



# Substance Abuse Center of Kansas, Inc.

*Specializing in the prevention and treatment of individuals and families affected by substance abuse.*

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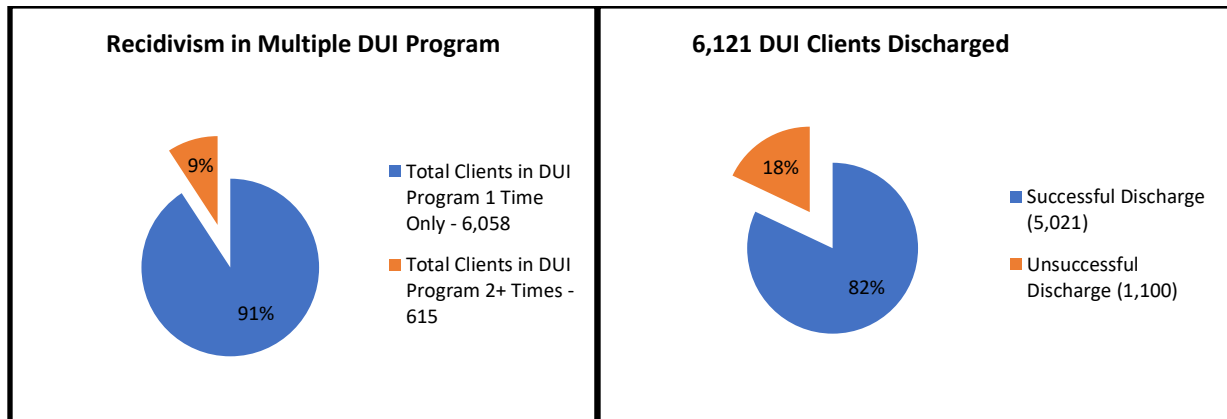
January 30, 2024

TO: Kansas House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice  
From: Chad Harmon, Chief Executive Officer – Substance Abuse Center of Kansas  
RE: **Support of HB 2601**

My name is Chad Harmon, I am the Chief Executive Officer of the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK), and 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.

SACK is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that provides comprehensive substance use and recovery services in 29 counties across the State of Kansas. We are a designated DUI Care Coordination provider through the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS). This program provides a unique balance of assisting individuals with access and engagement in recovery services while simultaneously working with supervising correctional partners to increase accountability and public safety. The model of services outlined in this bill has been in practice since 2011 and has a demonstrated history of success in preventing those in services from obtaining subsequent DUI offenses. Since July of 2011:

- **Preventing Additional DUI's**- 6,673 DUI clients in the DUI MDT services. Of those, only 9% experienced an additional DUI Arrest.
- **Successful Discharges** – including engaging in recovery, resolving legal issues, becoming employed, securing safe and sober housing, and re-establishing connections to their families.



***SACK greatly appreciates your time and consideration of this data as part of your decision to reinsert the clinical requirement into this statute.***

### **DUI Client Success Stories**

The following stories demonstrate the impact of the DUI Multidisciplinary Team service and the complicated paths clients experience on their journey to recovery. Names have been changed to protect anonymity.

#### **Client 1: Mark**

Mark is a client who has been through the Multiple DUI program twice (recidivated). The first time, he was not serious about his recovery, continued drinking and had frequent interaction with police for domestic disturbances and fights he and his wife would have while intoxicated. He ultimately was arrested and convicted of an additional DUI, resulting in the loss of his housing, relationship, and transportation. After this charge, Mark realized his life was going to continue to deteriorate unless he made significant changes. He chose to take accountability and worked with his Care Coordinator (CC) to make changes in his life including accessing substance use treatment which he completed successfully. He is engaged in couples counseling, but decided not to get back together with his wife until they both were stable. He is fully engaged in AA, Sponsorship, and Church, and attends retreats to help him with his sobriety. In addition, Mark has been meeting with his care coordinator and his probation officer and has established two years of sobriety. Mark has a full-time job, a house, and has established supportive relationships within the recovery community. He has obtained a primary care physician and is working on smoking cessation. He often expresses how grateful he is to be sober and attributes it to the accountability of the programs and supervision he experienced through this program.

#### **Client 2: Frank**

When Frank began services, he had three DUI convictions, and was extremely apprehensive about substance use treatment, often minimizing his alcohol use. Frank had been attending outpatient treatment for three months when he tested positive for alcohol and marijuana. He had been employed as a delivery driver for five years, and this relapse threatened his job and finances. Frank also began to recognize that he had few social events that did not involve alcohol. Frank then began to take his recovery more seriously and took an active role in participation. Through treatment, Frank gained an understanding of addiction and was able to identify how alcohol had been affecting his lifestyle and relationships. He started accessing more recovery groups, engaged with a Recovery Coach (RC), and began attending church. Through these activities Frank developed a sober support network and found social activities that did not involve drinking. He has reconnected with his family and friends and secured stable employment.