



Sedgwick County
Developmental Disability Advisory Board

Linwood Sexton -- Chair

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March 13, 2012

TO: Representative Brenda Landwehr, Chair and Members of the Health and Human Services Committee

FR: Linwood Sexton, Chair
Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Advisory Board

RE: HB 2457 – Removal of MR/DD Non-Medical Services from KanCare

**Testimony in Support of HB 2457
Tuesday March 13, 2012**

Thank you, members of the committee, for the opportunity to provide this testimony. The Sedgwick County Developmental Disability Advisory Board is appointed by the Board of County Commissioners to provide recommendations for services for persons with developmental disabilities in Sedgwick County. We would like to express concern over the proposed KanCare managed care program, specifically on the issue of long-term, non-medical supports and services for the developmentally disabled (DD) and express support for HB 2457.

Sedgwick County represents the largest portion of eligible individuals for developmental disability services in the State of Kansas. Our position is that DD services do not fit within the managed care model and will add another level of bureaucracy to the current system. While privatizing Medicaid can be viewed by some as decreasing government, to the consumer it will increase complexity by adding multiple layers of government contractors, doing the work of government.

It is not our intent to obstruct change and the potential for efficiencies, but rather to partner in working towards a plan that is not only efficient, but effective in supporting the needs of Kansas' most vulnerable citizens. We believe developing good public policy includes relying on and utilizing stakeholder input. That may mean initiatives need re-evaluated and course corrections are needed.

The current CDDO system has already proven effective in reducing per person costs. In 1993 Medicaid ICF/MR and HCBS per person costs in Kansas were \$49,418 and decreased to \$41,936 in 2009 (Lakin, Larson, Salmi & Webster, 2010). Safeguards are in place to insure efficiency of service delivery and to mitigate conflict of interests.

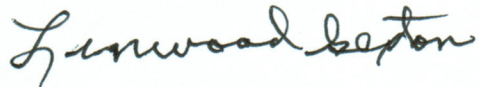
Over the past few months citizens have raised serious concerns about KanCare and the impacts on the DD system. Public meetings attended by hundreds of families and consumers attest to the continuing issue that citizens have not been given any compelling evidence that KanCare will demonstrate efficiencies in the area of long-term care.

It has been stated that there are no or minimal opportunities for cost savings in DD long-term care services. The examples that have been shared have been medical in nature. There has been no clarity on why the inclusion of DD long-term services is necessary for KanCare to work.

The partnership between the counties and the State has been effective. Including DD funding in KanCare will add multiple levels of complexity and government contractors into an already complex, but functional system. It targets this needless complexity on one of our more vulnerable population groups. Government functions most effectively when the local community has a strong voice.

We support HB 2457 and strongly encourage the removal of non-medical, long-term services from KanCare.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linwood Sexton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Linwood Sexton

Chair – Sedgwick County Developmental Disabilities Advisory Board