

- Valley Hope has operated in Kansas since 1967
- In our most recent fiscal year that ended June 30 we treated 2,696 addicts in residential treatment and 576 in intensive outpatient
- We currently hire 70-80 counselors at our 5 locations in Kansas
- We also operate in 6 other states
- Our business model includes the promotion of professional advancement opportunities for our employees
- Since the Addictions Counselor Licensing Act was put in place one year ago Valley Hope has had a very difficult time hiring new counselors in Kansas and promoting or transferring counselors from our facilities in other states. While we applauded the steps taken to improve standards for addictions counselors we do not agree with the prohibition of other licensed mental health professionals from providing counseling services to patients with addiction disorders.
- In our experience over the past year, the reduction of our hiring pool in Kansas from about 9,000 to about 1,500 potential candidates has reduced rather than improved the quality of professional counselors who provide care to patients with addiction disease in Kansas.
- Our out of state applicants for licensure in Kansas have been told that their education, training and experience related to counseling patients with addictions is not applicable if it did not occur in Kansas.
- It is disappointing and troubling to us that the effort to improve the quality of addictions counselors in Kansas has led to overly restrictive and exclusionary rules and regulations that appear to be having the opposite effect for us.

Dave Ketter

Clinical Supervisor

Valley Hope Association

to JCARR 8/27/13