



To: Rep. Bob Bethell, Chair, and Members, House Aging and Long-Term Care Committee
From: Debra H. Zehr, President/CEO
Date: January 19, 2011

A Snapshot of the Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (KAHSA)

Thank you for this opportunity to speak with you today.

KAHSA represents 160 not-for-profit aging service organizations throughout the state. Our members include nursing homes, retirement communities, assisted living residences, low income housing, PACE, community-based service providers and hospital long-term care units. Together our members serve over 20,000 senior Kansans and employ about 20,000 people.

KAHSA provides advocacy services, education and shared learning, information, and other tools and resources for members to assist them to provide the services people need, when they need them, in a place they call home, and quality people can trust. In addition, we are a knowledge resource for aging Kansans and those who care for and about them.

KAHSA's six strategic priorities include:

1. Create the next generation of aging services
2. Improve aging services financial sustainability
3. Grow leaders in aging services
4. Grow and improve our workforce
5. Advance regulatory reform and improve compliance
6. Promote and protect the not-for-profit difference

Our two primary legislative priorities this year include:

1. Sustain funding for long term supports and services for frail older Kansans
2. Comprehensive Workers Compensation reform

KAHSA and its members have a wealth of knowledge and experience on aging issues and services. As you deliberate on the many important issues you will face this Session, we invite you to call on us as a trusted resource for information to assist you in responding to constituent concerns and in policy-making.

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ATTACHMENT
HOUSE AGING & LTC
DATE: 1/25/11
ATTACHMENT #2

2-1

Services to our Membership

1. Advocacy
2. Educational Programming
3. Tools to help members succeed
4. Communications and Info.
5. Group Purchasing and Shared Services options
6. Workers Compensation Pool



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**Kansas Association of
Homes and Services
for the Aging**

KAHSA
creating the future of aging services



Who is KAHSA?

The Kansas Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (KAHSA) is a non-profit organization whose 160 members are not-for-profit, mission-driven organizations that exist solely to serve the unique needs of elders. They serve over 20,000 people throughout the state every day.

KAHSA members provide a wide spectrum of services including: senior housing, assisted living, nursing home care, hospice, independent living, care management, care management of non-residential services, home health and a variety of community services.

KAHSA is also committed to educating the general community on the positive aspects of aging and new models of care and supportive services.



Our Mission

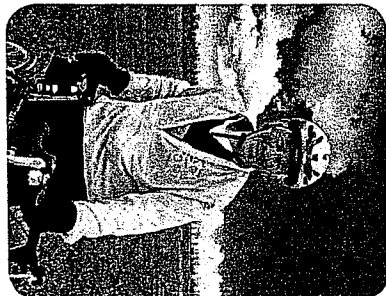
To assist our members to provide services and supports to aging Kansans in the place they call home.

Learn more at
www.kahsa.org



Our Vision

KAHSA will be the recognized leader and knowledge resource for aging Kansans.



Our Core Values

Quality, Choice, Relationship, and Outstanding Value. The focus of the Association going forward is to empower and equip our members to transform into what older Kansans want.

Relationship - To contribute to and have meaningful relationships with individuals, their communities, and society at large.

Choice - To decide their own pattern of daily living and to have access to a spectrum of services to meet their changing needs and preferences.

Quality - To achieve and maintain their desired quality of life, aided by caring, competent persons and excellent services.

Outstanding Value - To have access to reasonably priced, efficient services.

WORKERS COMPENSATION

We ask the 2011 Legislature to Support Comprehensive Workers Compensation Reform.

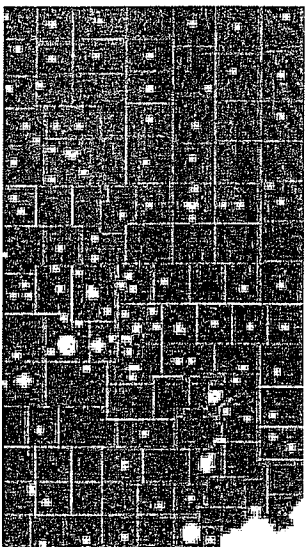
The Kansas Legislature has not made comprehensive changes to workers' compensation law since the mid-1990s. Since that time, various factors have combined to strain the worker's compensation system, greatly increasing costs for employers.

Kansas needs comprehensive worker's compensation reform to bring balance and fairness back to the system. Without reform, the escalating costs of the Kansas system will threaten the state's ability to retain and attract jobs.

