



2024 SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON TARGETED CASE MANAGEMENT

Testimony Submitted by the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities

October 4, 2024

Chair and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for convening this important special committee on targeted case management (TCM). This is a critical component to ensuring individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) receive the best possible supports and services while having a TCM provide and navigate what is currently a complex systems for Kansans with IDD.

KCDD's mission is to empower individuals with IDD and their families to lead systems change, build capacity, and advocate for inclusive, integrated, accessible communities where everyone belongs and thrives throughout our state. KCDD is made up of self-advocates, family members, state agencies, and other partners from around Kansas.

Kansans with I/DD, Kansas families, and our state's caregivers are faced with a crisis in which the disability community has never faced - the state's longest IDD waitlist and wait time, a disability workforce in crisis and inequitable funding of supports and services for those who choose to self-direct their services. We remain committed to advancing a three-pronged approach to solving the challenges in our community, these include:

- 1) Proactive Measures to End the IDD Waitlist in Kansas
- 2) Addressing and Modernizing the Disability Workforce in Kansas
- 3) Ensuring Equitable funding for Kansans with disabilities and their families who choose to self-direct their supports and services

Today's discussion, focused on the TCM infrastructure and workforce in Kansas, is vital to our state's disability workforce as **TCM services assist individuals eligible under the State Plan in gaining access to needed medical, social, educational, and other services.**

When you've met one person with a disability, you've met one person with a disability.

TCMs work to help individuals with IDD create and establish a plan - also known as a person-centered support plan (PCSP), and it's all about the individual— their own goals, preferences, and what's important to them. This plan should include the services and supports an individual needs like personal care, transportation or help finding a job.

The timing is now - the Kansas Landscape is changing:

- Number of individuals on the IDD Waiver: 9,031
- Number of individuals on the waitlist: 4,552
- Number of individuals receiving TCM: 8,501
- Percentage of individuals receiving TCM and at least one waiver service from the same agency: 37%

Special Committee Considerations

- **Federal Settings Rule:** Kansas needs to be fully compliant with the federal HCBS Settings Rule (42 CFR 441.301) which clearly states that there must be a separation between case management and service provision to prevent conflicts of interest. If Kansas does not comply, we will risk our current and future waivers, like the pending Community Supports Waiver (CSW).
- **Prioritizing Choice:** We need to offer more choice on the part of the Kansans with IDD and ensure that we remove the existing conflicts of interest (COI) between TCMs, CDDOs, and Community Service Providers.
- **Investing in our Disability Workforce:** Advance a critical disability workforce bill that builds off of the role of TCMs into other life-long systems that must evolve in Kansas

Thank you, again, for your ongoing leadership addressing the needs of Kansans with IDD. The Council looks forward to working with members of this committee as we continue to make progress for Kansans with IDD.

Sincerely,



Sara Hart Weir
Executive Director
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities (KCDD)