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**KANSAS PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION**

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**SUBMITTED REMARKS**

TO: The Honorable Mary Pilcher-Cook, Chair  
And Members of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home  
And Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight

FROM: Whitney Damron  
On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association

RE: KanCare Reimbursement Issues

DATE: October 7, 2013

On behalf of the Kansas Psychological Association (KPA), representing doctoral-level psychologists in Kansas, we respectfully submit these remarks for consideration by the Committee.

For the past several years, the KPA and other licensees of the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) have engaged in discussions with various state agencies, officials and the Kansas Legislature on the appropriate licensure requirements for licensees seeking payment for providing addiction and substance abuse services. This issue continues to be of concern under KanCare and we again ask the Legislature to clarify who may provide these kinds of services and be reimbursed.

Doctoral-level psychologists receive extensive education and training during the course of their education and are specifically allowed to diagnose and treat addiction issues. The State has unfairly and arbitrarily narrowed who may provide these services under state programs to include only Licensed Addiction Counselors and Licensed Clinical Addiction Counselors, even though several BSRB licensees, including doctoral-level psychologists are specifically allowed to provide these kinds of services in their practice.

The State should not preclude licensees qualified by education and credentials from being allowed to perform addiction and substance abuse services within their scope of practice at a qualified treatment facility and receive appropriate reimbursement. The arbitrary exclusion of such licensees will only serve to diminish options for treatment by Kansans and can lead to a number of unsatisfactory outcomes, including misdiagnosis, inappropriate treatment options and lack of qualified professionals.

Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint  
Committee on Home and Community  
Based Services and KanCare Oversight  
Date: 10-07-2013  
Attachment: 14

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**Kansas Psychological Association Testimony**  
**KanCare Reimbursement Issues**  
**October 7, 2013**

The State should not place itself in the role of arbitrarily credentialing health care professionals; our universities, accepted national standards and the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board are the proper entities to set these standards.

Substantially more options for the consumer will mean competition by qualified professionals and ultimately more cost-effective solutions, which will benefit all parties concerned.

In closing, the Kansas Psychological Association requests this Committee and the Kansas Legislature to make clear that mental health professionals properly educated and licensed in the field of addiction and substance abuse should be allowed to provide such services without the imposition of arbitrary limitations by bureaucratic decision-makers.

Your consideration of our position on this important matter is greatly appreciated.

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For more information on the Kansas Psychological Association:

[www.kspych.org](http://www.kspych.org)