

Approved: 3-31-95  
Date

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Sandy Praeger at 10:00 a.m. on March 24, 1995 in Room 526-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:

Committee staff present: Emalene Correll, Legislative Research Department  
Bill Wolff, Legislative Research Department  
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes  
Jo Ann Buntten, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Jane Rhys, Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Mark Elmore, Johnson County Mental Retardation Center  
Gina McDonald, Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living  
George Vega, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services  
Sherry Diel, Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc.  
Shannon M. Jones, Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas  
Sharon Huffman, Kansas Department of Human Resources  
Arika Aldrich, Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc.  
Tom Laing, Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities

Others attending: See attached list

**Hearing on Sub HB 2458 - Enacting the developmental disabilities reform act**

Staff briefed the Committee on **Sub HB 2458** which was reported to the House of Representatives and the work product of various interest groups who have been working on the bill since last fall. The bill creates a new act to be cited as the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act. The House appointed a Select Committee on Developmental Disabilities which introduced the original **HB 2458**. The Substitute House bill is the work product of a subcommittee of the Select Committee. The full committee and the subcommittee were both aware of the potential for going through statutes and doing some renaming and further amendments of other statutes, but chose not to do so at this time. Staff noted that the floor amendments in the substitute bill adopted by the Committee of the Whole were offered by one member of the House.

In answer to a member's question regarding problems with the amendment in reference to the name change of mental health facilities, staff noted that when the bill was passed out of the Select Committee, it was everyone's expectation that there would be work done over the Interim with the advocacy groups in order to study the statutes and come up with needed changes that would conform with language in the remaining statutes. However, staff noted that out of the 140 statutes, about 130 have policy issues associated with them that don't just arise from the name change, and the impact of amending one act and not all of the others was not particularly known because the current organic act relates to the definition of mental retardation, and this would create an expanded definition. During Committee discussion it was pointed out that the intention was to deal with all of the issues raised because of the act and to try bring all of the statutes into compliance.

The nine conferees, as noted above, summarized their remarks to the Committee and submitted written testimony in support of **Sub HB 2458**. Written testimony was also received from Josie Torrez, Families Together, Inc. (Attachments I through 10) It was noted that many hours were spent working on the bill in an attempt to produce legislation that all of the various interest groups could support.

## CONTINUATION SHEET

MINUTES OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE, Room 526-S  
Statehouse, at 10:00 a.m. on March 24, 1995.

During Committee discussion some of the comments were: Mark Elmore - the designation of having community services in Kansas as a policy statement is the most significant piece in the bill; Gina McDonald - the most important part of the bill is community services, and hopefully the technical changes can be worked out; George Vega - the fiscal impact will be subject to appropriations, and SRS rules and regs will be budget neutral; Tom Laing - community entities are not covered by the Tort Claims Act, and such entities should look at the cost of insurance and cost of risk management at the same time. Johnson and Wyandotte counties both have county run mental retardation centers (CMRC's). Sedgwick County has a county run mental retardation center but provides no services as they contract entirely in the non-profit community. Wyandotte and Johnson are covered by the Tort Claims Act, and the remaining 27 community retardation centers in the state are covered by private insurance. In reference to the House floor amendments, Mr. Laing noted the amendment relating to risk management should be kept in the bill.

The Chair noted further discussion on Sub HB 2458 would continue at the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

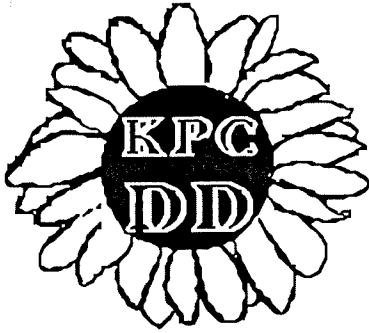
The next meeting is scheduled for March 28, 1995.

