



INDEPENDENCE  
INCLUSION  
INNOVATION

INTERHAB

February 7, 2012

TO: The House Committee on Children and Families

FR: Tom Laing, Executive Director, InterHab

RE: Kan-Care

I appreciate this informational meeting, and thank Chairman Kiegerl for his efforts to help educate the House on behalf of persons with disabilities and their families who are expressing concerns about Kan-Care. Our testimony is intended to focus on key concerns that exist as to how Kan-Care will ultimately impact the lives of persons served by our organizations.

We have for a year indicated to the administration that we would assist in the successful implementation of Kan-Care's health and mental health programs. Professionals in both those fields appear persuaded that managed care organizations will enable them to make their services better for the persons they serve.

However, we have also been very clear with our belief that:

1. Kansas already has one of the best DD service networks in the country – efficient, effective and consistent in its efforts to meet every challenge that has been proposed by this and all preceding administrations, going back to the late 1960s.
2. The insurance industry has never been engaged at any level in this or any State as a major player in the social safety net for vulnerable citizens. To propose that their actuarial judgment will become the overall operational vision for Kansas disability services strains the imagination.
3. Persons served in the community receive more than the mere provision of services. They and their families also have received a commitment from the State and the Community, that the lives of their sons and daughters are not items of commerce, nor mere bottom line numbers on a profit and loss statement.
4. These lives have been entrusted to our organizations, and to you, to look out for. As their parents have passed away, or become too old to assist in the care of their children, the futures of their children have been nurtured by the Community network of service providers. That has been the promise for decades by Governors, community disability service organizations, and legislators.

Is this the year for decades of promises to be broken?

HOUSE CHILDREN AND  
FAMILIES

DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2012  
ATTACHMENT NO. 1-1

A few final thoughts about the myths of KanCare, and your specific role as legislators:

1. Proponents have said that the "carve-up" of the DD programs will get programs costs under control, but the current State/Community partnership has already done that:

Since 1993, the costs to serve and support persons with DD have declined from \$49,418 per person to \$41,936 per person.

2. Proponents have said that the inclusion of the DD waiver program is necessary to keep the entire financial equation from collapsing, but:

That isn't true. The KanCare approach is an experimental anomaly. Dozens of managed care states have constructed successful managed care programs without swallowing the DD system (but, if it was true, *would that be a good reason to cannibalize the DD budget? To make sure the medical and mental health programs are financially sound?*)

3. Proponents have said it is "a done deal", and that the legislature does not have a role in this decision:

If that were true, it would represent an unprecedented abdication of responsibility by the legislature. There has never been, in our State's 151 years, a larger financial transaction than the one that is about to occur. Will the legislature really look the other way and allow it to occur without modification?

Our faith in the legislative process is solid.

We believe the legislature can and will intervene.

We believe you know you that you must.

Summary:

We will continue to actively oppose the carve-up of the State's DD program into a four-headed administrative nightmare in which persons with significant needs will be lost in the paperwork.

We will stand with your constituents in our efforts to educate you and other legislators and the administration as to the perils to which we are casually being asked to remain silent; and we will be true to our word to assist the Administration in monitoring and implementing the medical and mental health managed care activities as those services affect our consumers.

Thank you for your consideration of this challenging set of issues. We urge you to resolve this matter on behalf of Kansans with disabilities.

Do not let your local DD services be "carved in" and in the process be "carved up".

Carve OUT DD waiver services from KanCare.