

27th of September, 2024

To: Representative Will Carpenter and The Special Committee on Targeted Case Management
From: Carol Lyle, Targeted Case Manager
Re: Targeted Case Management Conflict of Interest for Kansans with IDD

Thank you for your ongoing support for Kansans with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD). Your efforts enable many individuals to access vital services and live fulfilling lives.

As a Targeted Case Manager (TCM) with over five years of experience and having worked with people with IDD for 17 years, I want to emphasize the critical role TCMs play in this community. Many individuals with IDD struggle to advocate for themselves due to a lack of education about their rights and voicing their wants and needs. TCMs advocate for their clients, ensuring their choices are respected while implementing necessary safeguards. Additionally, TCMs guide clients and families through complex systems like Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, Section 8, Food Assistance, and other essential services.

In my current role at an agency that also provides Day and Residential Services, I have built strong relationships with clients and their families. Many clients rely on me as their TCM while receiving services from our agency. Forcing clients to choose between keeping their trusted TCM or switching providers would create unnecessary hardship. The limited capacity of Day and Residential Service providers further complicates this issue, as finding suitable options is already challenging. I work in the largest county in Kansas so this would be even more true in other areas of the state.

If I were required to transition to an independent TCM role or consult with an agency focused solely on TCM services, I would lose paid time off and be responsible for my health insurance, retirement funding, and licensing costs. Additionally, I would bear the costs associated with using my vehicle for client visits and meetings. Also, I wouldn't have the coverage of my TCM coworkers when I take time off from work.

Thank you for considering the importance of TCMs in supporting Kansans with IDD. Your continued advocacy can help ensure that these individuals receive the care they need and deserve.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol Lyle". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the "Thank you," text.

Carol Lyle