



October 2, 2024

To: Representative Will Carpenter  
Special Committee on Targeted Case Management

From: Kelli L Hueneke

RE: Kansas Targeted Case Management

I am writing today to express my deep concern regarding the potential changes to case management services currently under consideration by the State of Kansas, and how these changes could severely impact my daughter, our family, and other families like ours.

Leah Schlyer, at DSNWK, has been Olivia's case manager since her graduation more than 2 and a half years ago. DSNWK provides essential services that ensure individuals with disabilities receive the guidance and resources they need to live with purpose. If we were required to select an independent case manager outside of the support offered by DSNWK, it would be devastating to us. This change would disrupt not only Liv's everyday life, but the dreams and goals she has for her future. Leah has taken the time to get to know our daughter and our family. She understands Olivia's critical needs and ensures that the plans put in place for Liv will give her the safest and most successful outcome.

Before the involvement of DSNWK's case management team, my husband and I were lost. We didn't know how to find the resources needed for our daughter. She needed daily guidance and goal setting so she could work and live a meaningful life. With Leah's support, we navigated the complex application process for services that ensure Olivia's medical care, continuing education, and individualized needs evolve as she grows older.

Today, with Leah's help, Olivia is thriving in her job, enjoying participation in Special Olympics, and making plans to pursue furthering her education. The personal connection we have with Leah ensures that Olivia's care is tailored to her specific circumstances, which might not be possible under a more fragmented system. Losing the reliable and consistent support we receive from Leah at DSNWK would place an unnecessary burden on our family and risk disrupting the care Olivia depends on for her continued success.

I urge you to carefully consider the real-life impact these changes would have on families like ours. Please ensure that the vital support provided by Leah and DSNWK remains in place, so my daughter and others like her can continue to flourish.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

Kelli L Hueneke

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