

From: Colin Olenick, Legislative Liaison – Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas
Re: TCM Conflict of Interest

Hello my name is. Colin Olenick. I am the Legislative Liaison for the Self Advocate Coalition of Kansas (SACK) and I receive independent case management services.

I believe that independent and conflict free Case Management is central to the I/DD system in the state of Kansas. When you think about it, the case manager is the most important person that a person with intellectual and developmental disabilities interacts with. The case manager is the interface between the person and all the services and supports such as residential, Day, and other services. Case management, under the umbrella of any of those other services, undermines and significantly reduces the quality of case management. For example, if Residential Services and day services are provided to an individual who needs a piece of equipment or a particular service and the need is legitimate but the residential service provider disagrees with the person and therefore the case manager also disagrees with the person. Choice is lost. In the same vein, the case managers could bar the person from doing something that particular provider wants them to do but they don't want to do.

Independent Case Management is a buffer for individuals and providing that service without conflicts of interest is the only way to ensure true choice for individuals with I/DD.