



Testimony to House Committee on Health and Human Services on House Bill 2042

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Kyle Kessler
Executive Director
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Mister Chairman and members of the Committee, my name is Colin Thomasset, I am the Associate Director for the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc. The Association appreciates the opportunity to submit this written testimony in support of House Bill 2042, which makes revisions to the current statutory language relating to the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council.

The Association represents the 26 licensed Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in Kansas that provide behavioral health services in all 105 counties in Kansas, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. In Kansas, CMHCs are the local Mental Health Authorities coordinating the delivery of publicly funded community-based mental health services. As part of licensing regulations, CMHCs are required to provide services to all Kansans needing them, regardless of their ability to pay. This makes the community mental health system the "safety net" for Kansans with mental health needs, collectively serving over 127,000 Kansans.

House Bill 2042 makes revisions to update the existing statute relating to the Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council. This Council is both federally mandated through Public Law 102-321 as well as Kansas statute. The Association is supportive of the change to add the Governor's tribal liaison and increase the membership on the council to 34 members.

The Association appreciates the hard work and commitment of the members on the council and we urge you to support House Bill 2042. Thank you for the opportunity to submit this written testimony.