

## Professional Social Workers in Kansas: Putting them to work in our communities

*"Families with mentally ill loved ones face daily challenges the rest of us can only imagine." —Governor Brownback.*

*"While many Kansans and their families currently live under the dark cloud of mental illness, my hope is that this new initiative will be the start of a brighter day." —Governor Brownback*

On January 10, Governor Brownback announced his mental health initiative in response to a growing awareness that we must provide better mental health services to our most at risk and challenging populations. Fortunately, Kansas and social workers are positioned to respond to the Governor's call to action.

- Social workers are the largest group of mental health providers in Kansas with 6,000 living and working in nearly all 105 Kansas counties. Social workers work in both public and private sectors.
- Each year 600 students graduate from Kansas universities and colleges and become licensed Social Workers ready to practice in their area of interest.
- There are eight schools across Kansas that prepare young people as well as second-career students to enter into the profession:
  - Bethel University
  - Fort Hays State University
  - Kansas State University
  - Newman University
  - Pittsburg State University
  - University of Kansas
  - Washburn University, and
  - Wichita State University

Of the eight universities, six offer a baccalaureate degree and four offer a master's degree in Social Work

- Social Workers are licensed at three levels of expertise: Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker (LBSW); Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW); Licensed Specialist Clinical Social Worker (LSCSW). They are licensed to practice in all areas of mental health including substance abuse, depression, trauma, mental illnesses, domestic violence, foster care, adoptions, palliative care, aging services, veteran care and more.



KNASW is a resource for all mental health and social work issues affecting Kansas communities.

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