



To: Special Committee on Targeted Case Management

From: Rachel Banning, President, Rainbows United

Date: September 13, 2024

Re: Targeted Case Management Conflict of Interest

My name is Rachel Banning, and I serve as the President of Rainbows United. I wanted to share with you a story of DeMarco, an 11-year-old that is served by Rainbows United, and the impact Targeted Case Management Services has had for him and his family.

When DeMarco was not meeting developmental milestones, his mom reached out to Rainbows and early intervention services began right away. As you can imagine, this was a very critical time for brain development. Time was of the essence and navigating a web of systems—both healthcare and community-based services was substantially complex. Fortunately, DeMarco's family was connected with a Case Manager who helped get them connected to the proper specialists and programs that would later come to serve DeMarco's exceptionality of Autism.

This Case Manager helped with properly and punctually completing paperwork and later ensure that DeMarco's educational needs were met. The TCM also made it possible for DeMarco to attend summer camp and helped the family apply for funding. DeMarco shared that he loved camp and had so much fun, he enjoyed being with other kids and doing new things. During the school year, the Case Manager coordinated Direct Support Care for DeMarco after school as often time, many of our individuals with additional needs are not safe when left unsupervised.

DeMarco's mom said she appreciated their Case Manager because she doesn't know all of the options and the paperwork can be overwhelming and confusing. Additionally, English is not her first language. She shared that DeMarco is a remarkable child and she is incredibly grateful for the case management services they receive.

Why am I sharing this with you? Because this is also my story—and my family's story. It is also the story of the 442 children that Rainbows United provides case management services for.

The Center for Medicaid Services has raised concerns about potential conflict of interest in organizations like Rainbows providing services like Camp and Family Support Services (in home care) in addition to case management.

Targeted case management is essential for navigating a series of systems that our families did not ask for—not one system—a series of systems, and likely this navigation will continue for a lifetime.

Forcing families or organizations to choose between Targeted Case Management or providing critical programs like camp that gave DeMarco and children of all abilities an incredible summer experience while also keeping parents employed during the hard-to-find summer months of care is dangerous. The implication of having to divest Targeted Case Management from our organization strains our local CDDO as Rainbows one of the only agencies that provides Targeted Case Management Services and IDD services for children unequivocally leaving families to fend for themselves to access critical life services for children.

I hope DeMarco's and my story impacts you to articulate to CMS that our great State already has conflict of interest provisions that have been effective for decades and that accountability to our local CDDO's is more than adequate, it ensures that Kansas communities are responsible for our most vulnerable children.