

PRAIRIE VIEW VISIT TALKING POINTS

I AM PLEASED TO HAVE
ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO
TOUR THE IMPRESSIVE FACILITIES
HERE, AND TO SEE FIRSTHAND
THE GOOD WORK OF THE
DEDICATED STAFF AT PRAIRIE

VIEW PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.
THE SIZE OF YOUR OPERATION
AND THE VARIETY OF QUALITY
TREATMENT AND CARE YOU
PROVIDE DEMONSTRATES YOUR
STRONG COMMITMENT TO
IMPROVING THE LIVES OF YOUR
PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

I AM PROUD THAT KANSAS
HAS SUCH A FIRST RATE AND

NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED
HOSPITAL. OUR STATE IS A
REAL LEADER WHEN IT COMES
TO STATE OF THE ART
DISABILITY PROGRAMS WHICH
FOCUS ON DEVELOPING ONE'S
ABILITY RATHER THAN
EMPHASIZING ONE'S DISABILITY.

THE NEW HUMAN
DEVELOPMENT CENTER WHICH

WILL CENTRALIZE ALL ACADEMIC
RESEARCH ABOUT PREVENTING
DISABILITY AND ASSISTING
PEOPLE TO LIVE SELF-DIRECTED
LIVES.

THIS IS AN EXCITING
YEAR GIVEN THE HISTORIC
PASSAGE OF COMPREHENSIVE
CIVIL RIGHTS PROTECTION FOR
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES. OF

COURSE, I AM SPEAKING ABOUT
THE AMERICANS WITH
DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) AND ITS
STRONG MANDATE TO REDRESS
DISCRIMINATION IN
EMPLOYMENT, PUBLIC
ACCOMMODATIONS,
TRANSPORTATION AND PUBLIC
SERVICES.

NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THE

ADA IS A LANDMARK LAW,
GIVING AMERICA A RINGING
MANDATE TO MOVE DISABILITY
POLICY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY.
NEVERTHELESS, WE NEED TO KEEP
WORKING TOGETHER.

SIMPLY REQUIRING A
MANDATE DOES NOT REMOVE
THE ATTITUDINAL BARRIERS THAT
CONTINUE TO PLAGUE OUR

SOCIETY. BESIDES THE
OUTSTANDING CARE YOU
PROFESSIONALS PROVIDE, YOU
CAN ALSO BE ADVOCATES OF
CHANGE. YOU HAVE THE
AND
ABILITY^ EXPERTISE TO EDUCATE
THE PUBLIC, TO EASE THEIR FEAR
AND MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT
MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS.

ANOTHER POSITIVE STEP

CONGRESS TOOK THIS YEAR
WAS AN EXPANSION OF
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, IN
PARTICULAR WITH THE CARE OF
CHILDREN. AS THE OLD ADAGE
GOES: 'AN OUNCE OF CARE IS
WORTH A POUND OF
PREVENTION.' ADDRESSING
PROBLEMS EARLY ON
IS SOUND POLICY.

AT THE VERY LEAST OUT
NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH
POLICY SHOULD REFLECT A
COORDINATION OF COMMUNITY
SERVICES AND FAMILY
SUPPORTS. WE'VE TAKEN A STEP
FORWARD BUT WE HAVE A
LONG WAY TO GO.

PEOPLE WITH MENTAL
HEALTH CONDITIONS SHOULD

HAVE AVAILABLE TO THEM A
FULL NETWORK OF ACCESSIBLE
AND APPROPRIATE MENTAL
HEALTH SERVICES AND, AS
NEEDED, OTHER SUPPORTIVE
SERVICES AND BENEFITS SUCH
AS HOUSING, RESIDENTIAL
SERVICES, EMPLOYMENT,
REHABILITATION, INCOME
SUPPORT, EDUCATION AND
SOCIAL SERVICES SO THAT

EACH PERSON RECEIVES THE
TREATMENT, TRAINING AND
SUPPORT NECESSARY TO ENABLE
THEM TO FUNCTION AT THEIR
HIGHEST LEVEL.

GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IS
THE KEY TO INTEGRATION INTO
THE MAINSTREAM OF SOCIETY.
TO THIS END I ESTABLISHED A
FOUNDATION IN 1983 TO

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO
PROGRAMS THAT SHARE MY
BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF
EMPLOYMENT. THAT IS WHERE
YOUR DEDICATION BECOMES
IMPORTANT — PREPARING
YOUR CLIENTS TO TAKE AN
ACTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY
ROLE CONTRIBUTING TO THE
WORKFORCE AS WORKERS AND
TAXPAYERS.

IN CLOSING I WANT TO
AGAIN COMMEND YOU AND
ALL OF THOSE ASSOCIATED
WITH PRAIRIE VIEW FOR YOUR
IMPRESSIVE CONSUMER MODEL
OF HEALTH CARE. PRAIRIE VIEW
INNOVATIONS SUCH AS THE
STRUCTURED THERAPEUTIC
COMMUNITY OFFER CLIENTS
ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION
OF THEIR TREATMENT PLANS.
CONSUMER CHOICE IS THE WAY
TO GO; IT HAS BEEN
INSTRUMENTAL IN THE GREAT
SUCCESS OF PRAIRIE VIEW.