

Testimony of Ben Swinnen, Exec Dir. of Equi-Venture Farms, LLC to the KanCare Oversight Committee on November 18, 2016

I testified previously in support of the KanCare program and its overall efficacy in addressing the needs of the IDD population in Kansas. Equi-Venture Farms, LLC is a licensed Day and Residential Provider in Shawnee County, with facilities in Newton as well as shared living residential supports in Douglas County.

On this opportunity, I wish to focus on some specific achievements with Amerigroup. Equi-Venture has a growing number of participants who have Amerigroup as their MCO. We recently saw the addition of several individuals with Amerigroup. Those are the cases I wish to use to illustrate the type of cooperation and outreach developed between a provider and an MCO that bring significant benefits to the members.

Youngman A was a resident at Osawatomie for nine months. He has significant behavioral challenges, IDD and mental illness. He has had multiple encounters with law enforcement, mental health services, crisis services and state mental health hospitals. His self injurious behaviors and difficulties with ADL's presented unique challenges that could only be addressed with exceptional cooperation between Osawatomie, Amerigroup and the providers, TCM, Residential and Mental Health. We developed positive behavior support plans, scheduled therapy and follow up even before the discharge from Osawatomie, we developed an extraordinary funding request, a shared living plan and a detailed plan of care. The exceptional support from the MCO Amerigroup, in a proactive and forward thinking manner and from Osawatomie are directly correlated to the KanCare Program. Rather than bureaucratic and artificial boundaries to each party's responsibilities we managed to work seamlessly to the benefit of the member. Amerigroup went above and beyond its contractual obligations. Youngman A, now resides in the community surrounded with extraordinary supports and we all expect him to succeed.

Youngman B, a gentle and sweet young man with a degenerative and debilitating disease. He is going blind, losing cognitive abilities and suffers from increasingly anti-social behaviors. He lived with a giving and wonderful family who could no longer handle the extreme difficulties his illness brought on. Amerigroup reached out to find a provider able and willing to support this young man. Amerigroup was again proactive, taking on what one might expect from a TCM in addition to its own obligations. The result is a happy Youngman B and a happy family who now comes and sees him every week rather than feel resentment at a situation over which they had no control.

Youngman C, a sad story surrounds this young man. He got on the TBI waiver after a drug accident and is now on the TB waiver. His current services leave him isolated and under supported. Amerigroup reached out to providers and offered to go beyond just the services authorized under the TB waiver if the provider can assist this member reach a higher potential and greater independence. We don't know yet if we can help, but this illustrates Amerigroup's continuing effort to provide supports beyond the literal standards of its contract or its obligations under KanCare/CMS.