

THE KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF ADDICTION PROFESSIONALS (KAAP)

2010 PUBLIC POLICY PLATFORM (ADOPTED DECEMBER 3, 2009)

The most significant economic crisis in recent history continues during the 2010 Session. The Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP) 2010 legislative platform contains requests for funding increases because the number of Kansans in need of services continues to grow. Administration and legislative consideration of budget reductions, however, should focus on preserving the network of services such as substance abuse treatment and prevention that will be confronted with increased citizens' demands for services during this time of need.

Highlights

- § Support legislation creating addiction counselor licensure
- § Support current Liquor Tax Fund collection and distribution
- § Support public safety components of substance abuse treatment
 - Restore Senate Bill 67 4th Time DUI treatment reduced in FY 2009
 - Protect Senate Bill 123 system in current form—treatment instead of incarceration
 - Restore total elimination of community-based therapeutic community programs
- § Support Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services substance abuse treatment and prevention funding
- § Support close oversight of implementation of mental health and substance use disorder parity
- § Support planning for use of Problem Gambling and Addictions Fund

- n **Support legislation creating addiction counselor licensure**
 - o Support legislation to implement Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board license for addiction counselors in Kansas
 - o Licensure by the state for this mainly publicly funded system is most appropriate
 - o Substance abuse parity and all proposed federal health reform will require best practices and licensed providers—stand to lose funds
 - o Licensure ensures public protection
 - o Licensure improves consumer confidence
 - o Licensure provides parity with behavioral health professionals
 - o Licensure attracts and retains a professional workforce

- n **Support current Liquor Tax Fund collection and distribution**
 - o KAAP opposes any additional recommendations to not make payments from the Liquor Tax Fund. One third of the funding generated from the liquor tax is directed for use by municipalities and community-based addiction providers for prevention, early intervention and treat non-priority populations.
 - o Support distribution to licensed providers and regional prevention centers
 - o Programs treats thousands of Kansans and provides valuable employment locally

- n **Support alcohol and drug prevention and treatment in Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services FY 2010-FY 2011 Budget Request.**
 - o The FY 2009 budget was reduced \$2.0 million and more cuts are likely
 - o 2007 and 2008 Legislatures added significant funding for increased services and increased reimbursement rates for addiction and prevention grants
 - o Substantial funding commitments by the Legislature must be sustained and not reduced or client care and treatment will be reduced
 - o Increase Addiction and Prevention Services provider treatment rates
 - o Ensure that adequate funding exists for the current provider network to meet client needs through additional revenue, not just through cap and rate increases
 - o The state's thirteen regional prevention centers have not received a funding increase in over nine years. The benefits of regional prevention centers to Kansas in their efforts to reduce the number of Kansans with future addiction and treatment needs is worthy of financial support
 - o The Legislature must resist the temptation to reduce substance abuse treatment funding during this economic crisis because reduced funding will negatively impact other areas such as corrections and mental health

- n **Support Public Safety components of Community-Based Treatment: Alternative Sentencing for Substance Abuse Treatment Law (SB 123), SB 67 (4th Time DUI treatment), and Therapeutic Community**
 - o **Senate Bill 123**
 - o Support current funding and structure of SB 123 treatment with the Kansas Sentencing Commission

- Additionally, the current method of management and funding distribution works efficiently for the state and providers with excellent outcomes. Do not change that system
- Oppose any legislation to transfer Kansas Sentencing Commission to the Department of Corrections
- **4th Time DUI (Senate Bill 67)**
- State funding for the program reduced by two-thirds during 2009 from \$1.2 million to \$400,000
- Program now is not effective because not following evidence-based practices due to diminished revenue
- Increased threat to public safety
- **Support Restoration of funding for KDOC facility based therapeutic community programs and community based residential beds**
- Correctional substance abuse treatment programs, particularly the Therapeutic Community programs, have been totally eliminated from the Kansas Department of Corrections budget during 2009. There is no more funding for these type of treatment in the state
- A strong and integrated community based system of substance abuse treatment programs suggest there may be a limited need for a large-scale correctional residential substance abuse treatment facility

Policy

- n **Support close oversight of implementation of mental health and substance use disorder parity**
 - Health insurance companies are implementing parity as passed by the 2009 Legislature
 - Legislature and the Kansas Insurance Department must carefully monitor the implementation of the law and criteria for standardized medical necessity and that substance use disorders are not singled out for pre-certification as is being done currently
 - 2009 Legislature passed parity law (Senate Bill 41) during 2009

- n **Support planning for use of Problem Gambling and Addictions Fund**
 - Distribution of Problem Gambling and Addiction Funds should not happen within the current state contract for other substance abuse treatment funds
 - SRS has not presented any plan on how to use those funds
 - Fund established for broader range of addiction treatment issues, address long-standing funding deficiencies and co-occurring addiction issues as well as broad-based treatment and prevention services
 - Senate Bill 66, the Expanded Lottery Act, established the Problem Gambling and Addiction Fund
 - 2 percent of funds are supposed to go to the “addictions fund” and a plan for expending those funds is not known. KAAP is committed to working with SRS to craft a plan for the fund

Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals 2010 Legislative Platform

- SRS should not recommend or support the use of the Problem Gambling and Addictions Funds on non-AAPS programs

- n **Support Improvements to DUI Laws**
 - Support legislative efforts to enhance public safety by modifying and improving the state DUI laws
 - Any change must include sufficient and sustained funding or the treatment programs will fail

- n **Continued Need for Prevention Support**
 - Prevention is a critical component of the state system to provide alcohol and drug treatment
 - Oppose any reduction in the current legal drinking age from 21 years of age
 - Oppose any legislation allowing for the smoking of marijuana for medical applications