KAHSA's Mission

To assist our members to provide services and supports to aging Kansans in the place they call home.

KAHSA Members Across Kansas



Larger dots represent an area with 10 or more members

What services do KAHSA members provide?

- 71% provide nursing home care
- 41% provide assisted living services
- 47% provide housing for the elderly
- 11% provide government subsidized housing for the elderly
- Three-quarters of KAHSA members provide one or more community-based services such as home-delivered meals, adult day services or transportation

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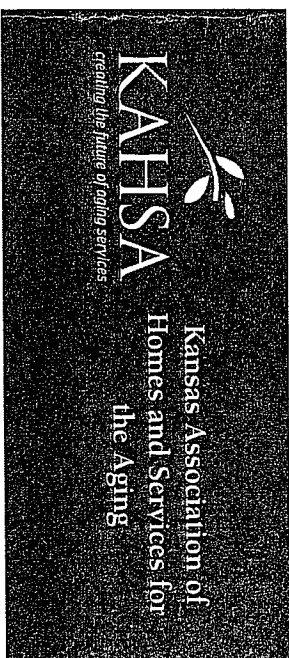
1-800-264-5242

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2011 Legislative Priorities

Fund Long Term Supportive Services
for Frail Older Kansans
Support Comprehensive Workers
Compensation Reform



2011 KAHSA's Legislative Priorities

The Right Public Policy for the Right Reasons

KANSAS ASSOCIATION OF HOMES AND SERVICES FOR THE AGING (KAHSA) represents not-for-profit aging service provider organizations throughout Kansas. Our 160 members exist solely to serve the unmet needs of elders. They spring from a diverse heritage of religious, fraternal and civic organizations, and local units of government. All share a common benevolent purpose and are committed to a ministry of service, care, and community benefit. KAHSA members serve nearly 20,000 Kansas seniors in nursing homes, retirement communities, hospital long-term care units, assisted living residences, senior housing and through community-based services.

MEDICAID FUNDING

Kansans want the right long-term care services and supports, at the right time, in the place they call home. Medicaid is the state and federally funded program that pays for health care for impoverished Kansans, 56% of nursing home residents or 10,000 frail Kansans depend on the Medicaid program to pay for their long term care. An additional 5,000 Kansans receive services at home through the Home and Community Based Services for the Frail Elderly waiver program (HCBS/FE), and 300 individuals participate in the two PACE programs operating in Kansas.

Nursing Homes

We ask the 2011 Legislature to maintain Medicaid funding according to methodology currently set in state law and regulation.

Medicaid reimbursement to nursing homes is calculated through a strict cost-based system. In 2009, the state froze Medicaid reimbursement to nursing homes based on the average costs incurred between 2005 and 2007. Additionally, Medicaid reimbursement for all providers was cut 10% from January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2010, further exacerbating the shortfall between Medicaid reimbursement and the actual costs incurred in caring for the individuals receiving Medicaid benefits.

While the 10% cut was reversed beginning July 1, 2010, many homes across the state struggle to provide care needed by our frailest Kansans with the resources available through Medicaid. Proper funding is crucial to nursing homes' ability to recruit and train workers, capable of delivering quality care to our state's aging population.

Home and Community Based Services/ Frail Elderly (HCBS/FE)

We ask the 2011 Legislature to fund the Medicaid HCBS/FE program to reactivate the services suspended in SFY 2010.

The HCBS/FE waiver is a Medicaid-funded program that delivers specific services to frail elders in their home as an alternative to entrance into a nursing home. In addition to cutting reimbursement for Home and Community Based Service providers 10% in SFY 2010, the HCBS/FE program was forced to suspend 4 of 10 the services provided under this program. Currently, these 4 services are available to frail elders in crisis situations only.

The HCBS/FE program provides key services that support seniors' wishes to remain in their own home as long as possible, and provides the state with a tool to reduce Medicaid cost growth in the long term. In many cases, HCBS/FE services delay the use of more costly services. Adequately funding the HCBS/FE program is an important investment in the overall health of Kansas.

PACE

We ask the 2011 Legislature to support current and future PACE sites in Kansas.

The Program for All Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) provides comprehensive medical and social services to elderly individuals through a unique capitated rate structure. PACE providers receive monthly Medicare and Medicaid payments for each eligible enrollee and assume full financial risk for participants' care without limits on amount, duration, or scope of services. Kansas currently has two PACE providers, which are members of KAHSA.

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