



Sedgwick County...
working for you

Sedgwick County
Government

FACTS&details

about Sedgwick County Government

2010 Legislative Issues

January 2010

Public Safety

**Support efforts to ease jail overcrowding.
Oppose additional burdens on county jail space.**

Sedgwick County Alternative Jail Programs

- Community Corrections Adult Residential Program — Increased number of beds by 45 to relieve a waiting list in the jail.
- Expansion of Sheriff's Work Release Program — Program expanded to 157 beds.
- Sedgwick County Offender Assessment Program — Designed to address the needs of non-violent individuals whose mental illness is at the core of the arresting behavior, redirecting from incarceration and into community-based mental health treatment.
- Sedgwick County Day Reporting Center — Designed to reduce recidivism and substance abuse among drug dependent offenders through supervision, treatment, mandatory drug testing and the use of appropriate sanctions.
- Sedgwick County Drug Court Program — Targets those who need drug treatment and supervision to reduce recidivism and substance abuse; a joint effort between the Department of Corrections, District Attorney and COMCARE.
- Expansion of Pre-trial Services — Diverts inmates from the Adult Detention Facility to their own homes under supervision; may include electronic monitoring.

Corrections — Adult & Juvenile Offenders

- **Preserve Core Funding for Community Corrections Adult Intensive Supervision**

Sedgwick County endorses the Department of Corrections' initiative to sustain reforms that improve successful completion of probation supervision and reduce recidivism rates. The program to reduce the prison population must be continued or more expensive prison growth and a greater threat to public safety will occur.

This successful program has decreased revocations to prison by 25 percent between FY2006 and FY2009, diverting hundreds from prison, saving the state millions of dollars, and allowing closure of more than 500 prison beds in 2009.

Budget reductions have undermined this program and further reductions will increase the funds needed for prisons and county jails.

- **Adequate Funding to Local Communities for Graduated Sanctions Programs and Services**

Sedgwick County commends the Juvenile Justice Authority (JJA) for managing the current budget crisis with careful planning and sustained funding for community-based programs that have reduced juvenile delinquency and resulted in closure of two of four juvenile correctional facilities in 2009.

We support continued full funding of the core, prevention, and incentive programs that have produced these positive outcomes and made juvenile justice reform successful for our youth and the citizens of Kansas.



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Human Services

Support the restoration of the 10 percent Medicaid rate reduction.

- **Mental Health —**
Mental health depends on Medicaid to fund services for adults and children who have very serious mental illness and would otherwise potentially be institutionalized. Many of these adults and children are successfully living in the community due to the support provided to them.
- **Developmental Disabilities —**
Medicaid is the primary funding source for adults and children with developmental disabilities served by the Community Development Disability Organizations (CDDOs).
The community service organizations that provide services, such as Starkey and KETCH, struggled with the low rates prior to the reduction.
- **Aging Services —**
Aging services keep many seniors in their homes, where they prefer to live, with Medicaid funds. This serves seniors with the lowest incomes who are eligible for nursing home care. Nursing home costs far exceed the cost of in-home care.
- **Health Department —**
The Health Department supports access to a healthcare home, especially through the Coalition of Community Health Clinics (CCHC).
A reduction in the Medicaid rate leads to fewer providers in the community, increased demand on CCHC and a decrease in their capacity to care for clients.

Restore state funding.

There continues to be many concerns about the loss of state grants. This has resulted in changes including limiting services, discontinuing services and reduction in funding to a variety of community providers. Examples of this includes the Department on Aging limiting services available to people under the Senior Care Act, mental health providing fewer benefits to the uninsured and the CDDO eliminating funds to families with children who have a developmental disability.

For More Information:

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