



September 23, 2024

To: Representative Will Carpenter and Members of the Special Committee on Targeted case management

From: Anna Perkins, TCM

RE: Targeted case management

Thank you for this opportunity to share my experience in case management and as being a part of the IDD field. I know how busy the legislative session can be and I appreciate you taking the time to review my written comments.

As a college student at Kansas State University in the late 1990s I applied and started my career as a direct support worker as I continued my education. I quickly learned that I had found my calling in this job. When I finished my education, I continued to work in the IDD field both as a residential supervisor and then as a targeted case manager in 2002. It is truly as a case manager I am able to be of the most value to those that I support.

I have been a case manager at Lakemary Center since 2002. The relationships I have with my individuals, their families and their supports for over 20 years are invaluable. There is trust and understanding that the care provided is meeting the specific needs of each person. The idea that they may have to choose between the provider they choose and the case manager they choose seems to be a contradiction in all that I educate them on.

I have countless stories of being an advocate for those that weren't being listened to, assisting families navigate the system to receive the services that the state provides and understand the concerns that families have with supporting an individual with an intellectual disability.

I have attached a photo of myself and an individual who I have worked with for 20 years. His name is Scott. He is an amazing man whose family unfortunately lives 8 hours away. When Scott broke his hip, his mom, sister and of course, Scott, needed reassurances that he would be ok. I was able to ensure all were getting the information from the medical providers and that the care needs were being met in a manner that met his specific needs. This level of care cannot be done by a stranger.

As an employee of Lakemary for over 20 years I worry about what this will also do to myself personally. I do not know what this change could do to my family. Will we have health insurance, will I lose pay, benefits, etc.... The unknowns and the lack of understanding of what a case manager does makes this change feel short-sighted and rushed.

I respectfully request that the committee takes the time to fully understand the work that targeted case managers do and how we support and enhance the lives of individuals with intellectual disabilities.

Thank you again for the opportunity to share my experiences and thoughts on the essential and critical services that case managers provide.

Anna Perkins

Anna Perkins, Targeted case manager