



Meeting the Needs of Older Kansans

Testimony

Public Health and Welfare Committee

January 2012

Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A) Response to KanCare: Reinventing Medicaid for Kansas

The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A) represents the 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Kansas, collectively serving all 105 counties in the state.

Medicaid Reform - KanCare

We all want to grow old at home or in the community. The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A) supports KanCare's goal of building more health care capacity in Kansas communities and reducing stays in nursing facilities. However, managed care is not a silver bullet. We are concerned about **accountability** at the Managed Care Organization (MCO) level. We are concerned about Medicaid individuals having **access** to needed, **quality** services when large, potentially, out-of-state MCOs come to Kansas and operate a program for Kansans. Well-thought-out policies, particularly those addressing current waiting lists for the disabled populations, will need to be developed to support KanCare. Well-thought-out policies for seniors, particularly dual eligibles, also need to be discussed thoroughly. We look forward to working with the Kansas Legislature and State agencies to ensure seniors' concerns are heard.

State Agency Reorganization and Conflict-free Eligibility and Enrollment Process - ADRCs

According to State Agency officials, agency restructuring is needed to fully implement KanCare as the reorganization will reduce fragmentation and silos between populations and provider groups. K4A supports the reorganization.

K4A also supports the State Agency vision to expand the federally funded Aging and Disability Resource Center

(ADRC) program. ADRCs are a collaborative effort between the Administration on Aging (AoA) and Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS). According to AoA and CMS information, ADRCs are intended to serve as "visible and trusted" sources where people can turn to for objective information on their long-term services and support options and their Medicare benefits. These "no wrong door- single points of entry" programs are designed to streamline access to long-term care. ADRCs streamline access to long-term care for individuals with disabilities, older adults, and their family caregivers, particularly those at highest risk of nursing home placement and spenddown to Medicaid.

Currently, Kansas has two designated ADRCs. Successful expansion of ADRCs will allow for the development of a conflict-free eligibility and enrollment process. K4A supports a conflict-free eligibility and enrollment process to complement KanCare.

Conflict-free Case Management

The KanCare RFP includes case management services as part of the Managed Care Organization (MCO) provider network. AAAs have provided conflict-free case management services for Medicaid since 1997. K4A supports a continued conflict-free case management system under KanCare.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) provide and coordinate services for Kansas seniors, including information and assistance, assessments for community-and-facility-based services, referral, and case management. Since 1997, AAAs have served as the "single point of entry" in Kansas for seniors. The AAA network receives funding from federal, state, and local governments, and is locally administered. As such, service delivery decisions are made at the local community level which is closest to the seniors needing services.

Kansas Area Agencies on Aging are part of a national network of 629 AAAs and 246 Title VI organizations. Area Agencies on Aging were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of seniors and caregivers in every local community.

K4A works to improve services and supports for all older Kansans, their families and caregivers.

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