

For Immediate Release

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KDADS Schedules Regional Meetings to Promote Governor's Mental Health Initiative

TOPEKA – May is Mental Health Month, observing a 64-year-old campaign designed to raise awareness about mental health conditions and the importance of mental wellness for everyone.

As part of our recognition of Mental Health Month, the Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Community Services and Programs Commission (CSPC) Behavioral Health Services (BHS) is inviting interested individuals and groups to meet with us at several locations. We hope to gather ideas to assist the agency in the design and implementation of the Governor's Mental Health Initiative for the creation of Regional Recovery Support Centers that will provide resource sharing and accessibility to uninsured and underinsured customers of Community Mental Health Centers (CMHC) services in the region.

KDADS encourages persons experiencing mental illness, co-occurring disorders, as well as family members and other stakeholders, to attend these meetings.

The objective is to create opportunities for CMHCs to respond to a wider variety of challenges through collaboration, capacity building, resource sharing and a strengths-based approach.

Stakeholders who have expertise in behavioral health will provide basic information about the Governor's Initiative, begin gathering initial information for regional needs assessments and identify potential community partnerships.

All meetings will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. at various locations in the state:

- **May 13, 2013 in Overland Park** – Holiday Inn Overland Park West, 8787 Reeder Road, 66214
- **May 14, 2013 in Dodge City** – Knights of Columbus, 800 Frontview, 67801
- **May 15 2013 in Manhattan** – Holiday Inn at Campus, 1641 Anderson Avenue, 66502

- **May 16 2013 in Independence** – Independence Community College, 1057 W. College Avenue, 67301
- **May 17 in Hutchinson** – Hutchinson Community College/West Campus, 1300 N. Plum Street, 67501
- **May 17 in Wichita** – Marcus Welcome Center on the Wichita State University Campus, 21st North & Mike Oatman Drive, 67260

Registration is available online at www.bhsupdates.org/rrscmeetings. Some locations may have limited seating. For those who cannot attend in person, conference call phone numbers that will allow offsite participation will be posted prior to the meetings at www.bhsupdates.org/rrscmeetings.

If you need special accommodations, please contact diana Marsh at Diana.marsh@kdads.ks.gov or 785-296-3471. For more information regarding the Governor's Mental Health Initiative or if you wish to submit feedback in writing, please visit www.bhsupdates.org.

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The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services' mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence, while providing the right care at the right time in a place called home.