



Introduction

Chairman Owen's,

My name is Steve Denny. I serve as Deputy Director of Four County Mental Health Center, Inc. (FCMHC). I am a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a Licensed Clinical Addictions Counselor. I also serve as public policy chair for the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP). I have worked at FCMHC since 2005 and have worked in the field of behavioral health since 2002. FCMHC is a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic and is a licensed Substance Use Disorder Treatment services program under KDADS. FCMHC serves Montgomery, Cowley, Wilson, Chautauqua, and Elk Counties in Southeast Kansas.

I am writing in support of HB2601 which would amend K.S.A. 8-1567 to require clinical intervention for individuals convicted of a third or fourth felony Driving Under the Influence (DUI) charge. This bill inserts language that requires a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) service model to include clinical care coordination and substance use treatment services, a supervising corrections officer, and the person.

Background and Experience providing MDT/DUI services

FCMHC has provided services to individuals under the MDT model since 2007. Our organization receives referrals through The Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK) in Wichita. Once individuals are referred, they are enrolled in treatment services, which includes individual and group counseling, case management, peer services, and co-occurring mental health treatment when clinically indicated. FCMHC continues to correspond with SACK through monthly reports and updates throughout the duration of the treatment episode. Most episodes last approximately 1 year. FCMHC has received 17 referrals since January of 2021. While, this is a small number of individuals, the overall program has demonstrated success. 76% of these individuals were discharged successfully and had 0 arrests in the 30 days prior to discharging from services. Only one of these individuals was required to enter the program again due to another arrest.

Conclusion

At FCMHC, we believe that behavioral health is essential to the health and wellness of our communities. The program and services supported by HB 2601 helps keep our communities safer and it reduces burden on the legal system. I fully support the passing of the bill. Thank you for your time and consideration

Sincerely,

Steve Denny
Deputy Director
Four County Mental Health Center, Inc.

