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Kansas Sentencing Commission Partners with Beacon Health Options

TOPEKA – July 3, 2018 - The Kansas Sentencing Commission (KSSC) is pleased to announce that after an arduous RFP process, it has awarded a five-year contract to Beacon Health Options (Beacon), a national leader in behavioral health management, to provide billing services for its statewide substance abuse treatment program for offenders sentenced for possession of controlled substances. This partnership will benefit all stakeholders, increasing efficiency and accountability. The start date for the new billing platform will be October 1, 2018.

The substance abuse treatment program, commonly referred to as SB 123, was first implemented in 1994 and has served 143,296 offenders since inception. Eligible drug offenders receive a full spectrum of treatment services from local certified substance abuse treatment providers in an effort to decrease recidivism in this population. The new SB 123 billing platform will replace its current legacy system with an online portal for stakeholders to access anytime. This will allow flexible use by probation staff and treatment providers. Beacon will also provide technical support to stakeholders.

SB 123 treatment providers, many of whom are already in network with Beacon, will utilize familiar billing forms and user-friendly interfaces to bill for drug treatment services provided to offenders. The new system will reduce unnecessary paperwork and processes for Community Corrections officers, while still allowing them to maintain close supervision of the offender's treatment progress. Court Services will also have access to the system to bill for assessments and enter relevant data.

As it has for almost 15 years, the KSSC will continue to administer the program and to perform utilization review and management functions, to ensure the fidelity of the program's policies and procedures. Shortly, the KSSC will provide post on its website a new operations manual and training resources for Beacon's billing platform. To supplement online education, a SB 123 Conference is being organized for October 2018 to provide additional training and educational opportunities. New SB 123 procedures will be presented in the coming days as the KSSC transitions to the new platform.

The KSSC looks forward to this new online presence that is specifically designed to increase positive outcomes while timely completing bill payment services to the treatment professionals across the state that are making a difference in offenders' lives.

About the Kansas Sentencing Commission

The KSSC is a governmental criminal justice agency in the state of Kansas charged with developing and maintaining a monitoring system that allows for comprehensive evaluation of the sentencing guidelines in Kansas. It is the only agency that forecasts the state's adult offender populations incarcerated in state institutions and determines the impact of proposed legislation on the prison population. Core to its mission is educating and training judges, attorneys, probation officers, law enforcement officials and other criminal justice stakeholders in the understanding and application of sentencing guidelines. The KSSC serves as a valuable criminal justice resource for the Governor, Kansas Legislature, various state criminal justice agencies and administers the SB 123 substance abuse treatment program for those offenders ordered to treatment by the district court. For more information visit www.sentencing.ks.gov.

About Beacon Health Options

Beacon Health Options is a managed behavioral health care company that serves 44 million individuals across all 50 states. To promote quality care, Beacon works with its provider partners to design innovative programs and solutions that directly address the challenges our behavioral health care system faces today. Beacon is a national leader in the fields of mental and emotional well-being, addiction, recovery and resilience, employee assistance, and wellness.