

ADVOCACY TRAINING TO BE OFFERED IN TOPEKA IN CONJUNCTION WITH MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY DAY

Monday, March 14, 2016, Topeka, Kansas
Confirmation Needed Now to Hold Your Space

READ PAGE 2 FOR MORE DETAILS ABOUT WHY YOU SHOULD GET INVOLVED AND HOW.

Grassroots Advocacy Network: Kansas Voices for Mental Health

Sponsored by the

KANSAS MENTAL HEALTH COALITION

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

Advocacy Training Event Details

The Kansas Mental Health Coalition is recruiting and training mental health and disability advocates from among consumers, family members, service providers and other interested persons to build a statewide network of Legislative District Advocates to influence public policy through their state and local elected officials. There is no registration cost. Resources are available to defray travel costs as well as costs for meals and lodging for those who cannot otherwise afford to participate. Lunch will be provided for all participants.

The training seminar will be held in Topeka and is a full day event from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. Individuals will be notified about the specific location address upon receipt of their application to join the Network and confirmation to attend this training event.

Individuals coming to the training from more than 125 miles outside of Topeka can make arrangements for double occupancy overnight lodging on February 29th. Lodging will also be available for training participants who are registered and staying over for Mental Health Advocacy Day on March 1st and who live too far to commute.

PRIORITY WILL BE GIVEN TO THOSE WHO CAN CONFIRM THEIR PARTICIPATION BY FEBRUARY 15 th.

To begin the registration process for the training, complete and send the Grassroots Advocacy Network application right away by fax (785-233-4804) or e-mail info@namikansas.org.

Travel stipends will be available as needed to cover the cost of fuel and tolls for those driving to Topeka. Reimbursement will be available for dinner costs on February 29th for individuals staying over for Advocacy Day.

Training Participants are invited to attend the complimentary Legislative Luncheon to be held March 1 at the State Capitol along with other Legislative District Advocates.

[Register Separately for Mental Health
Advocacy Day](#)

Questions? Contact Rick Cagan at 785-233-0755 or e-mail rcagan@namikansas.org.

You Should Get Involved If:

You have an interest in being part of a visionary project designed to impact policy decisions about mental health and other disability issues.

You are an individual living with mental illness or another disability, a family member, a service provider, or an advocate with an interest in mental health policy and disability issues.

You are looking to be engaged as a leader working with state and local policy makers.

You understand the urgency of addressing the needs of Kansans with disabilities and the costs to individuals and communities for neglecting those needs, including the consequences of untreated mental illness.

You are looking to grow your advocacy skills and your influence with policy makers.

You want to help set the agenda for policy changes on behalf of individuals with disabilities.

Resource Links

[Project Description](#)

[Position Description](#)

[Application Form for Advocacy Network](#)

[Commitment Form](#)

Resources:

[Kansas Legislature](#)

[Identifying Your Legislators](#)

[Contact Your Legislators](#)

What is the Grassroots Advocacy Network?

The Kansas Mental Health Coalition (KMHC) launched the Grassroots Advocacy Network in 2012 to expand the opportunities for mental health advocacy for Kansans. We invite your participation to grow and expand this network of mental health and other disability advocates.

KMHC is a coalition of over 60 consumer and family advocacy organizations, provider associations, direct mental health service providers, pharmaceutical companies and others who share a common mission dedicated to improving the lives of Kansans with mental illnesses.

*The **Grassroots Advocacy Network: Kansas Voices for Mental Health** is described in more detail in the downloadable [Project Description](#). We are recruiting and training additional mental health and disability advocates from among consumers, family members, service providers and other interested persons to build a statewide network of Legislative District Advocates to influence public policy through their state and local elected officials.*

Involvement with this project is also open to persons interested in supporting issues for the broader disability community.

Advocates will establish relationships with their state and local elected officials and will receive key policy updates and action alerts. They will partner with local organizations to expand the number of individuals who are contacting policymakers. A [Position Description](#) for Legislative District Advocate outlines the expectations for individuals who will join the project.

All applicants for the Network will be invited to participate in Grassroots Advocacy Network activities upon signing off on the [Commitment Form](#) regardless of ability to attend a training event.

This advocacy training is practice-based and requires that participants be willing to write and share their perspective as a consumer, family member, provider or advocate about mental illness and recovery or with living with another disability.

Download the [Application Form for Advocacy Network](#)
Priority for the event will be given to individuals who can confirm by March 4th.

Please consider whether this opportunity is for you and anyone else you may know. Thank you for helping us to spread the word and to recruit individuals for the expansion of the **Grassroots Advocacy Network**.

