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Interim Final Rules under the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008

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KS

Submitter Information

Name: Lee Flamik

Address:

Larned, KS, 67550

Organization: Larned State Hospital

General Comment

The news release states "Obama Administration Issues Rules Requiring Parity in Treatment of Mental, Substance Use Disorders" I am not aware of parity in mental health in any frontier county (less than 6 persons per square mile) or rural county (6.0 - 19.9 persons per square mile) in the state of Kansas. (Unless I am totally misinterpreting the word parity). In fact the President's New Freedom Commission on Mental Health back in 2003 stated "rural and remote rural areas" are not included in decision making processes. I strongly advocate you include providers and consumers who live in frontier and rural counties if you are "requiring parity". If not, then urban people define us and utilize models that are frequently not useful. If you can provide me data where Urban people have included "us" please do. If you can provide me data of parity in frontier and rural counties please do. If not then please consider the above. Thanks - Lee