

## Another Housing Option for the Homeless

Wichita, KS – October 12, 2018: Bridge Housing may be a rather unfortunate name for a program serving those who actually lived under a bridge, but no one at the Mental Health Association (MHA) of South Central Kansas is complaining. Their Residential Care division just received a grant from the Kansas Department for Aging to offer a one-year pilot program for people who are homeless and who are dealing with mental illness, substance abuse, or both, in Sedgwick County.

Upon receipt of the grant, MHA secured four units containing a total of nine beds, and nicely furnished each of them to provide interim (bridge) housing to those with mental disabilities as defined by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. For the duration of the program, MHA will offer a full complement of services to each resident in an effort to break the cycle that brought these individuals to homelessness in the first place. Services offered include:

- Mental health screenings
- Assistance with the search for long-term housing, including contract negotiations
- Employment services and training
- Legal services
- Credit repair
- Both mental and physical health treatment
- Substance abuse counseling
- Assisting in obtaining any benefits owed, such as military pensions
- And case management for help in determining and coordinating other outside services that might be available

In many ways, this project mirrors the methodology that MHA uses every day. By offering over 30 programs encompassing the education, prevention, treatment, and social needs of those with mental health issues, the goal is to surround people with every conceivable resource to get our community's homeless population back on their feet. The case managers develop an individualized plan to increase personal incomes so that those who use the bridge housing can transition into permanent housing that is safe, offers good access to health services and other needs, and is financially sustainable for the consumer.

Visit [MHASCK.org](http://MHASCK.org) for additional detail, or call 316.685.1821

\* \* \* \*

Issued by Mental Health Association of South Central Kansas  
Eric Litwiller – 316.651.1241