

Steve Wienecke, concerned Parent

Overland Park, KS

I would like to offer the following observations and questions to the ROBERT G. (BOB) BETHELL JOINT COMMITTEE ON HOME AND COMMUNITY BASED SERVICES AND KANCARE OVERSIGHT.

Thank you for what I anticipate to be your thoughtful consideration.

I am hopeful that these comments are helpful to you in your oversight.

I am a parent of, and provider for one of the individuals under home care services for IDDS patients.

I am witnessing / experiencing greatly increased scrutiny and constricting regulation on the in-home care for IDDS patients; under the state's efforts to prevent conflicts of interest.

In your recent (Lawrence) public comment meeting, there was a great emphasis on the new regulations for individuals providing care for their loved ones; separating any choices in the amount and kind of care to be provided, from the person that might provide that care. The assumption is that any individual would be likely to inflate the amount of care to be provided, in order to profit.

My question and challenge to you is:

How do you justify the level of restriction on the individual provider/ family member against the blatant conflict of interest you are creating with the MCO (Managed Care) provision of these chronic-need services?

You are tasking a for-profit corporation with provision of care, and evaluation of the necessary level of that care, under an absolute motivation to reduce services in order to increase profit. At the same time, you have removed any disinterested (unbiased) third party from the process of evaluation by removing the third party case-worker.

I suggest that you reinstate a third party evaluation or design a third party oversight entity that has the authority/channel to override decisions on an individual case-by-case level; in order to moderate this most egregious conflict of interest.

To let this go unchecked will place some of your most vulnerable constituents in peril.

I have confidence in your intent to do the best thing....

I encourage you to be consistent and diligent.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steve Wienecke