



**Kansas Hospital
ASSOCIATION**

TO: Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community-Based Services and KanCare Oversight

FROM: Shannan Flach, Vice President of Health Care Finance & Reimbursement
Tara Mays, Vice President State Legislative Relations

DATE: April 20, 2022

RE: Testimony

On behalf of our 123 member hospitals, the Kansas Hospital Association (KHA) appreciates the opportunity to share with the Robert G. (Bob) Bethell Joint Committee on Home and Community-Based Services and KanCare Oversight Committee our recent experiences related to the KanCare program. Our member hospitals represent a wide variety of health care services, including inpatient and outpatient hospital services, employed physicians, rural health clinics, skilled nursing, and home health, to name a few.

Update from Bethell Testimony on 9/22/21 regarding Behavioral Health Inpatient Process

In early December, a committee consisting of hospital representatives, Medicaid MCOs, and the KanCare team started evaluating the current admission process for mental health patients. Key highlights identified were:

- Consistency – Each MCO had individual processes and requirements for admissions approval
- Delays – Approval can take several days resulting in days of treatment with no reimbursement or an unsafe discharge plan (as CMS Conditions of Participation require)
- Outpatient services – Equitable coverage of outpatient options that may help avoid hospitalization stays

Over the course of three months, the committee reviewed the current admission forms required by each MCO and combined them into one all-inclusive form that met the needs of the MCOs and hospitals. Once this form is approved through the KanCare channels, it will permanently be implemented. We expect this new process will eliminate several administrative tasks, streamline the process and avoid unnecessary patient treatment delays.

This is step one of improving our Behavioral Health processes, and we plan to continue to meet on an ongoing basis. Other highlights that we hope to address and collaborate on include placement of complex patients in facilities upon discharge and consistency in prior authorization processes.

KHA would like to express our appreciation to the Medicaid MCOs for coming together as partners to improve this Medicaid process.

KanCare 3.0

The Kansas Hospital Association stands ready to assist the legislature by sharing our hospital's experiences over the last few years and providing necessary feedback as Kansas develops the RFP development for the new Medicaid contracts in Kansas. This critical process assures that Kansas is identifying the best-qualified contractors for the Medicaid program. Medicaid coverage plays a vital role in funding our hospital and provider services, and we are happy to provide information to your committee and other policymakers as you move forward. Without this crucial program, Kansans would face even greater difficulties accessing health care.

KHA plans to submit a recommendation letter to KDHE regarding changes to the KanCare 3.0 contracts.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.