

For Immediate Release

September 18, 2014

For more information, contact:

Angela de Rocha
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
785-806-7482

KDADS Awards \$1M Grant to Fund Behavioral Health Crises Intervention in Three Kansas Counties

TOPEKA – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Kari Bruffett announced today the award of a \$1 million grant to the South Central Mental Health Counseling Center/Regional Recovery Support Center, Region 2, to fund behavioral health crisis intervention services in Butler, Sedgwick and Sumner counties. ComCare of Wichita will serve as project director.

“The purpose of this grant is to build the capacity to provide a full array of crisis services in the Wichita and South Central Kansas area,” Secretary Bruffett said. “We want to improve the center’s ability to support and stabilize individuals and to engage at-risk individuals before they suffer a full blown mental health or substance use crisis.”

“The specific aim of this additional funding is to help the center provide services to the uninsured,” Secretary Bruffett added.

This grant is a part of Governor Brownback’s plan to improve the delivery of mental health care in Kansas, which he announced in May. That plan was developed from recommendations made by the Governor’s Mental Health Task Force earlier this year.

Services to be funded through this grant include:

- Regional Facility-Based Services include:
 - 23-hour crisis observation/stabilization beds
 - Short-term crisis residential services and stabilization (72 to 96 hours)
 - Crisis detox services (sobering beds, social detox, or medical detox)
 - Short-term crisis inpatient stabilization (5 to 7 days)

- Community-Based Services include:
 - Mobile crisis services (includes peers)
 - 24-hour crisis hotlines
 - 24-hour phone lines (manned by trained consumers/peers in recovery)
 - Peer crisis services
 - Transportation

In providing this funding the state intends to decrease reliance on the state mental health hospitals as safety nets, and support the provision of alternative community services, as was recommended by the Governor's Mental Health Task Force. Individuals who can be stabilized in their community within 10 days will stay in their community rather than be admitted to an inpatient mental facility. The funds also will be used to increase the availability of community diversion options on a 24-hour basis for those with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, for homeless individuals, and for individuals who would otherwise be referred to adult and/or child protective services.

The grant is expected to provide services for 2,285 individuals in addition to those currently being served by South Central Mental Health Counseling Center/Regional Recovery Support Center.

###

The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.