# SENATE PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE GUEST LIST

DATE: 3-24-95

NAME	REPRESENTING
Arika Aldrich	RCIL
Josie Torres	Families Together, Inc.
Merron D. Jones	SILCK
Gwen Beegle	Kansas Univ. Aft. Prgm. - Lawrence
George Wolf	KCDC
Sharon Huffman	KCDC
Ed Henry	Twin Valley Dev. Services
Sally Henry	parent
KEITH R. HANDS	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE COMM ON PUBLICATION FOR KS
Tom Laing	Ks. Assoc of Rehab Facilities
Sherry Diel	Ks. Advocacy & Protective Services
Sandy Strand	KINH
Darwin Humil	SPS / M / Q / KS
Joan Kab	KAPS / KGP.
John Stuchler	KAPS
Rich Pittman	Health Midwest
Joe Furganic	KCA
Lara McDonald	FACIL
Martha Hodgsmill	KARF





## ***Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities***

BILL GRAVES, Governor  
WENDELL LEWIS, Chairperson  
JANE RHYS, Executive Director

Docking State Of. Bldg., Room 141, 915 Harrison  
Topeka, KS 66612-1570  
Phone (913) 296-2608, FAX (913) 296-2861

*"To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities"*

### **SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE**

**March 24, 1995**

Testimony in Regard to HB 2458, THE DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES REFORM ACT.

*To ensure the opportunity to make choices regarding participation in society and quality of life for individuals with developmental disabilities.*

Madame Chairwoman, Members of the Committee, I am appearing today on behalf of the Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities regarding HB 2458. We are a federally mandated, federally funded council composed of individuals who are appointed by the Governor. At least half of the membership are individuals who have developmental disabilities or their immediate relatives. We also have representatives of the major agencies who provide services for individuals with developmental disabilities.

The Council has been interested in and supportive of reform for developmental disabilities since the early 1980's. The Council has been involved over the years in several attempts to get needed reform in this area. For whatever reasons, it was not the right time, we did not have agreement among the different groups, etc., we have been unsuccessful. However, this year I can honestly say we got it right.

A number of the individuals here today, representing independent living centers, rehabilitation facilities, parents of children with developmental disabilities, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services, and the University of Kansas University Affiliated Programs worked with the House Select Committee on Developmental Disabilities to produce the bill you have before you. We spent many hours and reviewed every line in the bill in an attempt to produce legislation that we could all support. This is our product and we are pleased with the results. We have waited for many years to get reform similar to the Mental Health Reform Act. Our time has now come and we urge you to pass HB 2458 to the full Senate for immediate action.

Thank you for the opportunity of presenting testimony and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Jane Rhys, Executive Director  
Kansas Council on Developmental Disabilities  
Docking State Office Building, Room 141  
915 SW Harrison  
Topeka, KS 66612-1

Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. /





March 24, 1995

SENATE COMMITTEE

TESTIMONY on Substitute for H.B. 2458

Senator Audrey Langworthy, Chairperson

Presented by Mark Elmore, Executive Director JCMRC

Chairperson <sup>*Praeger*</sup> Langworthy and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for allowing me time to present comments to your committee. I am Mark Elmore, executive director of Johnson County Mental Retardation Center, an agency presently providing service coordination to more than 600 persons with mental retardation and their families. In addition I serve as President of the Kansas chapter of the American Association on Mental Retardation, active member of Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities and parent of a grown daughter with a developmental disability.

JCMRC provides a comprehensive array of services and supports to individuals through employment options, various living services and ongoing service coordination. We have led the effort to affiliate other organizations in our area to help provide a comprehensive service system to the many citizens that turn to us for help. Presently we have affiliate contracts with six other service organizations and 175 individuals. We have been offering direct services since 1972 and have literally helped thousands of individuals with disabilities in employment and living opportunities.

As a representative of the many consumers and parents that we deal with daily we appreciate the legislature's leadership in drafting a policy statement on services to persons with disabilities as offering in this bill. We believe it is a positive step in acknowledging and enhancing the partnership between the state and local community organizations that support persons with disabilities. An effort that has been undertaken with a sense of urgency and dedication to the thousands of parents and friends of persons with disabilities that yearn for some acknowledgement that our most vulnerable citizens need our assurance of ongoing support and if necessary assistance. We have often supported such efforts.

