

For Immediate Release

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For more information, contact:

Angela de Rocha
Director of Communications
Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services
785-806-7482

I/DD Waiver Services' Incorporation into KanCare

TOPEKA – The State of Kansas and the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have agreed to the State's proposed amendment to the 1115 demonstration for Home and Community Based Services for individuals with Intellectual and/or Developmental Disabilities (HCBS-I/DD).

Beginning on February 1, 2014 HCBS services and targeted case management for individuals in the Kansas I/DD waiver program will be integrated into KanCare. There are 12 services provided under the I/DD program, including residential and day supports, assistive services, medical-alert rental, financial management services, personal assistance services, overnight respite, sleep-cycle supports, specialized medical care, supportive employment, supportive home care and wellness monitoring.

There are approximately 8,500 individuals on Kansas' I/DD waiver who will be affected by this change. Their medical and behavioral health services have been delivered through KanCare since January 1, 2014.

"This is an important step forward for KanCare and the I/DD community," Kansas Governor Sam Brownback said. "We are witnessing improved outcomes that have resulted from coordinating the behavioral and medical care needs of people with I/DD. Coordinating those two elements of care with their other support services will further enhance the care provided to them, improving both their physical well-being and their quality of life."

"The inclusion of I/DD services into the KanCare managed care model will not only result in improved outcomes for 8,500 Kansans, but also will create an opportunity to further pare down waiting lists for these services. No commitment this large has been made to Kansans with intellectual disabilities since the Developmental Disability Reform Act of 1995. We're raising the standard of expectations for outcomes, and increasing access to care. This is monumental," Lt. Governor Jeff Colyer said.

“I want to thank all of the individuals served, family members and guardians, and providers for their continued engagement in this transition. I know that they will hold us accountable to the protections that we have built into KanCare for persons served and their providers. I welcome the ongoing involvement of all to make this a system that provides needed access to services, quality services and supports, a good transition from school to adult life and support for families that is flexible and that meets their needs,” Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services Secretary Shawn Sullivan said. “Together we can maintain the good qualities of the current system while enhancing the ability to increase employment opportunities, reduce waiting lists and promoting that individuals served should have a valued role in the community.”

In addition, CMS has agreed to Kansas’ plan to eliminate the I/DD waiver program’s “underserved” waiting list, which has existed for more than a decade. The “underserved” list comprises Kansans with developmental disabilities who are already receiving Medicaid services necessary to allow them to continue to live independently, but who have requested additional services. Plans of care for all of these individuals will be reassessed to ensure that all consumers get the care they need.

Individuals on the waiver will keep their TCM and can still get information regarding their services through the Community Developmental Disability Organization (CDDO).

Those with questions may call their TCM, community service providers, CDDO, or their KanCare MCO care coordinator.

KDADS is committed to providing I/DD waiver program consumers with as much information as possible about how their HCBS services will be delivered through KanCare. We are working to make this change as seamless and stress-free as possible, and to ensure that their services will continue to be provided to them without interruption.

About KanCare: KanCare is the new Medicaid program in Kansas that began on Jan. 1, 2013, with integrated medical services for all Medicaid consumers. The KanCare model uses managed care to support intensive care coordination and to deliver the highest quality of services under pay-for-performance contracts that hold the health plans accountable for improved health outcomes for KanCare members. The first phase of Kansas’ Medicaid reforms launched after two years of statewide discussions, including many stakeholder forums and public hearings across Kansas. Visit KanCare.ks.gov.

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The Kansas Department for Aging and Disability Services mission is to foster an environment that promotes security, dignity and independence for all Kansans.