

## **KPA 2018 Legislative Priorities**

### **At the state level:**

**Support state funding and legislation that increases access to behavioral health services and supports a positive climate for psychological providers.**

Rationale/examples: Require uniform credentialing and prompt payment by Medicaid MCOs and other insurers; Support expanded services to address the Commonwealth's opioid crisis; Provide financial help to sustain CMHCs' operations as part of the state's retirement system.

**Support legislation maintaining psychologists' role in licensing, regulating, and overseeing the practice of psychology.**

Rationale/examples: Maintain the autonomous functioning of the KY Board of Examiners of Psychology.

**Uphold public protection by opposing legislation allowing non-psychologists to deliver services which are clearly defined as the practice of psychology.**

Rationale/examples: Seek revision of bill language which, if not modified, would infringe on the practice of psychology by those seeking licensure in another field.

**Increase psychology's voice in decisions affecting behavioral health.**

Rationale/examples: Establish a Palliative Care Interdisciplinary Advisory Council within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services with one or more psychologists on the council.

**Support legislation that improves health equity for historically underserved populations.**

Rationale/examples: Add health supports to reduce gaps in health services; Reimburse peer support specialists in both the mental health and substance use disorder arenas; Take actions to decrease social isolation in vulnerable populations which erodes health quality; Create community health workers to link Kentuckians with appropriate health care services.

**Support legislation designed to improve population health outcomes in Kentucky.**

Rationale/examples: Support anti-smoking measures; Fund health literacy programs across the state.

**Maintain Medicaid coverage to all Kentuckians below 138% of the federal poverty level with full benefits and without barriers.**

Rationale/examples: Protect coverage of the approximately 440,000 Kentuckians on the Medicaid rolls under the Medicaid Expansion, many of whom access substance abuse services.

**Support legislative priorities adopted by the KY Mental Health Coalition.**

Rationale/examples: Biennial budget which at a minimum maintains current funding for health and education; protects SMI individuals from the death penalty; assures access to prescribed medications; protects victim's right

**At the federal level:**

**Require all health plans to:**

- maintain Essential Health Benefits, including coverage of mental health and substance use disorder services and behavioral health treatment
- apply parity requirements under the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA) to Medicaid and Medicare and to all plans in the individual, small and large group markets
- establish an array of basic insurance protections, including prohibiting pre-existing condition exclusions, annual/lifetime coverage limits, discrimination based on health status
- require guaranteed renewal of coverage, network adequacy, age and gender rating restrictions, an effective appeals processes

**Extend Medicaid coverage to all Americans below 138% of the federal poverty level with maximum benefits and minimum barriers.**

**Support the Medicare Mental Health Access Act, H.R. 1173/S.448,** which would add psychologists to Medicare's "physician" definition and remove physician oversight and referral requirements under Medicare that would make it easier for patients to access behavioral health services.