

Testimony SB 238

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding SB 238.

My name is Randy Callstrom and I am the President and CEO of Wyandot Behavioral Health Network, the community mental health center serving Wyandotte County. I am also a LSCSW.

There is a serious workforce shortage of social workers and mental health providers in Kansas. Wyandot offers clinical supervision to LMSWs as part of our recruitment strategy, but this is becoming increasingly difficult as we are challenged by a limited number of staff eligible to provide the supervision.

We want social work students and LMSW level staff to view Wyandot – and the CMHCs as a whole – as a great place to work. Clinical supervision is one benefit we can offer that makes us attractive, especially since we are not able to pay wages competitive to many other employers. The experience a CMHC can offer to a newer therapist is unparalleled. However, having adequate numbers of staff able to provide the clinical supervision is becoming increasingly difficult. These proposed changes would create yet another barrier for us.

Likewise, I know LMSW level social workers outside of Wyandot who struggle to find clinical supervision or who can't afford it. Many private clinical supervisors can charge \$100 to \$150 an hour.

To illustrate my concerns, I'd like to share a brief story. We recently had a LSCSW who left our employment. In addition to his fulltime responsibilities, he was providing the clinical supervision for three (3) LMSW level employees. Arranging for all three to continue their employment and receive clinical supervision for licensing purposes was very difficult. In fact, we were not. Due to other workload responsibilities of our LSCSWs, one LMSW employee was unable to find a new supervisor. I worry that we will be unable to keep her as she explores options to receive the clinical supervision she is needing, and for new therapist we hire, we will not have clinical supervisors available unless we are able to hire another LSCSW.

Together, I am concerned that this bill would significantly reduce the number LMSWs able to receive supervision and thus further reduce the number of LSCSWs. And, it would harm our recruitment and add to the workforce issues that already plague the CMHCs.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Callstrom