

Selection of Communities for Communities Engagement

Item B on page 15 of the Omnibus Memo referred to the Community Engagement Project which is designed to assist at-risk communities by developing and enhancing coalitions. The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) conducted a needs assessment to identify nine high-risk communities in the following counties: Atchison, Brown, Cherokee, Harper, Labette, Montgomery, Reno, Russell, and Wilson. KDADS allocated \$150,000 to build and enhance community supports in the identified communities and assisted with strategic planning in an effort to divert individuals and their families from higher levels of care to more appropriate treatment settings. Grants are available to the communities to continue capacity building and the creation of programs to address specific behavioral health needs.

The Committee requested additional information about how the communities were selected. KDADS indicated that data collection and analysis was completed for indicators associated with mental health and well-being across Kansas. Two methods of analysis were utilized: preliminary analysis of 33 indicators identified the highest need and integration of Community Mental Health Center outpatient admissions and state hospital inpatient treatment data identified the highest correlated risk factors.