

Community Services and Programs Commission  
New England Building  
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Kari M. Bruffett, Secretary  
Gina Meier-Hummel, Commissioner

Sam Brownback, Governor

Dear Kansas Behavioral Health Service Providers of Mental Health, Substance Use Disorders and Peer Support Services and Stakeholders for Veteran Services;

Due to the fact that Kansas has 9% veteran population, and that population is slated to grow with downsizing of active military, Reserves and the National Guard, the reduction of stigma in seeking Behavioral Health treatment and the need for treatment will be increasing in general for persons and families that have military experiences. It is important that providers are prepared to work with our service members and families. One way to do this is to ensure that your agency or you yourself are trained in military cultural responsiveness. If you are not a veteran or family member competency and basic understanding of language and experience is critical for engagement, retention in treatment as well as for providing proper referrals for support services. If that is not possible for your agency, it is important to ensure that you are connected to another agency that you can refer military members and families to if the need arises.

There are many avenues of training available for developing competency and basic knowledge for serving the military population. The Governors Behavioral Health Service Planning Council's Subcommittee on Veteran issues has recommended several of which are listed in the accompanying training resource document. I encourage providers and stakeholder agencies to take that extra step to be prepared to treat and provide community supports for our veterans, military members and families.

It is also vital as a service provider or stakeholder when providing services, to identify if persons seeking services are military members or families. This can be done by simply asking upon intake of a new client "Have you ever served in the military, or has an immediate family member served? If so, what are the dates/years of service?"

Thank you for all you do for Kansans and for our Kansas military members, veterans and families.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kari M. Bruffett".

Kari M. Bruffett, Secretary  
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services  
New England Building  
503 South Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, KS 66603-3404

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina Meier-Hummel".

Gina Meier-Hummel, Commissioner  
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services  
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