

Robert G. (Bob) Bethel Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight
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Hello, my name is Jamie Price. I am a Senior Vice President at Community Living Opportunities.

I want to thank Chairman Hawkins and fellow committee members of the Robert G. (Bob) Bethel Joint Committee on Home and Community Based Services and KanCare Oversight for the opportunity to testify.

At Community Living Opportunities, we provide supports for HCBS I/DD waiver beneficiaries, ICF/IID beneficiaries and Targeted Case Management Services.

Throughout the KanCare implementation many of the issues we have experienced and have heard that other I/DD organizations and members are facing appear to be related to state policy changes and budget decisions rather than to KanCare itself. These decisions are often presented as KanCare or MCO changes, adding to the confusion, fear, and frustration of this program. In my view, many of these decisions and policies (such as capable person, residential billing and extraordinary funding) are a result of the aforementioned concerns brought to your attention through the testimony of others that would have likely been made even if KanCare did not exist.

Other refinements the state must work on for the system to continue without consumer frustrations include fixing the KEES system. From our vantage point, the system is still not fixed and Kansans are coded incorrectly in the system, which further delays important coverage and support. Developing a better tier rate and extraordinary funding system for people with I/DD (as the current system no longer supports maintaining an infrastructure for serving persons with significant needs) is also needed.

It is extremely important moving forward that the administration continue to vet policy changes with CMS prior to implementation, so the system does not continue to start and stop policies. This practice only adds to the frustration. Meaningful stakeholder input and participation in what the potential impact of policy changes can have to those we serve needs to start happening again. Without this input and participation members across the state can be harmed.

Additional services available through KanCare such as adult dental, respite and hospital companions need to be considered.

Lastly, we would like for Medicaid expansion to be considered in this session. This needed expansion will help our direct support professionals that fall in the gap of coverage receive the coverage they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time.

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