

"A field of choices...
Where abilities grow"



March 25, 2011

TO: Representative Bob Bethell, Chair and Members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee
Representative David Crum, Chair and Members of the Social Services Budget Committee

FR: Dale Tower, Executive Director, CDDO of Butler County

RE: SB 210

**Testimony on SB 210 Developmental Disabilities Provider Assessment
Monday March 28, 2011**

Thank you, members of the committees, for the opportunity to provide this testimony. The Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) of Butler County is supportive of Senate Bill 210, the Developmental Disabilities Provider Assessment.

SB 210 in its current form will benefit persons served and service providers. New funds obtained through the assessment will improve the quality of care for people with disabilities by helping providers retain staff and recruit quality potential employees. SB 210 will provide nearly half a million dollars of new funds yearly to Butler County. The additional funding is very important in assuring the best health, safety and productivity outcomes possible.

The Community Service Providers in Butler County will be better able to meet cost increases in utilities, food, fuel, recruiting workers and health and worker's compensation insurance. Direct care workers are frequently injured when managing behavioral issues or providing personal care. Reimbursement rates have not increased to help cover rising costs of providing services and unexpected expenses.

Again, on behalf of persons served and community service providers in Butler County we support SB 210 without amendments.

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"A field of choices.....Where abilities grow"

HOUSE AGING & LTC
DATE: 3/28/11
ATTACHMENT # 3



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TO: Representative Bob Bethell, Chair and Members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee and Representative David Crum, Chair and Members of the Social Services Budget Committee

FROM: Tim Cunningham
Executive Director, Tri-Valley Developmental Services

RE: SB 210

**Testimony on SB 210 Developmental Disabilities Provider Assessment
Monday March 28, 2011**

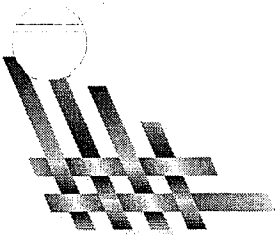
Committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide you with testimony regarding SB 210. Tri-Valley Developmental Services has been providing supports and services to persons with disabilities since 1974 and we currently serve 200 persons. We are in favor of SB 210, the Developmental Disability Provider Assessment and we ask for your support as well.

The 5.5% assessment on all Kansas providers would generate approximately \$25 million additional dollars for the state, of which \$600,000 would be for the Tri-Valley CDDO area. Next year the rate would increase to 6%. With the economic situation looking bleak over the next couple of years, the provider assessment is the only increase in revenue we are likely to see.

Community service providers have been struggling for years with low reimbursement rates and SB 210 would permit us to use those dollars to raise rates. The additional money would allow the state to increase reimbursement rates to all providers, of which Tri-Valley would use this money to give direct support professionals the raises they deserve. It has been almost six years since employees received anything more than a trivial increase in their pay. Currently, the starting pay for a vocational trainer is \$8.05, only 80 cents more than minimum wage.

What is unique about SB 210 is that it will benefit every Home and Community Based waiver provider in the state without utilizing state funds. Thank you again for your consideration of SB 210.

Helping People Achieve Success



Disability Planning Organization of Kansas

TO: Representative Bob Bethell, Chair and Members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee
Representative David Crum, Chair and Members of the Social Services Budget Committee

From: Carolee Miner, President/CEO
Lorraine Harris, CDDO Director

Date: March 25, 2011

Re: Testimony on SB 210 Developmental Disabilities Provider Assessment –
Monday March 28, 2011

Thank you, members of the committees, for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

The Disability Planning Organization of Kansas, Inc. is the contracting Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO) for 9 counties of north central Kansas.

New funds obtained through the Provider Assessment will help assure quality of care for people with disabilities. 30 area affiliated providers will have improved ability to retain staff and recruit potential quality employees. SB 210 will provide new funds that are very important in assuring the health, safety and productivity outcomes possible for citizens with developmental disabilities in north central Kansas and throughout the state.

SB 210 in its current form will benefit persons served as well as service providers. Service organizations face increasing cost pressures from utilities, fuel, health insurance rates, workers' compensation insurance rates, recruiting and training expenses. Direct care workers are the majority of the work force, and personnel expenses account for more that 75% of provider organization's budgets. Reimbursement rates have not increased to cover any of these rising costs.

Again, on behalf of 650 persons served and 30 community service providers in north central Kansas, this CDDO supports SB 210 without amendments.



Sedgwick County
Developmental Disability Organization

Chad VonAhnen -- Director

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March 25, 2011

TO: Representative Bob Bethell, Chair and Members of the Aging and Long Term Care Committee
Representative David Crum, Chair and Members of the Social Services Budget Committee

FR: Chad VonAhnen, Director
Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization

RE: SB 210

**Testimony on SB 210 Developmental Disabilities Provider Assessment
Monday March 28, 2011**

Thank you, members of the committees, for the opportunity to provide this testimony. The Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Organization (SCDDO) would like to express support of Senate Bill 210, the Developmental Disabilities Provider Assessment.

The Advocates in Community Team (ACT) is a five-county grassroots group comprised of persons served, their family members and community service providers. ACT has included the provider assessment as a priority in their legislative agenda.

SB 210 in its current form will benefit persons served and service providers. New funds obtained through the assessment will improve the quality of care for people with disabilities by helping providers retain staff and recruit quality potential employees. SB 210 will provide new funds that are very important in assuring the best health, safety and productivity outcomes possible.

Disability organizations will be better able to meet cost increases in utilities, food, fuel, recruiting workers and health and workers compensation insurance. Direct care workers are frequently injured when managing behavioral issues or providing personal care. Reimbursement rates have not increased to help cover rising costs of providing services and unexpected expenses.

Again, on behalf of persons served and community service providers in Sedgwick County, the SCDDO supports SB 210 without amendments.