

## For Immediate Release

November 19, 2013

For more information, contact:

Angela de Rocha  
Director of Communications  
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services  
785-806-7482

### **Pay Increases Approved for Entry-Level LPNs at OSH, Rainbow, Entry-Level DD Mental Health Technician Trainees at All State Hospitals**

TOPEKA – Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services (KDADS) Secretary Shawn Sullivan announced Tuesday an increase in pay for entry-level Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) and LPN Seniors at Osawatomie State Hospital (OSH) and the Rainbow Mental Health Facility (RMHF), as well as a pay increase for entry-level Developmental Disability Mental Health Technician trainees (MHDDTs) at all five state hospitals.

These changes affect a total of 387 positions at the state hospitals.

“These raises are part of our continuing efforts to address staffing and retention challenges at our state hospitals,” Secretary Sullivan said. “The LPN wage increase at OSH and Rainbow was instituted after a labor market study. We believe all the increases will result in lower overtime costs and reduce the number of position vacancies.”

“These additional pay increases strengthen our recruitment efforts across the system, and help us to reduce turnover as well as overtime,” Secretary Sullivan said. “The MHDDT raise brings parity with employees at the Department of Corrections in Larned to those positions, and helps make those jobs competitive in the Kansas City/Johnson County-area job market.”

Starting pay for LPNs at OSH and RMHF was increased from \$15.03 an hour to \$16.56 an hour as of the November 10, 2013, pay period. Any LPNs who were being paid less than \$16.56 an hour received an increase that brings their salary up to the \$16.56 an hour level. This change affected 23 positions at OSH and eight positions at RMHF. LPN Seniors at OSH and RMHF were moved up to an hourly wage of \$16.94 an hour. This change affects 20 positions at OSH and seven positions at RMHF.

KDADS has eliminated the job classification of “Mental Health Developmental Disability Technician Trainee” (MHDDT trainee) at all five state hospitals in order to provide a higher starting salary. This increased the starting pay for all MHDDT trainees, in effect moving all of these entry-level positions up three pay grades and establishing a floor for MHDDT pay of \$12.35 an hour. This change affects 71 MHDDT positions at OSH, 43 at RMHF, 23 positions at the Kansas Neurological Institute, 83 positions at Larned State Hospital and 79 positions at Parsons State Hospital as of November 10, 2013.

In July, 2012, salary increases were put in place for approximately 85 RN Seniors, LPNs and LPN Seniors at Larned State Hospital at a total cost of about \$950,000.

KDADS assumed responsibility for overseeing the state hospitals in July, 2012.

###

*The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.*