

Testimony from Pawnee Mental Health Services in Riley County

The changes proposed in HB 2353 regarding decompensation standards and the extension of OTO lengths would be highly beneficial for Riley County residents. The change in the decomposition standards for allowing an OTO prior to the need of inpatient treatment will assist our facility in preventing additional possible hospitalizations in our community as decompensation can occur quickly. Often times, an individual does not meet the current requirement of being a danger to themselves or others but would be subject to increased symptoms in the future without proper treatment causing a repeat cycle of incarceration or hospitalization. One of our main goals in the Assisted Outpatient Treatment program is to stop this exact cycle. Extending the length of incoming outpatient treatment orders to six months will also allow us the opportunity to ensure proper treatment is completed before the individual returns to the community.

Keona Brown

Assisted Outpatient Treatment Liaison

