UNDERSTANDING THE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH WORKFORCE IN KANSAS

February 23, 2023
Kansas Health Institute
Who We Are

- Nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization based in Topeka.
- Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant by the Kansas Health Foundation.
- Committed to convening meaningful conversations around tough topics related to health.
Hello!

Cynthia Snyder, M.A.
Analyst, Kansas Health Institute

David Fye, J.D.
Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB)
Acknowledgments

Angela Wu, Analyst
Hina Shaw, Senior Analyst & Portfolio Strategist
Kari Bruffett, President & CEO
Wen-Chieh Lin, Director of Research
Defining the Behavioral Health Workforce in Kansas

Addressing Behavioral Health Workforce Needs in Kansas

Defining the Primary Care Workforce in Kansas

Implications of an Aging Primary Care Physician Workforce in Kansas
Defining the Behavioral Health Workforce

Types of Providers and Regulatory Authorities

Source: Kansas Health Institute review of websites of the Kansas Board of Nursing (KSBN), Kansas State Board of Healing Arts (BOHA), Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB), and the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS).
Behavioral Health Services in a Medical Primary Care Setting
Key Points from Defining the Behavioral Health Workforce

• Behavioral health providers are a diverse group of professionals.

• There were approximately 440 prescribing psychiatric clinicians physically located and practicing in Kansas in 2021.

• There were 2,414 non-prescribing, top-level independent practice behavioral health clinicians physically located and practicing 10 hours a week and 30 weeks a year in Kansas in 2021.

• Primary care providers also may address mental health and substance use disorders in their practices, especially in rural areas.
Geographic Distribution of Psychiatrists

Southwest Kansas has the fewest psychiatrists. Northeast Kansas has the most psychiatrists.

Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of BOHA data obtained through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in July 2021 and 2020 decennial census data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
Northeast Kansas has the most favorable ratio, with one LSCSW for every 2,088 Kansans in the region, and over one-half (56.8 percent, 648 out of 1,141) of LSCSWs in the state.

Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of BSRB data obtained through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in July 2021 and 2020 decennial census data from the U.S. Census Bureau.
Despite the high proportion of psychiatrists over the age of 55 in Kansas (45.5 percent), the proportion is lower than the national average (61.3 percent).

Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of BOHA data obtained through the Kansas Department of Health and Environment in July 2021.
CCBHC Model

Strategies to Address Workforce Shortages

- Grow-Your-Own-Approach
- Telehealth
- Integrated Care
- Reduce Health Disparities
Key Points from Addressing Behavioral Health Workforce

• Most psychiatrists and licensed specialist clinical social workers (LSCSW) are located in urban areas.

• An estimated one-fourth (24.7 percent) of psychiatrists and one-fifth (20.9 percent) of LSCSWs are age 65 or older.

• Telehealth can address challenges in rural service delivery including provider shortages and distance to care.

• Kansas has opportunities to increase the prescribing workforce.
David Fye, J.D.
Executive Director, Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
# Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

## History of Permanent Licenses July 2015 to Current

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**Note:** In March 2020, the state of Kansas began to experience the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, the Governor released Executive Orders which delayed enforcement of expiration of licenses until the end of May 2021.
### Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board

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*Note:* In March 2020, the state of Kansas began to experience the COVID-19 pandemic. During this time, the Governor released Executive Orders which delayed enforcement of expiration of licenses until the end of May 2021.
Licensing Equation

\[
\text{Licensing} = A = \text{New applicants for licensure} \\
\quad + \\
B = \text{Licensees that renew} \\
\quad - \\
C = \text{Licensees that fail to renew} \\
\quad + \\
D = \text{Former licensees that reinstate licenses} \\
\quad - \\
E = \text{Stopped practice, disciplinary reasons}
\]
THANK YOU!

Any Questions?

For additional information, contact Cynthia Snyder, csnyder@khi.org