

KPA Advocacy Priorities: 2024 Legislative Actions



Protect the practice of psychology in scope, parity, and workforce presence.

KPA prioritizes supporting legislation that values protecting the practice of psychology by advancing the vital scientific knowledge base of psychologists, monitoring encroachment from other professions on services clearly defined as the practice of psychology, ensuring parity of behavioral health with physical health in all aspects of coverage, benefits, and cost, and strengthening psychology's voice in the workforce in matters of behavioral health and wellness.

2024 Specific Legislative Actions

- a)** Support amending KRS 319 to allow Master's practitioners to apply for independent practice in two years instead of 5 and extend the initial application grace period from 60 to 180 days.
- b)** Support legislation that allows for interstate practice in behavioral health only when it requires practitioners to follow Kentucky law.

Promote Health, Health Equity, and Population Health in Kentucky.

KPA prioritizes supporting legislation supporting a healthcare industry and educational system that assures equitable access to services for all citizens, including historically marginalized populations including people of color, LGBTQ+, people with disabilities, and people living in poverty. KPA will support legislation that addresses system inequities and racism, uses social determinants of health and population health outcome metrics, protects psychologist-patient confidentiality and privilege when discussing health choices including reproductive health and gender affirming care, and provides prevention and early intervention services.

2024 Specific Legislative Actions

- a)** Support reform of waivers for disabled citizens to improve access.
- b)** Support a requirement that insurers covering the cost of an annual mental health wellness examination performed by a licensed mental health provider.
- c)** Support for legislation that assures equitable access to maternal health programs for all women, regardless of ethnicity or the existence of substance use, and offers treatment rather than incarceration.
- d)** Support comprehensive healthy relationship/sex education in Kentucky public schools; there is research that shows a correlation between comprehensive health education and reductions in sexual assault, dating violence and homophobia.



KPA Advocacy Priorities: 2024 Legislative Actions



Suicide prevention and behavioral health services and resources in the community

KPA prioritizes supporting legislation that encourages evidence supported mental health interventions to promote the health, wellness, and quality of life among citizens. Priority interventions include life-saving resources to address the alarming suicide rates and violence rates, increased funding for behavioral health resources in the community, and ensuring 2 evidence-based treatments are offered and harmful interventions offered as treatment are banned.

2024 Specific Legislative Actions

- a)** Support operational funding and a sustainable funding source for call centers across Kentucky to answer the national 9-8-8 suicide prevention/mental health crisis line.
- b)** Support the Crisis Aversion, Rights Retention (CARR) bill that would strengthen suicide and homicide prevention by temporarily removing guns from persons who are in crisis and are a danger to self or others.
- c)** Ban Conversion Therapy to prohibit any MH professional from practicing conversion “therapy” with a minor and make them subject to disciplinary action by their licensure board.
- d)** Support for legislation that would allow individuals to put themselves on a “do not sell” firearms list, to strengthen individual self-advocacy for suicide prevention.
- e)** Ban corporal punishment in Kentucky public schools.

