

Governor's Behavioral Health Services Planning Council's Rural & Frontier Subcommittee

The Rural & Frontier Subcommittee is a group of mental health stakeholders who collaborate through research to statistically understand and promote accessibility and availability of mental health services in frontier and rural Kansas counties, as defined by KDHE's frontier (less than 6 people per square mile) through urban continuum. Through the statewide adoption of the KDHE definition of the frontier through urban continuum, we assure accessibility/availability of mental health services in frontier/rural Kansas counties.

Mission

To collaborate through research to statistically understand and promote accessibility and availability of mental health services in frontier and rural Kansas counties

Vision

Mental health funding and policy decisions in the state of Kansas will consider frontier and rural county issues and include frontier and rural county representatives in order to improve accessibility and availability.

Goals of the Subcommittee:

1. Promote Public Awareness: continuing statewide presentations, promoting rural cultural competency; research data and media options!
2. Promote Service Equity for Rural and Frontier Kansans: Identification of Statewide committee membership, leadership and meeting location to develop strategies for rural and frontier inclusion and representation!
3. Improve Access to Services with a Focus on EBPs: develop strategies to assist in the development of EBP's that have been demonstrated to be effective for rural and frontier populations; develop strategies to help providers increase level of and diversity of such services!

Subcommittee Chair: Cheryl Rathbun