Before I address specifics of this bill please let me briefly share from my unique role as something of a participant historian on the development of community service to persons with mental retardation in Kansas over the last 28 years. When I entered this profession back in 1967 as a worker at Winfield State Hospital and Training Center the institutions were involved in tremendous change. Change in moving from old buildings to new ones; change in serving only 25 persons per ward; change from serving over 1100 persons at WSH&TC with a few hundred staff by moving individuals into various community options; change in

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Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: *3-24-95*  
Attachment No. *2*

page 2

seeing small parent-run community schools develop to serve their adult children; change in personally helping start what is today a comprehensive community network of services. The change has not always been easy. With the crisis of moving hundreds of persons in the 1950's and 1960's out of the institutions passed we then faced and conquered the need to establish community services in all areas of the state. As I worked in both small and large community programs in rural and urban settings during the 1970's I participated in the most exciting time in the history of service to persons with mental retardation in Kansas. During the 1980's as community services in Kansas were maturing, institutions again came under fire for inadequate care. During his time period I visited several states that had closed institutions, downsized them and developed viable new alternatives. I borrowed ideas, implementing them and other new concepts at JCMRC and participated in networking throughout Kansas on how to improve our service system.

I have been most fortunate to be an active participant in all of this change process. I believe that a historical prospective is vital to a vision for the future. That brings me to the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act. A concept of establishing a state community service policy that will provide a vision of the service system of the future.

This act highlight the goals of many organizations like JCMRC. The emphasis on services and supports, increasing independence and productivity, integration and inclusion of persons into the community all match the changes taking place in the community service sectors today.

This bill also opens a door that has many challenges attached when we shift current service efforts from mental retardation to developmental disabilities. A shift that our organization could support if issues of increased funding seemed likely. Without increased funding to reach the additional disabilities included in this change we fear that waiting problems will only increase. Our organization has taken steps to reverse our trends of serving persons with disabilities other than mental retardation simply because we do not have the fiscal resources to meet all the present requests for services and supports.

We support the concepts covered in this act that emphasize contracts shall be with existing community service providers whenever appropriate. We share that this concept is presently working, and does not set in place a non-competitive service system. Given the numerous affiliate organizations that JCMRC contracts with and our mandate by Mental Health and Retardation to sign on all willing organizations we see many choices for service and supports to be provided in our community.

We see many of the issues that families so often talk to us about covered. Parents are extremely concerned that their child will receive help when the parent is gone. Family members worry about protection from harm. Service providers need to individualize services throughout the service system. We support the concept of financing for an organized network of community services that maximizes available funds. We noted the requirement of providing data on the number of persons with developmental disabilities and families eligible to receive services and support such efforts to eliminate duplication and confusion

page 3

from present efforts. Parents and family members often speak to us wondering why there are no guarantees for services like they have when their children are in schools. There has been much discussion on the house side in committee work relative to the issue of including in this act any form of a bill of rights to service concept or guarantee of services. That has not been included as many are hesitant to provide such service guarantees.

We fully support the concepts outlined in moving to a full service community services system. We believe Kansas can join other states in not only providing a full service system but we believe we could move over time to only a community service system. Our organization has pushed for a system of adequate and reasonable cost reimbursement. We believe there are variables in the cost of services across the state and feel a one price fits all philosophy does not allow for truly individualized services. We hope this bill sets the course for further work on looking at the total system of services and funding.

This bill prescribes many new duties for the secretary of social and rehabilitation services. This shift in expectations holds a promise that the successful partnership between the state and local groups will continue and develop even further. We know there are many issues that will come up in the implementation process of this bill. We anticipate that rules and regulations will be developed with community providers input and support. Such collaborative efforts should ease the many challenges that are sure to develop as the implementation phase is undertaken. At this point we are willing to be an active participant and assist anywhere we are needed.

In summarizing my comments today I am reminded of the many times parents, consumers and professionals have come before legislative committees over the last several years. They have encouraged the state to set a new course of community service to persons with disabilities. The changes in the system over the past thirty plus years have generally been pushed by parents and professionals without a current state philosophy statement. I believe it is time to put our values and philosophies into law and pass this bill as a first step in the process of articulating where the State of Kansas stands on serving it's most vulnerable citizens. I have tried to be brief hoping that I can add insight by answering any questions that you might raise.

