



Bob Bethell Joint Committee on HCBS and KanCare Oversight

April 20, 2022

Madam Chair Landwehr and Committee Members,

The Kansas Association of Centers for Independent Living would like to share information on behalf of the thousands of individuals that self-direct their Home and Community Based Services. At the last Bob Bethell Committee hearing, KACIL shared testimony from our DSW Shortage Survey and Report where low wages were cited as the most significant factor for worker shortages. KACIL would like to express appreciation to KDADS and Governor Kelly for developing the Workforce Incentive Program designed to address the worker shortage in HCBS programs. KACIL has high hopes this program will result in new hires and worker retention.

While some program improvements have occurred, KACIL members still have the following issues that need to be addressed:

- Too many Plans of Care are being developed with less than 10 hours per week, and some with 1 hour per week, leading to 2 areas of concern; either individuals (even when considering informal supports) don't receive enough services to ensure health, safety, and well-being, OR, these individuals should not be on a Waiver, taking up a valuable slot for someone who needs significant services.
- Nursing home facility transitions into the community are occurring without the MCO's assisting members, resulting in individuals being discharged without services in place.
- HCBS Waivers reimburse at different rates, resulting in workers being paid different wages when providing the same services. In addition, MCO's may switch members to different waivers without educating them on rate differences. This results in immediate wage cut with no warning to workers. Workers are understandably upset and resign to seek better paying jobs. Example: consumer moving from PD to FE Waiver experiences an immediate rate reduction from \$12.32/hour to \$11.84/hour, and will be forced to reduce worker's wages almost 50 cents/hour.
- Through ongoing consumer feedback about KanCare effectiveness, KACIL and other advocates have provided significant recommendations for changes in the upcoming KanCare RFP. We have grave concerns that delays in the RFP will only extend the significant problems with KanCare as it currently exists.

Thank you on behalf of KACIL members.

Resource Center for Independent Living Inc., Osage City KS

LINK, Inc., Hays KS

Three Rivers Inc., Wamego KS

Independent Living Resource Center, Wichita KS

The Whole Person, Kansas City KS

Prairie Independent Living Resource Center,
Hutchinson, KS

Independence Inc., Lawrence KS

Independent Connection, Salina KS