

Written Testimony for the House Standing Committee on Health and Human Services

March 12, 2012, 1:30 PM

To: Representative Brenda Landwehr, Chair
Members, House Standing Committee on Health and Human Services
From: Linda Misasi, Executive Director, Creative Community Living of South Central Kansas, Inc. (CCL)
Re: "KanCare" Managed Care for People with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

CCL is a non-profit service provider formed in 1996 by Sharon Bird and other parents of former Winfield State Hospital and Training Center (WSH&TC) residents. CCL began by serving 101 individuals who were the last to leave WSH&TC. These residents were considered among the most medically fragile individuals in the state at the time of the closure. Today, sixteen years later, we are serving approximately 126 individuals in day, residential and case management services in Cowley and Butler Counties. In addition to serving individuals considered medically fragile our services include others with less severe physical and intellectual disabilities.

My testimony is in support of House Bill 2457. Managed Care Organizations have limited experience in the provision of long term care services for those with intellectual disabilities. Their expertise is in the management and coordination of health care services. In other states with managed care, few have included services for the intellectually disabled in their managed care plans. KanCare proposes very short timelines for implementation of an expansive plan for managing Medicaid services. The short timelines coupled with relative inexperience of MCOs to oversee long term care services for individuals with intellectual disabilities is extremely unsettling. The current system of service provision to individuals with intellectual disabilities is not broken. Kansas is fortunate to have an array of service providers for waiver recipients to choose from and have real choice. Based upon the reasons listed above and many more please carve out long term care services for individuals with intellectual disabilities from the KanCare plan.

My testimony is also in support House Bill 2573. If KanCare is to become a reality, it is vitally important to evaluate whether or not it accomplishes the expected outcomes. The outcomes are touted to be both in terms of more efficient services with better outcomes for the Medicaid recipient as well as a significant savings for the state. One state, Connecticut has actually decided that Managed Care did not have the expected outcomes. Connecticut tried Managed Care for 15 years and is now reverting back to a state run plan. According to a recent presentation by Joan Alker, the co-executive director of the Center for Children and Families at Georgetown University there isn't good data to show cost savings and what data there are is inconclusive with regards to savings. With setting up an annual review to determine if outcomes are being met, Kansas would then have the data upon which to make informed decisions about continuing KanCare. I urge you to support HB 2573.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony.

Linda Misasi
Executive Director of Creative Community Living, Inc.
1500 E. 8th, Suite 201
Winfield, Kansas 67156