



DCCCA
IMPROVING LIVES

Testimony in Support of House Bill 2106 Health and Human Services Committee

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Chairman Hawkins and Committee Members:

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I am Erick Vaughn, Director of Strategic Initiatives for DCCCA, Inc. DCCCA has been serving Kansans for over forty years, coordinating substance abuse prevention and treatment services; recruitment, training and support of foster homes; traffic safety education and resources; and facilitating residential and community based interventions for at risk youth and families. All DCCCA services and administrative operations have been nationally accredited by the Council on Accreditation since 2011. We enthusiastically support HB 2106, offering deemed status for organizations like ours that are both licensed by the State of Kansas and nationally accredited. This legislation reduces unnecessary administrative costs for DCCCA and the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services.

The Council on Accreditation (COA) is an international, independent accrediting body founded in 1977. Their national standards for private organizations enhance organization growth and stability, and ensure an unwavering commitment to the health, safety, and rights of clients, and produce high quality, measurable results.

DCCCA's six substance use disorder treatment programs are licensed by the Kansas Department of Aging and Disability Services. In 2016, we served over 2,700 Kansans. As an accredited organization, our facilities are held to standards more rigorous than those required by KDADS. We must not only say we provide safe, supportive and quality care, we must be able to provide evidence that we implement that care on a daily basis. COA requirements are divided into three sections, each containing multiple compliance elements:

- Administration and Management – standards guiding ethical practice; financial management; governance; human resources; performance and quality improvement; risk prevention and management.
 - Service Delivery Administration – standards guiding facility safety and security; health and wellness; client rights and confidentiality; behavior management; medication control; employee training and supervision.
 - Services for Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders; Residential Treatment Facilities – standards guiding evidenced based practices; assessment, treatment planning, discharge and aftercare; facility
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safety, security and therapeutic environment; staff credentials and client ratios.

DCCCA accreditation further involves processes for reviewing critical incidences, addressing client and public complaints, stakeholder feedback, establishing and reporting service goals, and continually using data to enhance quality care. Our partners, funders, clients and the general public have access to COA standards at any time at www.coanet.org.

The Council on Accreditation awarded DCCCA the Highest Standards of Professional Practice in 2011 and again with reaccreditation in 2015. Passage of HB 2106 ensures we will maintain our level of excellence not only as an accredited organization, but as licensed treatment facilities. We will continue to report our adherence to national standards to our State partners while redirecting redundant administrative and financial resources currently allocated to duplicative licensing audits, to client services and staff support. We will continue to abide by state licensing standards and verify that compliance through our accreditation reporting.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and I am available to answer questions.

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