

KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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

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.**

VOLUNTEER DISTRICT ADVOCATE POSITION DESCRIPTION

Persons who agree to serve as District Advocates become members of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition (KMHC) and may volunteer to participate in a variety of ways which include the following:

1. Establish relationships with your Kansas legislators 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 your Kansas legislators to urge them to support the positions of the Kansas Mental Health Coalition (KMHC) by in-person, e-mail and/or telephone conversation.
4. Communicate with your U.S. Representative 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 to the KMHC District Advocate Coordinator via e-mail, phone, or online tools provided.
7. Participate in meetings of the KMHC by phone or in-person as time permits.
8. Update contact information with the District Advocate Coordinator when information changes or when you 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 another organization’s lobby day?
4. Have you met with or spoken to either your state Representative or state Senator in the past two years?
5. In the past 2 years, please the number of times 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 legislative districts I live in?

A: Visit the <https://hq-salsa.wiredforchange.com/o/5950/getLocal.jsp> and enter your 9 digit zip code. This will give you the name, a picture, the District number and their contact information in order to complete your application. Or enter your county, first and last name and date of birth at <https://myvoteinfo.voteks.org/VoterView/RegistrantSearch.do> and click search to learn the Kansas Senate and House district numbers.

Q: How will I know if my District Advocate application is accepted?

A: You will receive an email from the KMHC District Advocate Coordinator, inviting you to sign-up for a 30-minute orientation webinar. These orientation sessions are held at several different times each month. The orientation will assist you in getting started as a District Advocate as you begin to receive information about advocacy opportunities.