



*Sedgwick County...  
working for you*

# NEWS

SEDGWICK COUNTY COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES  
316-660-9370 WWW.SEDGWICKCOUNTY.ORG

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**CONTACT**

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**CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR NEW PATIENT ASSESSMENTS**

**COMCARE Offers Quick Access to Adult Mental Health and Addiction Treatment Services**

(Sedgwick County, Kan.) – Same-day access to mental health services is becoming more important as mental health organizations continue to see an increase in need, and as they prepare for greater demand due to the implementation of parity and health care reform. Providing optimal access to adult clients is the focus of recent changes at COMCARE of Sedgwick County.

COMCARE, the licensed community mental health center for Sedgwick County residents, now provides same-day assessments to new adult clients and is available when the need for mental health or addiction treatment services arises.

To improve access and timely intervention, COMCARE initiated Same Day Access, an innovative quality-improvement initiative launched by the National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare that has significantly cut wait times for services and has strengthened patient engagement. Health care organizations that have participated in the National Council's access redesign have seen a 60 percent reduction in consumer wait times, a 39 percent reduction in treatment access costs, and a 34 percent reduction in staff time needed for each treatment event. At COMCARE, the new process has reduced wait times by 2 to 5 days, which means 95 percent of the individuals requesting services will complete their initial assessment in one day.

An appointment for assessment of mental health and addiction treatment services is not needed. Clients can refer themselves, or COMCARE will accept referrals from family members, family physicians, hospitals, mental health professionals and schools.

As part of the transition to same-day access, adults in need of mental health services and those who are experiencing a mental health emergency, such as suicide will now go to 934 N. Water Street. With this merger of services, everyone will be seen the day they come in by a professional mental health clinician.

In 2012, COMCARE received more than 9,000 calls from persons wishing to access mental health and addiction treatment services, and 3,019 clients were admitted into COMCARE services. COMCARE's Crisis Intervention Services provided 5,586 crisis assessments and responded to 61,150 phone calls to address suicide risk and/or urgent mental health needs.

**Adult Same Day Access**

Walk-Ins Welcome, No Appointment Necessary  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
934 N. Water  
316-660-7540  
TTY 800-766-3777

**Adult Addiction Treatment**

Walk-Ins Welcome, No Appointment Necessary  
Monday – Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.  
940 N. Waco  
316-660-7550

**Crisis Intervention Services**

**24 hour Mental Health Emergency/Suicide Prevention Services**

934 N. Water  
316-660-7500  
TTY 800-766-3777

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