



Testimony to House Health and Human Services Committee on House Bill 2463

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Madam Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Kyle Kessler. I am the Executive Director for the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc. The Association represents the 26 licensed Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in Kansas that provide behavioral health services in all 105 counties, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. In Kansas, CMHCs are the local Mental Health Authorities coordinating the delivery of publicly funded community-based mental health services. As part of licensing regulations, CMHCs are required to provide services to all Kansans needing them, regardless of their ability to pay. This makes the community mental health system the "safety net" for Kansans with behavioral health needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on HB 2463 as a neutral conferee. Our Association has many questions about the effect or possible unintended consequences of the passage and implementation of this bill. Some of which are as follows:

- What does "no material or substantive changes" mean? We are not sure if this relates only to potential fiscal impact, or if it would apply to any changes in programming as well. For example, could the evolving and expanding area of telehealth be affected if a CMS decision requires KDHE to pivot in order to comply with a new decision or ruling by the agency.
- Does this mean that there could be no increases to Medicaid service rates before January 1, 2026?
- How might the OneCare Program, also known as health homes, be impacted by this legislation?
- Could this mean no changes in eligibility criteria before 2026? For example, would improvements or expansions to maternal mental health be prohibited?
- Lastly, does this in effect give the current MCOs an additional full contract term without going through the procurement process?

Our system has worked very hard to establish productive working relationships with the current managed care organizations and operate within the parameters defined by the KanCare Program. The Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic model, which creates a new provider type under Medicaid, passed by the 2021 Legislature in Senate substitute for HB 2208 is just one example of a program that we want to ensure has no set backs as a result of HB 2463 or any similar legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.