

ADDICTION COUNSELOR ACTION PLAN #3

January 28, 2010

Memorandum

To: Kansas Addiction Counselors
From: Stuart J. Little, Little Government Relations LLC
Date: January 28, 2010
Re: Addiction Counselor Licensure—BILL INTRODUCED HOUSE BILL 2577

- You are receiving this email because you or your program have been contacted previously by the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP) related to informational hearings regarding the efforts to pass Addiction Counselor Licensure during the 2010 Kansas Legislative Session.

- The licensure bill (HB 2577) has been introduced on January 27 in House Health and Human Services Committee.

- A copy of the bill (and other supporting documents) are posted on the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals website:
 - <http://www.ksaap.org/licensure.shtml>
 - or www.ksaap.org and following the link to “addiction counselor licensure”
 - A copy of the bill is available on the Kansas legislature website <http://www.kslegislature.org/legsrv-bills/index.do>

- IF you have a legislator on HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE (see list and script at bottom). Please contact them now and make two point:
 - Tell them you support HB 2577 and ask them to contact the Chair of the Committee, Representative Brenda Landwehr, and ask for a hearing
 - Urge your legislator to support the addiction counselor licensure bill, House Bill 2577

- IF your legislators are not on House Health and Human Services—please contact them anyway and let them know the addiction counselor licensure bill has been introduced and you support it, want the Committee to hold a hearing, and urge their fellow legislators on the Committee to pass the bill

- Again, this legislation will not become law without the support and advocacy of everyone making contact with their legislators. Do not be hesitant to contact legislators as they have chosen to serve in public life and we are all obligated to make our views known to them. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact KAAP or myself.

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Addiction Counselor Licensure Legislation Talking Points—FOR MEMBERS OF HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

The following language should be incorporated in your own words in communication to legislators. This information should be used by addiction counselors, program staff, board members, etc. If you have good relationships with your courts, mental health centers, prosecutors offices, these same talking points should apply and we encourage you to share the talking points with them. This language is meant to be a guide for making your argument. Please add what you feel you need to BUT keep the message short and focused.

It is most important that individuals contact their personal legislators or legislators where your program conducts business.

Script:

I am _____ and I live in your district. I work at _____. [Provide a two sentence summary of what you do.] I need you help and support to pass House Bill 2577 Addiction Counselor Licensure legislation in 2010.

The House Health and Human Services Committee has introduced the addiction counselor licensure bill, House Bill 2577. I need your support to make sure this bill receives a hearing. Please contact Committee Chairwoman Brenda Landwehr and request a hearing on the bill. I also need your support to ensure the Committee passes the bill, and eventually I need your support to move it through the entire legislative process.

At no cost to the State, Addiction Counselor Licensure will accomplish the following:

- *Provide consumer protection by creating oversight and sanctions through the Behavioral Science Regulator Board*
- *Increase consumer confidence by ensuring addiction counselors are appropriately trained, educated, and following appropriate standards*
- *Ensure workforce development, growth, and professionalism*
- *Any health reform and parity will mandate licensed professional standards*
- *Provide oversight of federal and state funds for addiction treatment*

I need your support and help during the 2010 legislative session to make sure this legislation is passed. I will be in touch again as the bill moves through the process. Until that time, please contact me if you have any questions.

Again, please feel free to modify this format and language to fit your email, letter, or conversation. Please, however, do make contact with your legislators if you want this legislation to pass.

HOUSE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP
Always include reference to House Bill 2577

Contact Legislators at their office email, telephones, or mailing addresses. If you do not receive a response, contact them at their home email address.

The legislators office mailing addresses are all the same
 [Legislator Name]
 Kansas State Capitol
 300 SW 10th St.
 Topeka, Kansas 66612

House Health and Human Services Committee Membership

Name	Office phone (all 785)	Office email	Home phone	Home email
Brenda Landwehr— Chair	296-7683	brenda.landwehr@house.ks.gov	316-821-9800	blandweh@ink.org
Dave Crum—Vice Chair	296-6014	dave.crum@house.ks.gov	316-775-6826	jdcbcks@aol.com
Geraldine Flaharty— Ranking minority member	296-7651	geraldine.flaharty@house.ks.gov	316-524-8039	flaharty98@sbcglobal.net
Gail Finney	296-7668	gail.finney@house.ks.gov	316-263-1176	gafinney5@yahoo.com
Dolores Furtado	296-7677	dolores.furtado@house.ks.gov	913-341-3072	dfurtado@kc.rr.com
Lana Gordon	296-7652	lana.gordon@house.ks.gov	785-273-1203	lanagordon@hotmail.com
Phil Hermanson	296-7699	phil.hermanson@house.ks.gov	316-516-2324	phil.hermanson@cox.net
Aaron Jack	296-7644	aaron.jack@house.ks.gov	316-733-6600	dajack87@yahoo.com
Ann Mah	296-7668	ann.mah@house.ks.gov	785-266-9434	lmah6@cox.net
Peggy Mast	296-7685	peggy.mast@house.ks.gov	620-343-2465	pmast@ink.org
Jim Morrison	296-7676	jim.morrison@house.ks.gov	785-462-3264	jmorrison@ink.org
Cindy Neighbor	296-7687	cindy.neighbor@house.ks.gov	913-268-9061	cindyneighbor@aol.com
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Valdenia Winn	296-6838	valdinia@house.ks.gov	913-321-2620	vwinn1236@att.net
Owen Donohoe*				

*Representative Donohoe is currently on leave from the Legislature to recover from open-heart surgery. His replacement on the committee has yet to be named.