



To: Brenda Landwehr, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Committee

From: Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals

Date: February 4, 2021

Re: House Bill 2160 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC)

Madame Chair and members of the Committee, thank you for taking the time to consider the remarks of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP). Formed in 1974, the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals is the Kansas largest addiction services trade association in Kansas.

The emergence of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) around the country is providing promising results. The CCBHC model is designed to provide comprehensive care that meets needs of individuals with mental health and addictions. It is a community-based model emphasizing integrated care.

It is critical that CCBHC programs have robust mental health and substance use disorder integration. One state's experience revealed that in its CCBHC's, 62% of individuals served were living with mental illness and that 66% had a co-occurring substance use diagnosis.

CCBHC's have been shown to increase access to care reaching individuals with unmet needs and reducing wait times for services. According to the National Council for Behavioral Health half of CCBHC's offer same day service with all guaranteeing service within ten days. That is in comparison to the national average wait time for psychiatric services of 48 days.

In Kansas it is becoming increasingly difficult for our members to get and retain professional staff. With more sustainable and higher reimbursement, the CCBHC model has been shown to mitigate staff migration away to states that have the CCBHC model.

The CCBHC model provides an integrated and sustainably financed model for care delivery. It is designed to provide a comprehensive range of mental health and substance use disorder services to vulnerable individuals and KAAP supports its development and deployment in Kansas.