Thank you for your efforts as a committee and your attention today.



Mark Elmore  
JCMRC Executive Director





**Gina McDonald**  
**Executive Director**

**Member Agencies:**

**ILC of  
Southcentral Kansas**  
Wichita, KS  
316/838-3500 Voice/TT

**Independence, Inc.**  
Lawrence, KS  
913/841-0333 Voice  
913/841-1046 TT

**Independent Connection**  
Salina, KS  
913/827-9383 Voice/TT

**LINK, Inc.**  
Hays, KS  
913/625-6942 Voice/TT

**The WHOLE PERSON, Inc.**  
Kansas City, MO  
816/561-0304 Voice  
816/531-7749 TT

**Topeka Independent  
Living Resource Center**  
Topeka, KS  
913/233-4572 V/TT

**Southeast Kansas  
Independent Living, Inc.**  
Parsons, KS  
316/421-5502 Voice  
316/421-6551 TT

**Accessing Southwest  
Kansas (ASK), Inc.**  
Dodge City, KS  
316/225-6070 Voice/TT  
1-800/871-0297

Testimony on Substitute for H.B. 2458 to  
Senate Public Health and Welfare  
Senator Sandy Praeger, Chair  
March 24, 1995

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B.2458. My name is Gina McDonald and I am the Executive Director of the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living, (KACIL). Centers for Independent Living provide services including advocacy to people with all types of disabilities including people with developmental disabilities.

KACIL has worked closely with the coalition of legislators, advocates, providers and state representatives to develop this bill and we offer our full support for its passage with no amendments. This bill, among other things, will offer to people with developmental disabilities the right to choose the service provider they want to hire, and it ensures that people with disabilities will have access to information about all the options available to them. KACIL believes that having choice is central to the rights of all people.

The work of this coalition represents an effort to improve service options for people with developmental disabilities. This effort represents a very unique coalition that is seldom replicated in other states. KACIL is privileged to be part of an effort where everyone was willing to compromise in order to improve services to people with developmental disabilities. We are very hopeful that this is the beginning of this kind of successful collaboration. Most importantly, we request that this committee pass this bill favorably to the full Senate.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony. I will be happy to stand for questions.

Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Testimony Presented to

Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare

Regarding Substitute for HB 2458  
Developmental Disabilities Reform Act

March 24, 1995

Janet Schalansky, Acting Secretary  
Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services  
(913) 296-3274

Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. 4

Thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today in support of the substitute for House Bill 2458, an act enacting the developmental disabilities reform act. We applaud the intent of this bill to provide a framework committing our state to community services which allows choices to our citizens with developmental disabilities in all our communities.

The substitute bill before you is the result of much hard work and compromise between and among stake holders as well as legislators. We support this bill in this form because we all agree it is a giant step forward for the most important stake holder, our citizens with developmental disabilities. SRS asks this committee to support this act and requests you recommend it favorably to your colleagues without amendments.

Based on conversations with stake holders and common agreement to work cooperatively to adopt rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this bill so there is no fiscal impact, SRS has revisited and recommended a revised fiscal note to the Division of the Budget. We see no fiscal impact for FY 1996 and note any possible impact in subsequent years is subject to appropriation.

# Kansas Advocacy & Protective Services, Inc.



2601 Anderson Ave., Suite 200, Manhattan, KS 66502-2876

(913) 776-1541, FAX (913) 776-5783

**Kansas City Area**  
6700 Squibb Rd.  
Suite 104  
Mission, KS 66202  
(913) 236-5207

**Wichita Area**  
255 N. Hydraulic  
Wichita, KS 67214  
(316) 269-2525

**TO:** Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
Senator Sandy Praeger, Chair

**FROM:** Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc.--Staff Report

**DATE:** March 24, 1995

**RE:** S-HB2458

Kansas Advocacy and Protective Services, Inc. (KAPS) serves as the designated protection and advocacy agency for individuals with disabilities in the State of Kansas. KAPS currently has four (4) federally funded advocacy programs: Protection and Advocacy for persons with Developmental Disabilities (PADD); Protection and Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI); Protection and Advocacy for Individual Rights (PAIR); and the Assistive Technology program (AT). The PAIR program was begun in November 1994 and serves as a catch-all for persons who are not eligible for assistance from the developmental disabilities or mental illness programs. The AT project just recently got off the ground.

