

## **South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel**

### **Agenda**

**August 16, 2024 1:00-3:00 PM**

**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
Sedgwick County Offices 100 N. Broadway, Suite 630**

<https://www.youtube.com/@ksdept.foragingdisabilitys6122/streams>

**I. Call to Order**

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary, Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services

**II. Approval of Minutes from July 18, 2024**

Scott Brunner

**III. Project Updates**

Scott Brunner and Tania Cole, Assistant County Manager, Sedgwick County.  
Basil Sherman, Pulse Design Group

**IV. Report from August 1, 2024 Townhall**

Ryan Vaughn, Learning Tree Institute

**V. Presentation on National Association of State Health Policy Behavioral Health Workforce Policy Academy**

Taylor Bremer, Assistant Behavioral Health Commissioner, KDADS

**VI. Presentation – Behavioral Health Center of Excellence**

Michelle Ponce, Associate Director, Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas

**VII. Final Panel Report—Review draft report and preliminary recommendations**

**VIII. Adjourn**

## **South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital Advisory Panel**

### **Agenda**

**July 19, 2024 1:00-3:00 PM**

**6<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room,  
Sedgwick County Offices 100 N. Broadway, Suite 630, and Zoom**

<https://www.youtube.com/@ksdept.foragingdisabilitys6122/streams>

#### **Panel Members attending:**

Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary of Hospitals and Facilities, KDADS  
Sarah Lopez, Sedgwick County Commissioner, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Claudio Ferraro, President, Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph  
LaTasha St. Arnault, Principal Consultant, LS Nonprofit Solutions  
Marc Bennett, District Attorney, Sedgwick County  
Mary Jones, President/CEO, Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas  
Tom Stolz, County Manager, Sedgwick County  
Senator Usha Reddi, 22<sup>nd</sup> District

#### **Panel Members not in attendance:**

Jason Gregory, InSite Real Estate Group  
Jeff Easter, Sheriff, Sedgwick County  
Joan Tammany, Executive Director, COMCARE  
Representative KC Ohaebosim, 89<sup>th</sup> District  
Representative Henry Helgersen, 83<sup>rd</sup> District  
Representative Will Carpenter, 75<sup>th</sup> District

### **I. Call to Order**

Chair Scott Brunner, Deputy Secretary of the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services, called the meeting to order at 1:02 PM.

### **II. Approval of Minutes from June 21, 2024**

Jones moved, and Reddi seconded to approve it as submitted. Motion passed.

### **III. Project Updates**

Brunner updated the Panel on the status of the land agreement with the Lange Family Foundation. The Board of County Commissioners plans to approve the agreement at the August 7 meeting of the Commission. KDADS is working with Pulse on final details to start construction design documents. An RFP is anticipated for October, awarding in November, and construction starting in January 2025. A Town Hall meeting has been scheduled for August 1, 2024, from 6:00-8:00 PM at Campus High School Auditorium. KDADS is in the process of submitting the complete budget for the state budget cycle. The budget for the initial operations of the hospital for FY26 will be included. Brunner will share with the Panel at the September or October meeting.

#### **IV. Privatization—Request for Information Review**

Brunner updated the Panel on the possibility of an RFI process and shared the state Division of Purchases discouraged KDADS from following a formal RFI process. The questions for potential vendors should be posed to the vendors directly and responses used to inform a request for proposals. He also reported a meeting with Governor Kelly and her staff was held to update her on the project. Governor Kelly prefers to explore privatization options currently in place at other state hospitals for certain services but not move forward with a total privatization model. Discussion followed regarding state requirements, consideration of the multiple funding sources used on this project, and alignment with specific fiscal requirements. The Panel can decide on its own recommendation, knowing the clear direction that the agency has received.

#### **V. Final Panel Report—Discuss Preliminary Recommendations**

Brunner led a discussion regarding the draft recommendation for the final report, due at the end of September. Catchment areas were discussed. The Panel had no new recommendations.

#### **VI. Adjourn**

The Panel members inquired about the date of the August meeting. Brunner noted that the meetings are typically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, so August 16<sup>th</sup> if keeping the same schedule.

A review of the subgroup recommendations will be held at the August meeting. The Center for Excellence will also present on workforce issues, along with a workforce policy presentation from KDADS staff.

Jones commented on a recent gathering of behavioral health professionals and concerns about privatization efforts, especially regarding staffing.

Reddi expressed interest in touring the Larned State Hospital and Osawatomie State Hospital campuses. Inquired if other Panel members might be interested. Brunner noted that it was likely the Legislative bus tour would stop at both this interim. He also mentioned that the remodeled building (Biddle) would be opening in August.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM.

