

TO: Representative Francis Averkamp, Chair
House Committee on Welfare Reform

FROM: Cassandra Lofing, Big Lakes Case Management Director

DATE: February 6, 2025

RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed System Changes

My name is Cassandra Lofing, I am the Case Management Director of Big Lakes Developmental Center. Big Lakes provides services in Riley, Geary, Pottawatomie, and Clay counties. Targeted Case Management (TCM) is a vital part of providing services for Kansans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD).

There are too many changes happening to the system all at once that will be detrimental to the lives of individuals that we serve and TCMs across Kansas. At Big Lakes, there are policies and procedures set in place to mitigate any perceived or actual conflict of interest. The rush to make changes to case management in IDD services will devastate the system and those who are being served. Individuals served currently have a choice of providers and those choices will be severely limited by KDADS proposed changes.

As a case manager, we help coordinate services, provide resources, and improve accessibility of services for the individuals that we support. Case managers are the backbone of the service delivery system that ensures clients are supported in their preferred lifestyles. KDADS proposed plan changes who can provide case management services and would have a drastic effect on my professional and personal life, as well as the six case managers I currently supervise. I have built my career goals around working as a case manager to support individuals with IDD in Kansas. I have a passion for helping others and this is the perfect role for me. I would be forced out of a career that I love and deeply care about. Not being able to be a case manager at Big Lakes would be devastating as I have built deep connections with not only those that we serve and their families but also those that are my colleagues. Before changes are made, those affected need to be included in the conversation to provide input on how to improve the system without causing devastation.

Thank you, members of the committee, for your previous support for Kansans with IDD. I hope that you will take time to listen to all the concerns presented to you and how the policy changes proposed by KDADS could adversely affect the lives of individuals with IDD, families, providers and case managers across Kansas.

Sincerely,

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