We thank the Committee for setting aside this time to hear testimony on a bill that we see as the future for Kansans with disabilities who wish to live in a community setting. As you may have heard from previous conferees, in addition to the support various concepts of the bill have received from members of the Legislature over the past few years, the substitute bill has been a joint effort of conferees that oftentimes have opposing interests. Despite that obstacle, the conferees put their differences aside for the good of the bill and now stand together to ask that you recommend that S-HB2458 be passed.

The bill offers a wide range of community services and supports to the consumer. Of great importance, is the fact that the bill requires the Secretary of Social and Rehabilitation Services to implement a plan that will reduce reliance on institutional or segregated settings [Page 3, lines 26 and 27] and will allow consumers to chose the type of services and supports which are appropriate for their needs [Page 1, lines 29-33] and to chose from whom the services will be obtained [Page 5, lines 35-37]. According to the Act, information about all available service options must be provided to the consumer [Page 3, lines 13-14].

KAPS has been charged with developing systems of advocacy and pro services in Kansas relevant to the provisions of Sec. 113 of P.L. 94-103, as amended Disabilities Services and Facilities Construction Act, and P.L. 99-319 Protection and Advocacy for Mentally Ill Individuals Act.

Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. 5

Also, one of the enumerated policies of the Act would be to protect consumers from abuse, neglect and exploitation [Page 3, line 10].

We support Section 5(3) [page 4, lines 22-28] which allows for the organization of regional councils composed of a majority of consumers or their family members or guardians who will meet to address systems issues, including, but not limited to, planning and implementation of services and developing a mechanism for resolving consumer complaints and inter-agency disputes.


We support Section 6(b) [Page 5, lines 16-21] which requires the Secretary of SRS, after consultation with the community developmental disability organizations, community service providers, consumers and families to develop a system of quality assurance which ensures effective service delivery, fiscal accountability, networking cooperation, and compliance with standards.

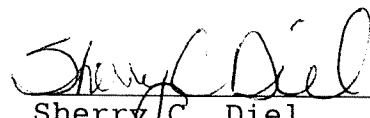
Section 7 is probably of most importance to KAPS because it puts "teeth" into the bill [Page 5, lines 38-43, Page 6, lines 1-35]. SRS will have enforcement power if a community service provider fails to comply with the requirements, standards and rules and regulations established under the Developmental Disabilities Reform Act. KAPS staff will participate in the process of establishing the rules and regulations developed by the Secretary of SRS under the new Act and will strive to ensure that any mediation which takes place under the enforcement section be completed within a short time frame so that resolution of deficiencies will not be unduly delayed. If mediation is not successful, the Secretary of SRS may pursue specified remedies under the Kansas Administrative Procedures Act. Regardless of the above, the Secretary of SRS may issue an emergency order in any situation where the Secretary makes a finding that imminent danger to the health, safety or welfare of a person with a developmental disability is involved.

With the possibility of closure of a mental retardation hospital on the horizon, we ask that you take the steps necessary to ensure that the community service delivery system will be in place for those persons who leave the hospitals. We ask that you recommend S-HB2458 favorable for passage.

Thank you for your time. I will be happy to respond to any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joan Strickler  
Executive Director

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sherry C. Diel  
Legal Advocate



**Testimony Presented to  
Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee  
by  
Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas  
Shannon M. Jones  
March 24, 1995**

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to talk to you today concerning HB 2458. My name is Shannon Jones and I am the executive director of the Statewide Independent Living Council of Kansas (SILCK).

The Council is mandated by a Federal law, the Rehabilitation Act as amended in 1992, to conduct planning, evaluation and other activities which increase advocacy, services, and community options for people with disabilities who want to live independently. Our ultimate goal is to see Kansans with disabilities living where, how and with whom they please.

