



Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals

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February 4, 2016

Neutral Written Testimony on Senate Bill 367

Senate Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice Oversight

Chairman Greg Smith and Committee.

I am speaking today on behalf of the Kansas Association of Addiction Professionals (KAAP). I am Steve Denny, Director of Clinical Services for Four County Mental Health Center and Chair of KAAP. KAAP is the state's only professional association dedicated solely to substance use disorder treatment and prevention providers. We represent substance use disorder and prevention providers in Kansas who work as non-profits, for profits, local governments, and individuals in private practice.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide some insights as to where there are needs in Kansas for additional investments in substance use disorder services to address addiction and needs for juveniles. Senate Bill 367 will increase demand for juvenile community services and substance abuse treatment and mental health services. Our members have a few issues that need to be addressed by the Legislature before this bill advances.

1. Will necessary funding be shifted from out of home placements to community programs?
2. We do not understand how and when implementation will happen and are concerned about the process that will create and fund this new system.
3. What will be the "front door" or entry process into the system going forward? Does something replace Juvenile Intake and Assessment? What happens at 3:00 AM (as is usual with juvenile issues)? Will the courts be open and available to handle these kids during the crisis first time contact?

Our members are interested and prepared to assist the state in serving this vulnerable population in the community. Community services are the best and most cost effective. We support and encourage this transition but our support is tempered by absence of details resolving the questions itemized above.