriers to reciprocity for licensed behavioral health care workers with appropriate credentials who are relocating to Kansas
- Include retired licensed mental/behavioral health employees in the KPERS exemption of penalty list as rehires
- Use the SPARK Grant funding resources to retain behavioral health care workers by focusing on understanding workforce needs
- Establish and support the efforts for a workforce/employer incentive program like the Kansas Aviation Tax Credit program but for mental/behavioral health care workers

2

## Build a Regional Hospital in the Wichita Area

- Build a regional mental health hospital in the Wichita area to support community members in crisis and minimize the wait time for those seeking/needing services

3

## Increase the Medicaid Rate for all In-Patient and Out-Patient Behavioral Health Services by 10 Percent

- Address the cost of providing services

4

## Increase In-Patient Beds for Substance Abuse Treatment

- Increase funding for substance abuse treatment providers to increase available inpatient beds
- Permanently change the ratio of twelve clients per each substance abuse clinician

5

## Identify, implement, and fund a Behavioral Health program to reduce the number of uninsured Kansans, particularly those living below 200 percent of poverty or below

- Increase access to care for community members whose income range makes them ineligible for Medicaid insurance

## Supporting Issues of Importance

- 1 Continue Telemedicine Reimbursement Rate at the In-Person Rate Post-Pandemic
- 2 Support Sustainable and Reliable Funding for SB 19 – 988 Suicide Hotline
- 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. However, funding to support crisis centers, like COMCARE, has not kept up with demand. 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 with the Biomedical School