

Larned State Hospital

Consider the addition of \$13.0 million SGF in FY 2022 and for FY 2023 for contract nursing staff.

The agency originally requested \$13.0 million SGF in FY 2022 and for FY 2023 for the cost of agency nursing staff to provide nursing coverage for the hospital. The agency reports that its nursing department experiences high vacancy rates for direct care positions, and due to these vacancy rates, the agency utilizes agency nursing staff to perform critical duties such as passing medications, supervising activities of daily living, supervising patients in crisis, as well as taking vital signs.

However, the Governor did not recommend the agency's requests.

During the budget hearing for the Mental Health Institutions, the agency indicated that it would be pursuing a Governor's Budget Amendment for contractual nursing staffing expenditures after it reassesses the current need for staffing following the additional funds that were included in the KDADS budget for the 24/7 pay plan, which were added to assist in retention and recruitment at the hospitals.

The Senate Subcommittee subsequently noted the agency's requests for increased funding for contractual nursing staff expenditures and requested that the agency provide additional information.