The SILCK supports HB 2458 as written with no amendments. This bill truly allows individuals with developmental disabilities and their families to make informed choices about what service options are available and decide who will be the best provider of those services for each individual. This bill not only informs consumers of services available but also empowers them to make their own choices based on a competitive and cooperative network of service providers. The SILCK would request to be involved in the development of the regulation for this Act.



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# Kansas Department of Human Resources

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Bill Graves, Governor  
Wayne L. Franklin, Secretary

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(913) 296-5044  
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CENTER (BBS)**  
(913) 296-6529

**Testimony Presented to  
Senate Public Health and Welfare Committee  
March 24, 1995  
Sub. for HB 2458**

**by Sharon Huffman  
Legislative Liaison**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of House Bill 2458 in it's current form.**

**The Kansas Commission on Disability Concerns (KCDC), as established by law, is empowered to encourage the organization of community-based programs and work closely with such programs in promoting independence of people with disabilities.**

**The Select Committee on Developmental Disabilities, along with members of the advocacy and provider community, did an excellent job of preparing a bill that would meet the needs of the major stakeholders, consumer and provider alike. KCDC supports the outcome of these efforts which now appears as Substitute for HB 2458 and urges this committee to pass the bill favorably without further amendment.**

**Thank you very much for this opportunity to speak before you today.**

Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. 7

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**RESOURCE  
CENTER  
INDEPENDENT  
LIVING INC**

**TESTIMONY TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND WELFARE  
MARCH 24, 1995**

Testimony regarding House Bill 2458, an act concerning developmental disabilities; enacting the developmental disabilities reform act.

Madame Chairwoman, Members of the Committee, I would like to thank you for considering my testimony regarding House Bill 2458. I am appearing today on behalf of the Resource Center for Independent Living.

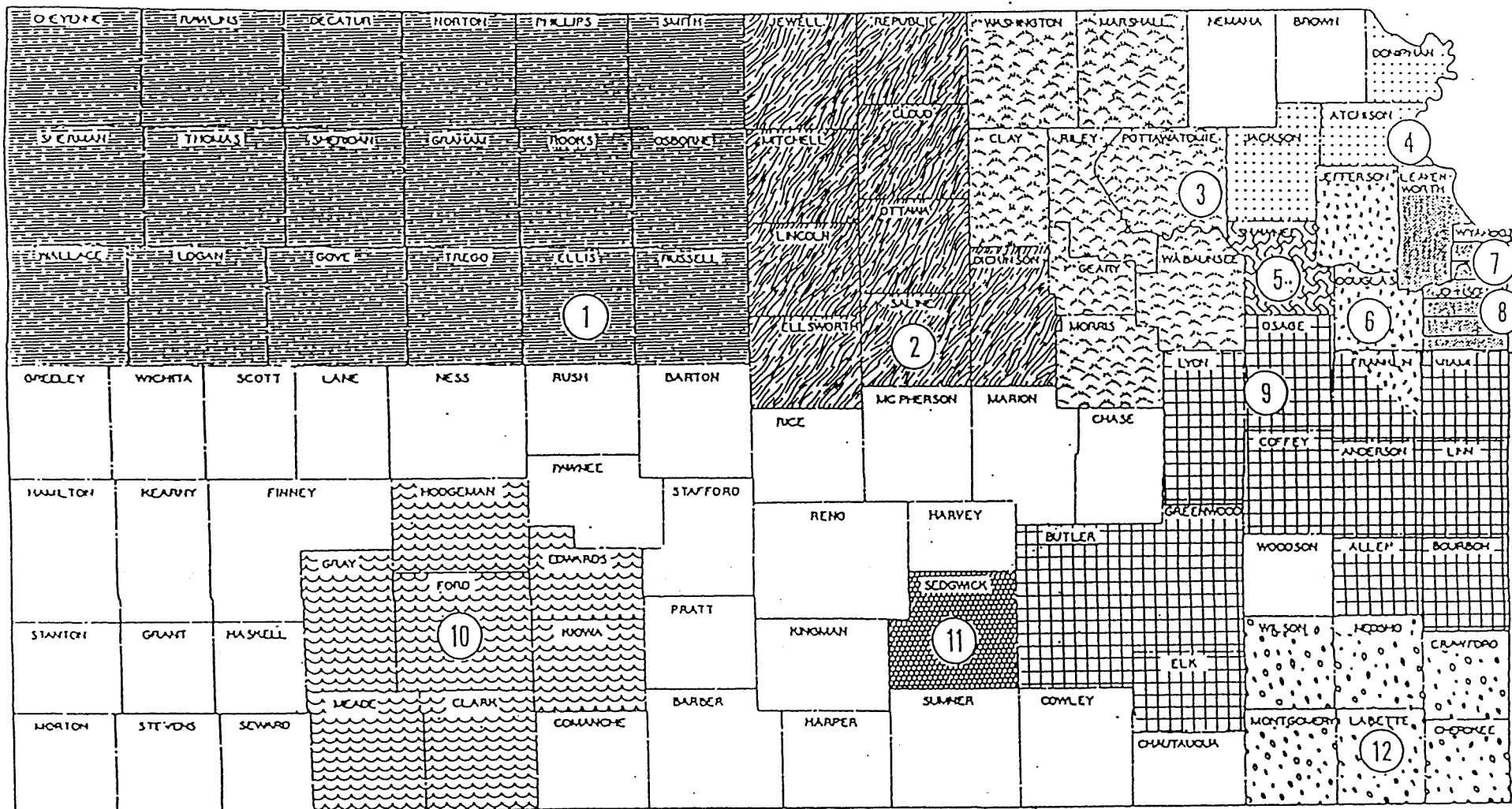
The Resource Center for Independent Living is a nonprofit organization, based in Osage City, Kansas. We have four satellite offices located in Burlington, Emporia, Iola, and Osawatomie. We serve twelve counties and over 1100 people. We are funded through federal and state grants. The purpose of the Resource Center for Independent living is to assist persons with disabilities, their families, and communities to develop the skills necessary to increase confidence and self-reliance enabling individuals with disabilities to become participating members of their surrounding communities, linking them to a more productive life.

