**Draft Advisory Panel draft recommendations**

The Panel recommends Governor Kelly and the 2024 Kansas Legislature include funding in the FY 2025 approved budget for the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) to construct 50 additional beds at the South Central Regional State Psychiatric Hospital. This would open a total of 100 beds for adults with acute mental illness and criminal defendants requiring competency evaluation or treatment. KDADS will provide an estimate of the funding needed to construct and operate the additional 50 beds as part of the state psychiatric hospital before the FY 2025 budget is approved.

The Panel recommends Governor Kelly update Executive Order 23-05 to move the final report due date from June 30, 2024 to December 30, 2024 to allow the Panel more time to study and consider recommendations.

In anticipation of the final report required under Executive Order 23-05, the Panel recommends the following topics and action steps within its schedule of meetings during 2024.

The Panel recommends creating a subpanel to provide focused study and detailed recommendations about initiatives to expand the behavioral health workforce. In addition to members of the Panel, the subpanel should include representatives from higher education institutions, community and technical colleges, and workforce development agencies in South Central Kansas to align recruiting and training efforts with the opening of the regional psychiatric hospital and the needs of other mental health providers in the region.

The Panel recommends creating a subpanel to gather input from law enforcement agencies, district attorneys and judges to review the criteria for admitting patients to state psychiatric hospitals, including those needing involuntary commitment or the need for competency evaluation or restoration.

The Panel recommends establishing a catchment area for the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital. The Panel should review data about current admissions to Osawatomie and Larned State Hospitals to determine the counties that should be included in the catchment area for the new hospital. The catchment area discussion should include recommendations on coordination with existing service providers in the region including Community Mental Health Centers, hospitals, and other service providers and barriers to services including access to health coverage and availability of service providers. The counties to be included in the catchment area will be part of proposed legislative changes for the 2025 Session.

The Panel will develop a recommendation on the operating model for the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital including proposed changes in statute limiting the ability to privatize operations of a state hospital. The panel will gather public testimony about the advantages and disadvantages of contracting out portions of the hospital psychiatric, physical health care, nursing, and direct care staffing. This could include reviewing other state approaches to privatizing state hospital services. The panel will review the proposed staffing model for the hospital including considerations of the safety and security of staff and patients, secure treatment needs, and operational support of the building and grounds.

The Panel will recommend statutory changes to the 2025 Legislature needed to open the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital, enact changes needed to expand the behavioral health workforce, create a catchment area for the proposed state hospital, and update criteria for admission to a state hospital.