AN ACT enacting the geriatric mental health act; establishing a geriatric mental health program administered by the department on aging.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. (a) The secretary of aging shall establish a geriatric mental health service program to provide funding for education, outreach and services through the area agencies on aging targeted to older adults experiencing mental health issues and to the providers who work with them. This program shall be administered by the department on aging.

(b) Funding for the geriatric mental health service program administered by the secretary of aging, shall be made available to the area agencies on aging and utilized in a collaborative effort with other state agencies and mental health service agencies and organizations to provide education, outreach and mental health services to older adults.

(c) Such service shall be provided for older adults regardless of living arrangements whether recipients rent or own a home or they reside in a continuing care retirement center, a skilled nursing facility or other adult care home licensed by the department on aging or the department of health and environment. The area agencies on aging shall contract with qualified service providers to deliver services in their planning and service areas to include: (1) Education on identification of mental illness, diagnosis, risk factors and service options; (2) outreach to older adults, families and caregivers to assist in the identification and referral of older adults experiencing mental health issues; and (3) mental health treatment by qualified mental health professionals in the home or other residence setting where the older adults reside.

(d) The secretary of aging may adopt rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this section, including requirements for outcome and performance measure and program evaluation.

(e) This section shall be known and may be cited as the geriatric mental health act.

Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.