



# Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc.

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## House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice

### Senator Renee Erickson - Chair

Hearing on HB 2240

Written proponent testimony from Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc.

March 11, 2025

Goodwill Industries of Kansas stands in support of House Bill 2240 as amended with the requirement of legislative approval for any substantive changes to the IDD provider system.

For over 65 years, Goodwill Industries of Kansas, Inc. has been a tireless supporter of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). Our agency is an independent entity with a defined operating territory, and we use the social-enterprise model of helping to fund community-based mission programs with revenue earned through our 21 retail stores.

Even with the advantage of social-enterprise funding, the current landscape of sweeping KDADS changes, recruiting difficulties through KDADS enforced hiring regulations, and difficulty keeping staff from being lured away by our mandated MCO (insurance) partners, Goodwill of Kansas is discontinuing our TCM service.

Goodwill of Kansas will keep our Day Services program, but it too is facing sweeping changes from KDADS through their proposed Day Services Modernization plan. This plan is intended to do away with "Sheltered Workshops" where individuals learn job skills in a safe environment. In this environment, Direct Support Professionals work daily with IDD clients to provide toileting assistance, medication assistance, boundary issues, elopement, and behavior mitigation that can include hitting, spitting, cursing, and self-harm. The proposed KDADS plan places these individuals into the community without proper preparation, and although the intentions are good, I believe that these changes are being made following a line-of-sight ideology without the full input of the IDD community, resulting in damaging outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Finally, another area of concern is the sudden change from the current IDD assessment tool, BASIS, to the more "statistically sound" tool called MFEI. The biggest concern with the MFEI tool is that it is controlled solely by the insurance companies who are paying for the IDD services. I believe this is a conflict of interest. An example of this conflict is that the current "lookback" period to evaluate the frequency and severity of an individual's IDD behaviors is one-year. The payout rates from the insurance companies are directly linked to the severity and likelihood of an individual's IDD behaviors. Under the new MFEI system, the lookback period goes from one year to three days. So, if an individual hasn't had a behavior in the last three days, the insurance company can decide to reimburse the provider at a lesser rate.

This does not protect the individual with IDD, creates a clear conflict of interest, does not promote an environment of supportive partnership from KDADS, and will erode the IDD provider infrastructure.

Goodwill Industries of Kansas request the oversight support of the Kansas Legislature to ensure that changes to the IDD system are thoughtful, collaborative, and based on a reasonable timeline.

Respectfully submitted,  
Chris Stanyer – Chief Mission Officer  
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