

THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE STUDY – CONSENSUS QUESTIONS

1. Community Mental Health Centers have the primary responsibility for meeting the needs of all Kansans accessing the public mental health system. The Community Mental Health Centers are the single point of entry for publicly-funded mental health services (inpatient and outpatient) and serve as a safety net for Kansas citizens. How is this system working, including strengths, barriers to the consumer, and gaps in service? What changes, if any, are needed?
2. What are some strategies to prevent or decrease problems among the mentally ill, such as homelessness, incarceration/criminalization, unmet physical health needs, and failure to access mental health treatment when it is needed?
3. The demand for acute psychiatric treatment provided by the state mental health hospitals has been increasing over the last four years. At times, the actual hospital census has exceeded budgeted census, placing a serious strain on hospital resources. This problem has been addressed by implementing system-wide census management, which focuses on diversion and discharge----a solution that one county attorney has called “treat ‘em and street ‘em.” How could this problem be addressed more effectively?
4. One half of the total funding that supports Community Mental Health Centers and one-fourth of the total funding that supports State Mental Hospitals is derived from Medicaid. In view of budget limitations, how should the state allocate funding for mental health services, including issues related to Medicaid Reform? Some recommendations from professional organizations are:
 - A) Maximize Medicaid payments
 - B) Provide supplementary state funding to adequately support state mental health hospitals
 - C) Make dollars follow the person
 - D) Fund services demonstrating positive recovery and resilience
 - E) Implement full insurance parity for mental health care
5. The President’s New Freedom Commission on Mental Health–Goals and Recommendations are attached. By Executive Order 04-10, the Governor of Kansas designated the Governor’s Mental Health Services Planning Council to be the coordinating body in Kansas for utilizing the New Freedom Commission Report. Should the League support this document?

THE PRESIDENT'S NEW FREEDOM COMMISSION REPORT: ACHIEVING THE PROMISE---TRANSFORMING MENTAL HEALTH CARE IN AMERICA

GOALS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

GOAL 1

AMERICANS UNDERSTAND THAT MH IS ESSENTIAL TO OVERALL HEALTH

- 1.1 Advance and implement a national campaign to reduce the stigma of seeking care and a national strategy for suicide prevention.
- 1.2 Address mental health with the same urgency as physical health.

GOAL 2

MENTAL HEALTH CARE IS CONSUMER AND FAMILY DRIVEN

- 2.1 Develop an individualized plan of care for every adult with serious mental illness and child with serious emotional disturbance.
- 2.2 Involve consumers and families fully in orienting the mental health system towards recovery.
- 2.3 Align relevant Federal programs to improve access and accountability for mental health services.
- 2.4 Create a comprehensive State Mental Health Plan.
- 2.5 Protect and enhance the rights of people with mental illness.

GOAL 3

DISPARITIES IN MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ARE ELIMINATED

- 3.1 Improve access to quality care that is culturally competent.
- 3.2 Improve access to quality care in rural and geographically remote regions.

GOAL 4

EARLY MENTAL SCREENING, ASSESSMENT AND REFERRAL TO SERVICES ARE COMMON PRACTICES

- 4.1 Promote the mental health of young children.
- 4.2 Improve and expand school mental health programs.
- 4.3 Screen for co-occurring mental and substance abuse disorders and link with integrated treatment.
- 4.4 Screen for mental disorders in primary health care, across the lifespan, and connect to treatment and supports.

GOAL 5

EXCELLENT MENTAL HEALTH CARE IS DELIVERED AND RESEARCH IS ACCELERATED

- 5.1 Accelerate research to promote recovery and resilience, and ultimately to cure and prevent mental illness.
- 5.2 Advance evidence-based practices using dissemination and demonstration projects and create a private/public partnership to guide their implementation.

5.3 Improve and expand the workforce providing evidence-based mental health services and supports.

5.4 Develop the knowledge base in four understudied areas: mental health disparities, long-term effects of medications, trauma, and acute care.

GOAL 6

TECHNOLOGY IS USED TO ACCESS MENTAL HEALTH CARE AND INFORMATION

6.1 Use health technology and telehealth to improve access and coordination of mental health care, especially for Americans in remote areas or in underserved populations.

6.2 Develop and implement integrated electronic health record and personal health information systems.