Following are legislative issues that will enable Sedgwick County to continue maintaining high level of services and programs to citizens.

**PRIORITY ISSUES**

1. **Strengthen and enhance the Medicaid safety net through enhanced rates for behavioral health.**
   Support a four percent rate increase for behavioral health reimbursement codes to address increasing costs of service.

2. **Support regional state mental hospital facilities, including one in Sedgwick County.**
   We support a state mental hospital facility in Sedgwick County to consist of approximately 25-30 beds as recommended by the Mental Health Coalition.

3. **Address the behavioral health needs of the uninsured and underinsured.**
   Restore the promise of Mental Health Reform and support an $8.2 million request for increased funding to the CMHC system including COMCARE.

4. **Support Community Crisis Center Funding.**
   Support and enhance current funding for community crisis centers.

5. **Nuisance abatement authority for Sedgwick County.**
   Support legislation allowing Sedgwick County, as an urban area, the authority to abate nuisance properties judiciously and in a manner consistent with constitutional due process.

6. **Create a Charter Commission.**
   Support legislation granting Sedgwick County as an urban area the ability to establish a charter commission specific to Sedgwick County.

**JOINT PARTNERS STATEMENT**

Sedgwick County works very closely with and supports the legislative initiatives of our key partners in the region including the Wichita Regional Chamber of Commerce and the City of Wichita. We jointly support legislation relating to:

1) Behavioral health
2) A comprehensive state transportation program, including the North Junction, and
3) Workforce development initiatives promoted by the Chamber.
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