

Behavioral health advocates are concerned that the demand for mental health services will be greater than what providers and prescribers can meet under the new health care law. The Affordable Care Act requires every health insurance plan to offer coverage for mental health. Sheila Schuster, director of the Kentucky Mental Health Coalition said:

*"We have some shortages, there's no doubt about it and most of those shortages are in the rural areas, although there are pockets of them even in the urban areas. One of the shortages is among psychiatrists." **care, including substance abuse treatment.***

Governor Steve Beshear says the list of ten essential benefits covered under the new health care law is "more robust than previously required."

"We're particularly thrilled with the mental health care requirements because this is the area where substance abuse treatment is most needed."