We support House Bill 2458. We believe that providing persons with developmental disabilities the opportunity to choose where they live and receive their services is a vital step in the journey towards community based services.

Arika Aldrich  
Resource Center for Independent Living

Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. 8

# Independent Living Centers in Kansas



LINK, Inc  
1310 Walnut  
Hays, KS 67601  
(913) 625-6942 V/TDD  
*(LINK also operates satellite offices in  
Coolidge, Osborne, and Hill City.)*

Independent Connection  
1710 W. Schilling Rd.  
Salina, KS 67401  
(913) 827-9383 V/TDD

Three Rivers, Inc.  
408 Lincoln Ave.  
Warrego, KS 66157  
(913) 456-9915 V/TDD

4. Independent Living Center of  
Northeast Kansas  
PO Box 17, 501 Santa Fe  
Atchison, KS 66002  
(913) 367-1830 V/TDD

5. Topeka Independent Living  
Resource Center, Inc.  
501 SW Jackson, Suite 100  
Topeka, KS 66603  
(913) 233-4572 V/TDD

6. Independence, Inc.  
1910 Haskell  
Lawrence, KS 66044  
(913) 841-0333 V (913) 841-1016 TDD

7. Access to Living/Coalition for  
Independence, Inc. (Serving Leavenworth,  
Wyandotte and Johnson counties)  
4631 Orville, Suite 101  
Kansas City, KS 66102  
(913) 287-0999 V/TDD

8. The Whole Person, Inc.  
(Serving Wyandotte and Johnson counties)  
3100 Main, Suite 206  
Kansas City, MO 64111  
(816) 561-0304 V/TDD

9. Resource Center for Independent Living  
122 S. 6th, Osage City, KS 66523  
(913) 528-3105 V (913) 528-3106 TDD

10. Accessing Southwest Kansas, Inc.  
809 S. 14th  
Dodge City, KS 67801  
(316) 225-6070 V/TDD

11. Independent Living Center of Southcentral  
Kansas, Inc.  
1900 N. Arldon, Suite 101  
Wichita, KS 67203  
(316) 838-3500 V/TDD

