

*Much more than medicine.*

**Testimony before the Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee**  
Support for the Passage of SB 316 - coverage for tobacco cessation treatments  
Chair – Senator Vicki Schmidt

Madam Chairman and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Shawnee Mission Health we stand in support of SB 316. This legislation provides an excellent opportunity for implementing strategies to collectively impact health and reduce risks for chronic health conditions.

Not limiting, as this bill would do, the number of cessation attempts a recipient of state Medicaid services can receive, recognizes the challenges people of *any* income level face when attempting to quit smoking. SB 316 levels the playing field relative to individuals having access to the support necessary to reduce health risks by quitting smoking.

In 2016 Shawnee Mission Health conducted its Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) as it does every three years. A committee was established to guide the hospital through the Assessment and Community Health Plan Process. Representatives on the committee included hospital, public health and a broad community representation from low income, minority and other underserved populations<sup>1</sup>

A key priority emerging from that assessment was **Chronic Disease and Risk Reduction**. High blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer closely associated with smoking were among those diseases reported as problematic from the populations surveyed. Our CHNA indicated that 15.7% of those in our service area smoke cigarettes. Through our community education and outreach program, our experience has been that **most** smokers require multiple attempts before becoming a successful ex-smoker and each attempt is important in the patient's long-term success.

SB 307 represents another effort to bring equity in accessing needed support from our health care system. We urge you to pass SB 307 favorably.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeanette Metzler  
Community Benefit Manager | Life Dynamics Health and Wellness  
[jeanette.metzler@shawneemission.org](mailto:jeanette.metzler@shawneemission.org)  
**Medical Center Policy Priorities**

T 913-676-2000

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<sup>1</sup> See Community Needs Assessment Priorities on the back of this testimony.

## Policy Priorities

### Promote Five Steps to Health in America<sup>2</sup>

Our public efforts are guided by the following:

- Prioritize wellness as a key domestic policy issues
- Improve the current health system
- Strengthen the public health infrastructure
- Move to people and community-centered care
- Support health in all policies

### Kansas Legislature 2018--Policy Areas

#### I. Access to Health and Community Support Services

#### II. Access to Behavioral/Mental Health Services<sup>3</sup>

#### III. Community Benefit and Engagement

#### IV. Workforce Recruitment, Retention, and Development

### Community Health Needs Assessment Priorities 2017-2019<sup>4</sup>

Priority issues addressed by Shawnee Mission Health Include:

Mental health resources

Access to Care

Chronic Disease and Risk Reduction

Poor Pregnancy Outcomes – Wyandotte County

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<sup>2</sup> AHPA ~ Adventist Health Policy Association

<sup>3</sup> Policy Agenda for the next President & Congress of the United States ~AHPA

<sup>4</sup> SMH conducted a Community Needs Assessment in 2016. It identified the health-related needs of community including low-income, minority, and medically underserved populations.



T 913-676-2000

9100 W. 74th Street  
Shawnee Mission, KS 66204  
[ShawneeMission.org](http://ShawneeMission.org)