



## Testimony to Senate Public Health and Welfare on Senate Bill 153

534 S. Kansas Ave, Suite 330, Topeka, Kansas 66603  
Telephone: 785-234-4773 / Fax: 785-234-3189  
[www.acmhck.org](http://www.acmhck.org)

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Madam Chair and members of the Committee, my name is Colin Thomasset. I am the Associate Director for the Association of Community Mental Health Centers of Kansas, Inc. The Association represents the 26 licensed Community Mental Health Centers (CMHCs) in Kansas that provide behavioral health services in all 105 counties, 24-hours a day, seven days a week. In Kansas, CMHCs are the local Mental Health Authorities coordinating the delivery of publicly funded community-based mental health services. As part of licensing regulations, CMHCs are required to provide services to all Kansans needing them, regardless of their ability to pay. This makes the community mental health system the "safety net" for Kansans with mental health needs.

We feel that targeted case management (TCM) services are an important to treatment options for individuals with mental illness. These services are used to help patients maintain access to needed medical, social, and educational services. TCM is oftentimes one of the suite of services CMHCs will provide in order to divert a child from a psychiatric inpatient placement.

We need to clarify the intent of the bill. Is the intent for this bill to apply to Home and Community Based Service *Waiver* services, or in the broader sense to home and community based services which could be defined as most of the services CMHCs provide. If Senate Bill 153 is saying that TCM services are targeted in the broader sense to individuals receiving home and community based services, then I believe we have no concerns.

However, if the bill applies to Home and Community Based Services Waivers, then we believe it would have the effect of limiting TCM services to only those children we serve on the Serious Emotional Disturbance (SED) Waiver.

The SED Waiver is a Home and Community Based Service Waiver that serves as an alternative to inpatient psychiatric treatment for children and youth with mental health disorders. The waiver provides for the traditional Medicaid financial criteria to be waived and for children to be assessed for Medicaid financial eligibility based solely upon the child's income and resources and not that of the household. CMHCs also provide TCM services to children that are not on the SED Waiver, as well as adults with serious mental illness.

We would ask the committee to insert some clarifying language in the bill to alter the definition of Targeted Case Management so that these services could still be provided to the non-Waiver population.

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the Committee today, and I will stand for questions at the appropriate time.

Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2.13.17

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