



February 13th, 2020

TO: Senator Rick Wilborn and Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

FR: Nick Wood, Associate Director, InterHab

RE: SB 333

Chairman Wilborn, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to share information on behalf of the member organizations of InterHab. Our members serve Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities in every part of the state.

From our study of the problem and national best practices, we urge the committee to support approaches that could be utilized in Kansas to help IDD individuals with behavioral challenges avoid incarceration. We support SB 333 and thank the Advisory Committee on the Commitment of Incompetent Defendants for its work.

Intensive Community Support

The supervision and positive reinforcement available through an Intensive Community Support model is a good alternative to any correctional facility. These models feature reduced caseloads and specialized training for case management and direct service staff. They are also a less costly alternative when all expenses related to prosecuting an individual with IDD are considered (court proceedings, competency education, etc).

Statewide Crisis Support Program

Kansas should adopt a statewide mobile crisis services program. In the past decade, many states (24 and increasing) have developed these specialized models of behavioral supports for people with IDD & Autism that focus on prevention.

1. **System-wide clinical training.** Training for clinicians, crisis responders, and front-line staff should be competency-based and adaptable to differing levels of practice experience and formal education.
2. **Develop specialized service delivery programs modeled after evidence-based practices from other states.**
 - Prevention Services - provide wellness checks and identify ways to help people work through potential crisis.
 - Crisis Telephone Services - available 24/7 to provide information, referral, and action plan development.
 - Mobile Crisis Outreach Services - provided on-site wherever needed.
 - In-Home Crisis Services - assist people to become stabilized in their home.
 - Crisis Residential Services - provide very short-term, highly supportive and supervised residential settings.

3. **Ongoing system-level Coordination, Research and Training.**

Establishment of this state-wide resource would help to close gaps and address barriers to services for Kansans with IDD through the study of 'system needs' in real-time and would improve coordination of direct services to ensure people can get the services they need when and where they need it.