



**CENTRAL KANSAS FOUNDATION**

*Offering hope and healing  
from addiction since 1967.*

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Salina and Saline County*

Testimony to House Health and Human Services Committee  
House Bill 2106  
February 1, 2017

Mister Chairman and Members of the Committee, I am Les Sperling, CEO of the Central Kansas Foundation (CKF) based in Salina, Kansas. Our organization has been providing quality and affordable Substance Use Disorder Prevention and Treatment services to the citizens of Kansas for the last 50 years.

Ten years ago, CKF began our pursuit of national accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Our purpose for pursuing accreditation was twofold. First and foremost, we were searching for a formal platform and processes that would create an organizational culture which constantly monitored the quality and effectiveness of our services, and also provided a vehicle to ensure a daily organizational focus on improving the quality and outcomes of those services.

In order to meet national accreditation standards, providers must address a series of specific standards addressing leadership, governance, strategic planning, risk management, health and safety, human resources, accessibility, performance measurement and management, performance improvement, and others. Meeting the accreditation standards goes far and above the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) licensing standards, which are purposefully designed to identify the minimum standards necessary to operate a safe and credible treatment program.

CKF has completed and sent KDADS an exhaustive crosswalk comparison of our CARF standards and the KDADS program licensing standards. As expected, all of KDADS licensing standards are included in the CARF standards. Redundant licensing and accreditation visits consume the valuable resources of all stakeholders that could be better utilized in other important work.

Many Substance Use Disorder programs in Kansas have achieved national accreditation and actively seek to improve their programs and services. Acknowledging this achievement and commitment to quality via a deemed status is good for the providers, state agencies, and most importantly, for those in need of our services. CKF stands in full support of HB 2106.

In closing, I would like to mention our second reason for pursuing national accreditation. Over the years, the burden of payment for Substance Use Disorder services has steadily moved from the private insurance payers to the tax payers. Most health insurance companies require a behavioral health provider to be nationally accredited in order to join their provider panel. Kansas providers who pursue accreditation are making a conscious effort to expand their capacity to obtain reimbursement for those individuals who receive their services and are covered by a private health insurance plan. Through our CARF

accreditation, CKF is now on the provider panel of every commercial insurance company doing business in Kansas. As more providers take advantage of deemed status promoted by this bill, commercial insurance companies will continue to contribute to the benefits of substance use disorder treatment. Thank you for opportunity to participate today and I am happy to stand for any questions you may have.

Les Sperling  
CEO