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Area Mental Health Center Struggling

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. (AP) - The executive director of a mental health center that serves three northeast Kansas counties says the center is dealing with increased demand while receiving less funding.

Keith Rickard told the Leavenworth County Commission Monday that the Guidance Center sees about 5,000 patients a year, compared with about 2,800 decade ago. The center serves Leavenworth, Jefferson and Atchison counties.

He said the center made \$400,000 less in 2012 than in 2011. And if the state cuts an estimated \$10 million from its community mental health center grants this year, the center will lose about \$183,000 in grants.

The Leavenworth Times reports the center is required to provide services regardless of a patient's ability to pay.

Associated Press