

**HOUSE BILL No. 2047**

By Committee on Aging and Long Term Care

1-20

1 AN ACT enacting the geriatric mental health act; establishing a geriatric  
2 mental health program administered by the department on aging.

3  
4 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

5 Section 1. (a) The secretary of aging shall establish a geriatric  
6 mental health service program to provide funding for education, outreach  
7 and services through the area agencies on aging targeted to older adults  
8 experiencing mental health issues and to the providers who work with  
9 them. This program shall be administered by the department on aging.

10 (b) Funding for the geriatric mental health service program  
11 administered by the secretary of aging, shall be made available to the area  
12 agencies on aging and utilized in a collaborative effort with other state  
13 agencies and mental health service agencies and organizations to provide  
14 education, outreach and mental health services to older adults.

15 (c) Such service shall be provided for older adults regardless of  
16 living arrangements whether recipients rent or own a home or they reside  
17 in a continuing care retirement center, a skilled nursing facility or other  
18 adult care home licensed by the department on aging or the department of  
19 health and environment. The area agencies on aging shall contract with  
20 qualified service providers to deliver services in their planning and  
21 service areas to include: (1) Education on identification of mental illness,  
22 diagnosis, risk factors and service options; (2) outreach to older adults,  
23 families and caregivers to assist in the identification and referral of older  
24 adults experiencing mental health issues; and (3) mental health treatment  
25 by qualified mental health professionals in the home or other residence  
26 setting where the older adults reside.

27 (d) The secretary of aging may adopt rules and regulations necessary  
28 to implement the provisions of this section, including requirements for  
29 outcome and performance measure and program evaluation.

30 (e) This section shall be known and may be cited as the geriatric  
31 mental health act.

32 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its  
33 publication in the statute book.

34  
35