

# KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

.....*Speaking with one voice to meet the critical needs of people with mental illness*

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**Q: Are you passionate about mental health in Kansas?**

**A: Yes, I have experience with mental illness.**

**Q: Do you know your Kansas legislators?**

**A: Yes, I think so...**

**Q: Do you want to develop as a leader and professional?**

**A: Yes, but I'm not sure how best to make progress.**

**If you said Yes to any of the above,  
you could be a KMHC District Advocate.**

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## **VOLUNTEER DISTRICT ADVOCATE POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Volunteers who agree to serve as District Advocates may choose to participate in a variety of ways which include the following:

1. Establish a relationship with local Kansas Representatives in the House and Senate and maintain communications with them throughout the year.
2. Receive and review e-mails which provide an overview of key legislative updates impacting mental health.
3. Follow up on Legislative updates by contacting Kansas House Representatives and Senators to urge them to support the positions of the KMHC by in-person, e-mail and/or telephone conversation.
4. Communicate with U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators regarding key issues pending in the U.S. Congress by in-person, e-mail and/or telephone conversation.
5. Participate in Mental Health Advocacy Day at the Kansas Capitol.
6. Report contacts/activities back to the Advocate liaison via e-mail or phone.
7. Participate in meetings of the KMHC by phone or in-person.
8. Update contact information with the District Advocate liaison when information changes or volunteers decide to not be part of the Grassroots Advocacy Network.

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## **KMHC District Advocate Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Answers.**

### **Q: How do I become a KMHC District Advocate?**

A: Visit the KMHC Website at <http://kansasmentalhealthcoalition.onefireplace.com> and select “GRASSROOTS ADVOCACY NETWORK” on the left-hand navigation list or google “KMHC grassroots advocacy network.”

Click on the “**Sign Up Online**” hyperlink in the center of the page and select the “Register” button to complete the online application. You will need an active e-mail address and be able to complete a security check by typing the 6 characters you see in the picture.

### **Q: What are the questions I need to answer on the online application?**

A: In addition to your name, your contact information and Kansas legislative districts, you will need to answer the following questions.

1. Have you participated in formal advocacy training?
2. If Yes, please describe the training.
3. Have you participated in Mental Health Advocacy Day or other organizations lobby day?
4. Have you met with or spoken to either your state Representative or state Senator in past two years?
5. In past 2 years, please indicate how often you have contacted legislator(s).
6. Why are you interested in being part of this project?
7. What strengths would you bring to the program?
8. What experiences with disability issues are you able to bring to conversations with policymakers?

### **Q: How do I find out which Kansas legislative districts I live in?**

A: Visit the <https://openstates.org/> and enter your address including your zip code.

This will give you the name, a picture, the Kansas District number, their party and chamber as well as a link for more information about their contact information, where they are located in the Kansas State Capitol and their committee membership.

### **Q: How will I know if my District Advocate application is accepted and I am in the network?**

A: To complete the acceptance of your application, you will receive an email from Andy Martin, KMHC District Advocate liaison, inviting you to sign-up for 30 minute orientation webinar. These orientation sessions are held at several different times each month. Once this orientation is complete, you will be in our network and start receiving information about how you can help.