

October 14, 2024

To: The 2024 Special Committee on Targeted Case Management, Rep. Will Carpenter, Chair

From: Cammie Funston, Parent/Guardian

RE: Targeted Case Management

Dear Senators and Representatives:

I am writing this testimony as the mother and legal guardian of a forty-year-old woman with Down Syndrome. My understanding is that there is a movement remove the freedom of families to choose their own Targeted Case Managers (TCM) due to a perceived conflict of interest with having a TCM from the same agency where day and/or residential services are provided.

My daughter has received TCM through the same agency as day and residential for twenty years. This has always been my free choice. I have never been discouraged from making different choices, or “steered” in a particular direction to benefit the agency over the needs of my child. Nor do I believe I have ever had relative agency concerns concealed from me by my Child’s TCM. I am, in fact, unable to identify where any conflict of interest lies.

I am completely happy, as is my child, with the quality of our current service provision. The “one-stop-shop” approach makes the most sense for us, both logistically and economically. My child is being served efficiently in a person-centered fashion. Her TCM visits my daughter in her day program to maintain rapport with her, as well as easily consults colleagues in other departments of the agency - for example health services, behavioral supports, or community living - to facilitate streamlined, coordination of care.

Persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) typically thrive best with routine, and familiarity. My child (as do many in her cohort) has a dual diagnosis of IDD and Mental Illness complicated by a communication disorder. Changes for her are particularly upsetting. I do not see her benefitting in any way from alterations to the status quo in regard to TCM selection.

Therefore, I hold steadfast in the belief that I, as her parent and guardian, should remain the decider of who I deem best to fill the role of my daughter’s service agency and TCM.

With Respect and Gratitude for your Service and on-going support of Kansas with IDD,

Cammie Funston,  
Parent/Guardian

