Law Enforcement Subpanel Work Group

Final Recommendations

1. The Advisory Panel recommends that the 2025 Legislature define the catchment area for the South Central Regional Psychiatric Hospital under the Care and Treatment Act, which may include Sedgwick, Reno, Harvey, Butler, Sumner, Cowley, and Kingman counties.
2. The Advisory Panel recommends the Governor or Legislature request the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council or the Judicial Council initiate a thorough review of the Care and Treatment Act for Mentally Ill Persons (K.S.A. 59-2945 through 59-2986) and propose changes to the involuntary commitment statutes for the 2027 Legislative Session. The review should include identifying processes to prioritize individuals in crisis screened for involuntary care and treatment to ease the strain on law enforcement resources.
3. The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS include a budget enhancement in its FY 2026 budget submission to increase funding for regional case management and behavioral health providers to provide wraparound behavioral health services to decrease the need for continued law enforcement intervention.
4. The Advisory Panel recommends funding to ensure the establishment and operations of a 104-bed facility located at Meridian and MacArthur.
5. The Advisory Panel recommends that KDADS establish a formal intergovernmental agreement among law enforcement entities, emergency services, fire services, regional behavioral health providers, and KDADS to ensure effective communication processes, clear expectations for processes, and mutual obligations to support the operations of the South Central Regional State Psychiatric Hospital.
6. The Work Group recommends that KDADS provide a report to the full Advisory Panel about agency efforts and programs for youth in a behavioral health crisis, including involvement with law enforcement. Within that report, KDADS will share an assessment of needs for acute, inpatient, and residential options for justice-involved youth and those in mental health crises. The Panel may further recommend increases in funding or new programs to address gaps in services for justice-involved youth and youth in crisis.