## **DRAFT FINAL REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Catchment Area**

The Advisory Panel recommends that the state hospital being constructed should be a resource to serve the South Central Kansas region including patients and defendants from counties surrounding Sedgwick County. The Panel recommends KDADS identify the catchment area for the regional psychiatric hospital include at least Sedgwick, Butler, Harvey and Sumner Counties to reflect the current crisis partnership between those counties. The Panel recommends flexibility in determination of the catchment area, allowing time for admissions data review, while also looking to provide balance within the state hospital system.

### **Workforce Development**

The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS request funding in the FY 2026 budget for four full years of training for two new/additional psychiatry residency slots for the state hospitals through the University of Kansas School of Medicine-Wichita program in FY 2026. This can be accomplished through partnership with the Kansas Behavioral Health Center of Excellence or other funding partners.

The Advisory Panel recommends that the 2025 Legislature create a series of educational incentives to promote the mental health and behavioral health workforce pipeline in partnership with the Behavioral Health Center of Excellence. This should include, but is not limited to:

- a. a system of student loan forgiveness for varying levels of community-based behavioral health licensed positions based on working in state hospitals or community mental health centers based on working in those settings for a specified amount of time.
- b. A fund for scholarships for varying levels of licensed behavioral health positions in FY 2026 for students committing to those academic programs in mental health, psychology, psychiatry, social work, counseling, substance abuse or addiction, nursing, and other supporting licensure types.
- c. KDADS establishes a grant program to fund training programs for behavioral health careers through career and technical education institutions and create educational agreements between behavioral health providers and academic training programs in FY 2026.
- d. KDADS establishes a grant program to expand Licensed Mental Health Technician (LMHT) training programs for eligible provider groups and nursing education programs to support scholarships for LMHT students and help fund training sites and nurses to oversee students in FY 2026. This could include registered apprenticeship programs that are eligible to apply for grant funding through the Department of Commerce's Office of Registered Apprenticeship.
- e. establish a grant program to provide financial support for clinical placements to support students, clinical supervisors, and clinical training sites to increase opportunities for training in behavioral and mental health services in FY 2026.

The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS collaborate with relevant licensing authorities and community partners to explore alternative recruitment options, such as international behavioral health professionals, retired behavioral health professionals, and military families while ensuring appropriate compliance and best practices for patient and staff safety.

### **Legislative Recommendations**

The Advisory Panel recommends the Governor or Legislature request the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council or the Judicial Council initiate a thorough review of the Care and Treatment Act for Mentally Ill Persons statutes (K.S.A. 59-2945 through 59-2986) and propose changes to the involuntary commitment statutes for the 2027 Legislative Session. The review should include identifying processes to prioritize individuals in crisis screened for involuntary care and treatment to ease the strain on law enforcement resources.

Recommend that the Kansas State Department of Education (KSDE) establishes a Behavioral Health or Counseling and Mental Health Services Pathway to add to the Human Services Cluster in 2025.

### **Privatization**

The Advisory Panel recommends that the Governor and KDADS should operate the regional state psychiatric hospital with as a state hospital with a state employee leadership team and in the key administrative and clinical roles. The state should be responsible for all admission and discharge decisions and design the therapeutic treatment model. KDADS and the hospital leadership could choose to contract for services needed at the hospital such as food service, laundry, maintenance, supplemental staffing, or medical services.

### **Coordination with Existing Services**

The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS establish a formal intergovernmental agreement among law enforcement entities, emergency services, fire services, regional behavioral health providers, and KDADS to ensure effective communication processes, clear expectations for processes, and mutual obligations to support the operations of the South Central Regional State Psychiatric Hospital.

The Advisory Panel requests KDADS provide a report about agency efforts and programs for youth in a behavioral health crisis, including involvement with law enforcement. Within that report, KDADS will share an assessment of needs for acute, inpatient, and residential options for justice-involved youth and those in mental health crises. The Panel may further recommend increases in funding or new programs to address gaps in services for justice-involved youth and youth in crisis.

The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the WSU/KU Biomedical campus to identify clinical, educational, and research opportunities at the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital that can benefit training and research programs at the Biomedical Campus. This agreement should be in place before the South Central Hospital opens in 2027.

### **Budget Recommendations**

The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS include a budget enhancement in its FY 2026 budget submission to increase funding for regional case management and behavioral health providers to provide wraparound behavioral health services to decrease the need for continued law enforcement intervention.

Recommend that the Governor and 2025 Legislature review changes needed to improve reimbursement mechanisms for telepsychiatry and other supporting services provided in the state hospital to improve clinical gaps in FY 2026.