

Testimony in Support of HB2517
Presented to the House Federal and State Affairs Committee
February 15, 2018

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Chairman Barker and members of the committee, I am Barbara Andres and I live in Newton Kansas. I am the Executive Director of Episcopal Social Service, a faith-based organization located in Wichita KS that sponsors a Clubhouse Model program called Breakthrough Club.

Today I want to talk with you about HB 2517 concerning lottery tickets vending machines and revenues derived from this new initiative. On page 8 lines 8-21 of the proposed Bill, revenues will be designate to Community Crisis Stabilization Centers and the Clubhouse Model program fund which will be administered by KDADS.

What is a Clubhouse Program? A Clubhouse is organized to support people living with severe and persistent mental illness. It is an intentional community that helps members gain access to opportunities to rejoin the worlds of friendships, family, employment and education. A Clubhouse provides a restorative environment for people whose lives have been severely disrupted because of their mental illness. Clubhouse members are provided opportunities for employment, education, and wellness. Members support one another by building friendships, community, and a sense of purpose. A Clubhouse is a place where you are wanted and needed (we all need that kind of acceptance); people suffering with mental illness lose sight of their value and a Clubhouse community reminds them that they are important and belong to a caring community.

Clubhouse programs are utilized by adults (18 and older). Breakthrough Club is a nonresidential Clubhouse center that connects members into the greater community. Sarah is a Breakthrough Club member who came to our program when she was released from jail. She lives with the mental illness of bi-polar disorder and had issues with abusing drugs. Her behavior was pretty bad and she was not able to manage the Clubhouse environment when she first became a member. BTC staff connected her to a substance abuse program and she stabilized her substance abuse and mental illness symptoms. At that time, she back into the Clubhouse. Sarah loved to clean so she worked with staff and other members to keep the BTC facility clean. She made friends, established a consistent pattern of volunteering and develop lots of job skills. Last November BTC staff helped her find a temporary job as a Salvation Army bell ringer; a few week later she was ringing the bell in front of Dillons and she saw a help wanted sign. On her break she applied for a job and is currently working for Dillons. Sarah is still coming into the Clubhouse to stay connected with her friends and support system. We have many examples of Breakthrough Club members who are living and working successfully in the Wichita KS community.

Clubhouse Services include **Skill Building:**

- Promote independent living skills such as, learning how ride a bus, understanding how to manage your income, learning to follow a schedule, establishing a positive daily routine

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- Management of mental health symptoms while volunteering in the Clubhouse
- Learning to manage their mental illness in stressful situations

Mental Health Management

- Increased ability in managing mental illness symptoms
- Increased knowledge in medication management
- Increased compliance in taking prescribed medication
- Increased social supports that enhance a healthy lifestyle

The Clubhouse model services works to promote recovery. **Members have access to services 40+ hours a week and can walk in without an appointment. Trained staff provides mental health support and rehabilitation opportunities to all members.** Peer support is an important part of the Clubhouse culture and members are taught to provide healthy suggestions to peers who are experiencing difficult mental illness symptoms.

Cost Savings from utilization of Clubhouse Program Services:

More than 50% of people with severe and persistent mental illness, living in Kansas, experience multiple hospitalizations; with an average stay of 8 days, costing the Medicaid program \$8,000 each visit. **Only 6% of people with severe mental illness that are active in the Clubhouse program are re-hospitalized.** For less than the cost of one hospitalization a Clubhouse provides 1 year of services that include:

- Life skill training,
- Employment opportunities
- Social support.
- Education opportunities

Clubhouse Services demonstrate life enhancing outcomes that include:

- Reduced Hospitalization
- Reduced incarcerations in local jails
- Increased levels pre-vocational activity
- Increase in employment for Clubhouse members.

After many years of evaluating quality outcomes in accredited Clubhouse programs the Clubhouse model was designated as evidence-based practice by SAMSHA in late 2010.

In conclusion: The Breakthrough Club in Wichita Kansas is currently working with four communities in developing accredited Clubhouses programs. They are: Topeka, Hutchinson, Independence, and Chanute Kansas. Passing HB 2517 will provide lottery revenue from vending machines to fund Clubhouse Programs that help hundreds of people, living with mental illness, throughout Kansas.

Sincerely, Barbara Andres PhD; LMSW