12. Southeast Kansas Independent Living  
PO Box 1035, 1817 Crawford  
Parsons, KS 67357  
(316) 421-5502 V (316) 421-6551 TDD





# Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities

Jayhawk Tower • 700 Jackson • Suite 212 • Topeka, Kansas 66603-3757  
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March 24, 1995

Testimony to the Senate Committee on Public Health and Welfare  
Regarding Substitute for House Bill 2458

Tom Laing, Executive Director  
Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities

Thank you Sen. Praeger, and members of the Committee,  
for the opportunity to ask you, on behalf of the Board of  
Directors of the Kansas Association of Rehabilitation Facilities,  
to give favorable consideration to Sub. House Bill 2458. We are  
proud to join with other system stakeholders, and with the  
Department of SRS to endorse this bill.

## Challenges ...

Under this bill, many of our members will play an expanded role  
in the management of the service system of the future. They will  
assume more comprehensive duties, and will be asked to manage  
community systems at a time of rapid and uncertain changes.

## Opportunities ...

## - consumers and families will benefit more fully in their own  
communities from programs of their choice, funded by the  
Legislature,

## - local service providers will be able to offer more  
individualized services to consumers, more efficiently because of  
a better designed system,

## - local coordinating organizations (Community Mental  
Retardation Centers, to be renamed Community Developmental  
Disability Organizations under HB 2458) will be better able to  
coordinate local efforts with local governments in cooperation  
with affiliated service providers... and, finally, able to plan  
for the future because this Legislature will have drawn a clear  
statutory roadmap for the future.

## - the Governor and the Legislature will be able to approach  
each year with a measuring stick by which to examine progress,  
and a foundation upon which to build new goals for the future.

Senate Public Health and Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. 7



page two

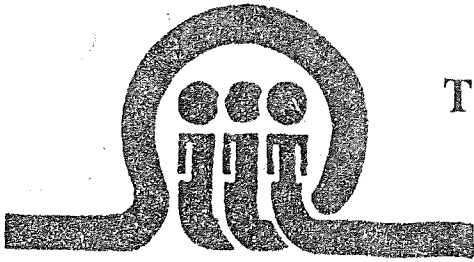
We recommend the adoption of HB 2458 ...

This bill is not perfect. Several issues remain to be resolved. Some will be clarified in the regulatory process; some will require cleanup legislation in future years.

However, in our review of this bill, as amended, we believe its framework is solid and worthy of your support.

We urge you to adopt House Bill 2458, as amended by the House.

Thank you for your consideration.



**FAMILIES  
TOGETHER,  
INC.**

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**ASSISTING FAMILIES THAT INCLUDE A CHILD WITH A DISABILITY**

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To: Senate Public Health & Welfare Committee

Date: March 24, 1995

Re: HB 2458 - DD Reform Act

I am Josie Torrez and I represent Families Together, Inc. Families Together assists families that include children or youth with disabilities in Kansas. My youngest son, Joey is 9 years old and has autism.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on House Bill 2458. We support this bill as written and congratulate the efforts of the legislature to craft a bill that will clearly establish options and choices for families that include children with developmental disabilities. We have waited over four years for a bill such as this. Families Together, Inc., along with the Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living, Kansas Association for Rehabilitation Facilities, the DD Council and others worked with the House Select sub-committee by giving input on this bill.

We at Families Together, Inc. will continue to advocate for choices and options of services available in communities across Kansas. We will also continue to mention the voucher system so families can "shop around" for the best possible services their child or youth with a disability needs at the time. Vouchers will give families the authority to make the best decisions for their young person with a disability. Like all parents, we only want what is best for our children.

Families Together, Inc. believes that if families that include young people with developmental disabilities can make informed choices about the services they want for their children, we will see a reduction in the need for institutions. All people with developmental disabilities have the same needs, wants and aspirations as non disabled people. They may need a little more assistance to live independently, but so do all of us at one time or another. Given the same opportunities for success, they would choose the same options we have all chosen for ourselves.

We appreciate the opportunity to express the concerns and needs of families that include children or youth with disabilities in Kansas.

Senate Public Health & Welfare  
Date: 3-24-95  
Attachment No. 10